



Newsletter September 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: 27th September

This month's talk was by our newest committee member, Colin Ellis, who threatened to talk about the nuances of Lithographic printing. However he relented and entertained us with the story of how he became addicted to flying light aircraft and of the many amusing anecdotes of his airborne adventures.

After a divorce in 1991 Colin celebrated, or was it commiserated, by first taking a trip round the world and then by applying for a Private Pilots License. This was to get him addicted to flight. After many hours of training including lots of take-offs, fly round, land, take off fly round, land etc etc. in Feb 93 Colin was ready for his first solo flight. His instructors parting words were "You've frightened me enough times, now go and frighten yourself"!

On another occasion, his instructor told him there were 5 things he was doing wrong. Concentrate, he said, on one problem. When you have corrected that you will have 20% less to worry about. A valuable lesson for life.

On his second solo flight, out of East Midlands Airport, he was about make his final approach when air traffic control asked him to delay landing as the next plane to land would be Concorde! After a suitable delay he was allowed to land watched by his largest audience yet, who were there to see the famous plane's arrival.

His many other exploits included flying through Edinburgh Airport's air space to get photos of the Forth Bridge and of accidentally flying into cloud whilst inexperienced in instrument flying and having to ask Blackpool Air Traffic Control to talk him down out of the cloud and on to the runway. Colin decided to give up flying as he reached his 60th year, but he probably regrets that a little now.

With many more anecdotes too numerous to mention here, we were treated to a very witty, interesting and informative talk. Thank you Colin.

New Groups

Four new groups have been proposed: Play Reading, Poetry, Ladies Golf and Arts & Crafts. If anyone is interested in any of these please contact James Bloor at interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk

Next General Meeting: 25th October

Speaker: Margaret Brown **Subject:** St Giles Hospice

2016	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Group
October	Bill & Avril Wilson, Glenys Morrice, Maggie Rice		Music Appreciation Walking
November	Sandra Fox, Cynthia Wells, Cath Baker, Jane Barnett		Bird Watching Bridge
December	The Committee		none
January '17			Calligraphy Family History
February			

Christmas Lunch – Thursday 8th December

This year's Christmas lunch will be at Willesley Park Golf Club, Measham Road, Ashby

The menu is listed below, so please make your selection. As places are limited, a £10 deposit, paid as soon as possible, will secure your place.

The balance along with your choice from the menu must be paid by November 17th.

Deposits will be collected at the General Meeting, or contact Ann Thompson on 01530 452078. Cheques should be made payable to Ashby de la Zouch U3A.

The Golf Club have stated no trainers or jeans (as if we would!)

MENU

Starters

Melon with raspberry coulis
Chicken liver paté with onion relish

Main Courses

Roast Turkey, stuffing, pigs in blanket, cranberry sauce
Poached Salmon with a creamy dill sauce
Chestnut, parsnip & mushroom Nut Roast

Desserts

Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
Chocolate Roulade

Cheese & Biscuits

to be followed by
Coffee and Chocolate truffles

£23

Interest Groups Timetable: October

Interest group	Meeting date and time	Venue
Bird Watching	6th Oct at 10am	Cossington Meadows
Bridge	3rd & 17th Oct at 2-4 pm 10th & 24th Oct at 7-9 pm	Royal Hotel, Ashby.
Calligraphy	11th Oct	Di's house
Computer	Wed 5th Oct at 2 pm Mon 17th Oct at 2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	6th Oct at 10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	19th Oct at 9.40 am if fine 10 am if wet	16 Winchester Way
Family History	12th Oct at 2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	20th Oct at 2-4 pm	Packington Hall – Harvest Lunch
History	27th Oct at 2 pm	Packington Hall – “The Terracotta Army”
Industrial Heritage	26th Oct, depart Ashby at 8.30 am	Black Country Living Museum, Dudley DY1 4SQ
Italian	TBA	Venue TBA
Literature	11th Oct at 1.30 pm	28 Willesley Gardens
Lunch	13th Oct at 12 noon	The Ferrers Arms, Lount
Medium Walks	10th Oct at 9.45 for 10 am	Main St, Snarestone, near the Globe Inn
Music Appreciation	5th Oct at 10 am	40 Willesley Gardens
Quiz	19th Oct at 2.30 pm	Bull and Lion Packington
Recorder	6th Oct at 10 am 13th Oct at 10 am	65 Gresley Wood Road, Church Gresley, Swadlincote, DE11 9QP
Short Walks	21st Oct at 10 am	Meet at car park on A444 near St Peters Church for walk around Burton Washlands.
Trips and Outings	Wed 23rd Nov at 12.30 for coach	Coach at Royal Hotel for Nottingham Theatre Royal. “A Tale of Two Cities”
Walking	4th Oct at 9.30 for 9.50 bus to Uttoxeter. 18th Oct at 9.45 for 10 am start	Meet at the Crown Inn, Abbots Bromley. Linear walk from Uttoxeter back to Crown Inn. Curzon Arms, Woodhouse Eaves.

