



# Ashby de la Zouch



## U3A

### Newsletter May 2017

#### Reminder

Anyone who has not renewed their membership yet, here is a reminder that it is due by the end of June. Details are on the website.

#### Last Monthly Meeting: 23rd May

**Speaker:** "My life as an auctioneer" A talk by Charles Hanson

Due to Charles being badly delayed by a road accident blocking his route from Etwall in Derbyshire,, Colin Ellis stepped in with a talk on New Zealand, which he visited some time ago on holiday. This was aborted half way through with Charles' arrival, but we hope to hear how it all ended sometime soon!

Charles is a well-known auctioneer who also presents on the Bargain Hunt TV programme. He had a wealth of anecdotes about his experiences and lots of information about the do's and don'ts of getting involved in auctions. Provenance is everything.

Memorable objects from his experiences included a pair of Queen Victoria's knickers; a piece of toast that went for £700; a car boot sale vase, bought for £50 that went for £650,000; and a Marcus Aurelius lead ingot from 165 AD that went for £25,000.

He entertained us hugely with a running account of an auction for a 'Sooty' glove puppet, in which a Sweep and Sue puppet turned up to join in the bidding!

The business is well up to speed in modern methods, with several computer screens operating with bids from all over the world.

Unsurprisingly, he emphasised that the Auctioneer's personality is paramount, as the Auction is a true performance art.

Finally, he explained that the market is constantly changing: what is today's highly collectable pair of knickers is tomorrow's dirty washing.

A truly virtuoso performance and highly entertaining.

#### Next Monthly Meeting: 27th June

**Speaker:** Jim Davis on "Radio Leicester"

#### Group Reports

Lynda Hall and Sandra Harris gave entertaining reports on the activities of the Italian and Literature groups respectively.

2017	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
June	TBA	TBA	Lunch & Medium Walks
July	TBA	TBA	Music Appreciation & Quiz

## Interest Groups Timetable: June 2017

Interest group	Meeting date and time	Venue
Arts & Crafts	TBA	Shirley's house
Bird Watching	Sat 10th June at 9.45 am Fri 23rd June at 10.30 am	Rosliston Forestry Centre RSPB Middleton Lakes near Tamworth, meet in car park.
Bridge	5th & 19th June at 2-4 pm 12th & 26th June at 7-9 pm	Royal Hotel, Ashby.
Calligraphy	11th June	Ann Stapley's house
Computer	Wed 7th June at 2 pm Mon 19th June at 2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	1st June at 10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Drawing and painting	21st June at 10 am	75 Leicester Rd, Measham.
Family History	14th June at 2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	8th June at 8.30 am	Meet at Royal Hotel for trip to RHS Show, Chatsworth
History	22nd June at 2 pm	Self-drive visit to Middleton Hall
Industrial Heritage	Sat 10th June Car share. Leave Ashby 9.45 am Wed 28th /Thurs 29th June	Scunthorpe Steelworks railway tour Chatham Historic Dockyards (Fully booked)
Italian	5th June at 2 pm NOTE CHANGE OF TIME	9 St Michael's Close
Literature	13th June at 12.30 pm	28 Willesley Gardens
Lunch	8th June at 12 noon for 12.30	The Malt Shovel, Worthington
Medium Walks	12th June at 9.45 for 10 am	Meet at Ticknall village hall
Music Appreciation	7th June at 10 am	43 Cambrian Way
Quiz	21st June at 2.30 pm	Bull and Lion, Packington
Recorder	1st June at 10 am 15th June at 10 am	TBC TBC
Short Walks	16th June at 10 am	Meet at car park at Lount nature reserve
Trips and Outings		No trips planned
Walking	6th June 9:30 for 9.45 am start 20th June 9.45 for 10 am start	The Swan, Milton, DE65 6EF The Shires, Peatling Parva, LE17 5PU

## Early July

Interest group	Meeting date and time	Venue
Bridge	3rd July at 2-4 pm	Royal Hotel, Ashby.
Computer	5th July at 2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	6th July at 10 am	16 Winchester Way
Music Appreciation	5th July at 10 am	TBA
Recorder	6th July at 10 am	TBA
Walking	4th July at 9.45 for 10 am Car share. Leave Ashby 8.00 am	The car park, Bowden Bridge, Hayfield, Derbys,

\*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](http://www.ashbyu3a.co.uk)

## **Group Reports**

### **Arts and Crafts**

No report from the Arts and Crafts group this month, although I believe they were continuing with their Teddy bear project

### **Bird Watching – Leader Anne Donegan - [birdwatch@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:birdwatch@ashbyu3a.co.uk) 01283 760348**

The first trips for the year have now been arranged:

**Sat 10 June** A Bird Walk at Rosliston Forestry Centre start time 9.45 for 10.00 Charge £1

**Friday 23 June** A visit to RSPB Middleton Lakes near Tamworth. Meet in the CP at 10.30 am  
Phone Anne for further details

### **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**

A small but friendly group, we enjoy extending our calligraphy skills through a more experimental and creative approach to writing texts. We focus mainly on italic and uncial scripts and have produced some very imaginative pieces both at home and during our monthly meetings. We usually meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10am.