Early November

Interest group	Meeting date and time	Venue
Bird Watching	4th Nov at 10.30 am to 3 pm	Rutland Water, Oakham
Bridge	7th Nov at 7-9 pm	Royal Hotel, Ashby.
Computer	2nd Nov at 2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	3rd Nov at 10 am	16 Winchester Way
Music Appreciation	2nd Nov at 10 am	TBA
Walking	1st Nov 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

21 September. Wetland and Wildlife Trust, Slimbridge

12 members of the Birding Group visited WWT Slimbridge for the 2nd time this year, although this trip was to attend an official U3A event, entitled 'A Talk on the Wild Side'.

After tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival, we enjoyed an illustrated talk about Sir Peter Scott and his legacy. After lunch we followed our volunteer guide on a bespoke tour, getting close up views of many of the different species of wildfowl housed at the Wetland Centre and spent time in South Lake Hide, seeing wild birds rather than those in the pens; among them were ten Common Cranes, which had flown here from the Somerset Levels, Black-tailed Godwits, Lapwings and Cormorants with Gadwall and Shovelers among many other ducks.

We had free time to explore for the rest of the afternoon.

Some went to Van de Bovenkamp Hide to find the reported Spotted Crake while others saw more of the Wetland Centre or visited the Shop. As we boarded the minibus for our journey home at around 4.15, everyone agreed that we had enjoyed a memorable day.

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 September as only two members were available.

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.

19th September Very quiet today with five helpers and no 'helpee's'.

We discussed various types of spam emails and other fraudulent/criminal communications, and ways to combat them.

One of us is having difficulty with unwanted ads slowing down his laptop, so we all pitched in to sort it.

John D mentioned that he had heard that Microsoft could begin dropping support for Windows 7 by 2020, forcing us onto Windows 10, or away from Windows altogether.

More internet news suggested that attempts to replace Windows with Linux on some new Lenovo laptops are meeting with obstruction. This is denied by Microsoft, but rumours persist.

Talk then turned to the capabilities of modern TV's and the true worth of some of the more advanced features.

Digital Photography – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

We meet to try to 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.

1st September Due to holidays and sickness only three turned up. We discussed White Balance and ISO settings, and the ways of adjusting them, where possible.

Most digital compact cameras do not allow direct alteration of ISO settings and only limited variation of white balance.

The 'Mode' settings on compact digitals seem to cope quite well with most situations, so the best advice would be to leave the camera on 'Auto' unless you have plenty of time to adjust settings before shooting.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

21st September Meeting at Megan's after the summer break, it was good to get out paper, paints and pencils and tackle this month's theme, "birds". A relaxing, successful morning.

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

14th September We had four today for a very interesting session.

Lesley has been working hard on formalising her information, ordering each branch of her Tree into separate folders. John H could not make much progress because of trouble with his laptop.

Iris made good progress in editing her Tree in Ancestry. Strangely, the page with her Tree in standard vertical mode concealed the command line; fortunately, the page with the horizontal Tree didn't, so she worked with both pages open on separate tabs.

John D is trying to cope with the hundreds of Ancestry 'Hints' he now has backed up. These have provided much new information and helped push his Tree in back into the 18th and even 17th C. Information from 'Public' trees must be handled very carefully, as it may be flawed.

He also showed how to display his Ancestry Tree on TV, so that several people can see it at once.

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean 01283 295987

The Gardening Group is one of the largest interest groups. The committee try hard to provide a 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 and drink 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.

15th Sept. - Arley Arboretum We had a cloudy start, followed by heavy traffic and a diversion at Bewdley giving us much less time there than hoped for. Most of us managed to buy food and drink for lunch before meeting the coach for the second part of our trip. When we arrived at Arley Arboretum the sun began to shine and we thoroughly enjoyed our guided tour.

We visited the Italian garden first before moving on to the main woodland and the beautiful scenic view of the Severn Valley railway. A short while later a steam train made its way across the valley.

We were shown many different trees including one which is the only one of its type to grow in the UK. This tree is particularly difficult to propagate as it 'bleeds' when cut or damaged.

We visited the herbaceous garden which was set in a walled area. There were peacocks and a very nice tearoom.

History – Leader Dorothy Chapman 01530 413042

22nd September – Richard III Visitor Centre

The group visited the Richard III Visitor Centre this month. A report will appear on the web site in due course.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

28th September – Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum

15 members managed to avoid the worst of the road works on the M1 and got to Stoke B on time. She gave us a very interesting introductory talk about the Boatmen and their families, to whom she is related. She has researched most of the boat families and has 200 A4 files about them. Their life was not as hard as some imagine as pay was quite good and they often foraged for food so living costs were low. The museum is small but packed with information about the canals, their construction, the boats and the boat people. From there we took a 30 min boat trip up to and just into the tunnel. It takes an hour to go right through and an hour to come back, so we had to reverse out after a short way. Lunch was taken at the pretty thatched Boat Inn right on the canalside and afterwards we spent time watching various boats negotiate the locks. A bright sunny and warm day helped make it a lovely day out.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

The Group did not meet in September

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The Group were due to read "A little life" by Hanya Yanagihara in September. This month's book is "The museum of you" by Carys Bray.

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 notice 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 September

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.

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. A coach has been arranged to take everyone there. the cost will be £27.50 for reserved Dress Circle tickets and the coach is £14.75 maximum. 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 have 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.

20th September - Shackerstone

Sixteen people with nothing better to do turned up at the Rising Sun in Shackerstone for today's walk on a bright, sunny morning. After ordering lunch we set off along the canal towpath with about 50 Walking for Health walkers from Market Bosworth which caused some confusion. To the left of the canal is Gopsall Park where it is alleged that Handel wrote part of the Messiah in the stone temple. We then turned right along the bridleway to Newton Burgoland. This bridleway was once used by hat makers from Atherstone to reach the market in Ashby de la Zouch. After Newton Burgoland we headed towards Church View Wood where we stopped for coffee. After coffee we went to Tuckers Holt and then back to Newton Burgoland and Fields Farm and on to Derby Lane. A short walk over the railway and canal bridges brought us back into Shackerstone and a welcome lunch at the Rising Sun.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman

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

12th September - Newton Regis

This was a solo effort by Barry.

Our walk leader braved the wilds of North Warwickshire and Staffordshire to complete this 6 mile walk. The weather was warm, with a cool breeze, and was mainly sunny. The going was generally flat and good, and included grass, bare ground and some road walking. Due to some extensive seateurs work on the pre-walk, the stiles and gates had clear access. Setting off from the car park I passed the church and duck pond, with ducks but no visible fish, and then entered the fields. Heading Northwest, I crossed the B5493 and then passed Thorpe Hall to reach the outskirts of Clifton Campville. Negotiating a large field of mature potatoes proved the only difficult section of the walk. After a pause for a drink of water, I entered the fields again before following a farm road to Campville House. Continuing Southeast and South, I again crossed the B5493 to eventually reach Kings Lane in Newton Regis. A short walk then led me back to the car park.

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.

16th September - Swadlincote

12 walkers met across the road from Sharpe's pottery. 2 decided it was too wet and went to Sainsbury's cafe for coffee and went home. The rest set off down to Eureka park admiring the gates on the way in. The gates are war memorials to WW1 and WW2. Through the park and back up to the high street where three peeled off to the Sharpe's pottery cafe while the last 7 carried on up to the Maurice Lea Memorial park then back to Sharpe's pottery. 2.1 miles for the complete route.

Your Committee

Following the AGM on 26th July 2016, the members below were (re)elected 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