#### **May 9th**

Our meeting at Carol's was as enjoyable as ever both socially and with our calligraphy, although most of us agreed that having to think up our own fonts is more difficult than using traditional ones. It is quite difficult at times to be free in our approach to any art form but it will hopefully help to relax our hand movements which is a positive thing whichever font we choose to do. We have been inspired in our attempts by the calligraphy of Denise Lach in 'A Book of Contemporary Inspiration' which quite a few of us have purchased. She uses writing in creative design with images from nature as her inspiration. Letting our imaginations run free and not being so critical of our attempts resulted in some very interesting fonts and most of all it was great fun to do! We hope to carry on with this free form of writing over the next two meetings which will be a great contrast to the more formal, traditional approach we intend to do after our break 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 May A very relaxed session today, with only three of us attending. After the dozen we had last time this was a surprise!

Topics raised were: Security following the weekend alarm over the NHS etc alerts,  
Getting a Chromecast app to work from an Android Tablet,  
Getting vision as well as sound with the Chromecast app on iPads  
Then we set the world to rights.

## **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.

### 4th May

Three photographers turned up at the alternate venue to review their photos of the outing to Donington Park. After an initial hitch in getting the TV to show our pictures, we had a good session.

Things we looked for: tracking fast moving cars; trying for close ups of said cars; close ups in the paddock and interesting motors. One offering had some videos, but these were of very low quality resolution, despite the satisfying noises recorded! There was a huge variety of cars: single-seaters, saloon cars, supercars and minis.

It was clear that camera technique is tested to the limit in these conditions. The sunshine made locating the cars difficult, and a sports viewfinder seems a must. Those of us using standard compact cameras were at a great disadvantage. The auto function on most such cameras is also lacking, as the backgrounds change so rapidly, all the poor things can do is yield an undifferentiated hue.

Having looked over our photos, we discussed the various forms of shutters historically used, such as the sliding focal plane versus the iris type, their behaviour in fast, sporting, environments and how digital cameras have no need of shutters now.

Those who were not here missed a great learning experience!

## **Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148**

### 24th May

The May meeting was a walk around Ashby to review the street art exhibition, part of the annual Ashby Art Festival. This year's theme; All the World's a Stage. There should have been 31 giant boards, as well as the children's exhibition in Huntingdon Court, BUT it was reported that the "cherry picker" had broken down and only a few of the exhibits were in position. However, it was a beautiful sunny morning and we managed to track down about a dozen of the paintings and view all the children's gallery.

Our favourites of those we saw are;

Cuckoo Mosaics: Masks of the World

Deana and Kristiana : Think!

Cameron Fraser (age 13): The seven ages of man.

## **Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148**

10th May

Four of us gathered round today. Audrey pressed on with her work, whilst John H is continuing to enlarge on his breakthrough with his Irish ancestors.

Rosemary and JD worked on how to insert a photo into an ancestor's Profile. She ran into a little trouble with multiple duplicates of a particular tree branch spawning over three generations. This seemed insoluble as the 'Merge Individuals' option could not 'see' the duplicates. Rosemary then proceeded to eliminate the duplicate members from the earliest generations, one by one. This worked, despite worries that deleting them might delete ALL the instances of the individual. She then set about 'pruning' the tree and finished the session well pleased.

Meanwhile, in another corner of the forest, JH helped Christine in applying a watermark to a Word document.

## **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.

18th May

Brian Storer gave a talk on agapanthus and fuschias.

## **History – Leader Dorothy Chapman 01530 413042**

25th May

Julie Ede gave us a very interesting talk on the last voyage of Queen Eleanor's funeral cortege from Lincoln to Westminster Abbey, where she was to be interred. She gave a short account of how she became Queen (married to Edward I). Although the marriage was a political deal, it seems they became devoted to one another, and Edward insisted that she make this final journey in style, despite the obvious problems, as the trip would take at least a week.

Each overnight stopping place was to have an ornate market cross erected as a permanent memorial of her passing (both physical and spiritual). 12 crosses were originally built.

Julie described with photographs each of the three remaining crosses and how they came to be made. Each was designed and made by a different master craftsman (or men) and painted in gorgeous colours, now long since faded away. Most were later destroyed by the Parliamentarians as idolatrous (a typically small-minded piece of unnecessary vandalism, as they were never intended as items of religious veneration).

The journey lasted from the 28th November in 1290 until the 17th December, and the last Cross was erected on the location we now call Charing Cross.

There was some argument among the top clerics as to who should conduct the internment ceremony at Westminster, settled by Edward who chose someone completely different.

Eleanor was only 50 years old, but bore Edward 15 children, of whom four girls and one son survived.

An excellent piece, delivered clearly and very entertainingly.

## **Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152**

26th April

20 people gathered at the Norton Motorcycle factory at Donington Hall for a guided tour of the works. Whilst waiting in the car park to start the tour, the boss Stuart Garner arrived in his Aston Martin DBS, registration no. NOR70N. That's style.

The tour was not your usual brief wiz round the factory floor. Our guide, Clem, took us from the showroom into the main assembly room (a large open-plan, carpeted! area) to show us the oldest surviving Norton from 1903 and their collection of race bikes (although the current race bikes were away being prepared for the Isle of Man TT the following week). We saw the current USA-designed engines being assembled and had a discussion on how an imperial inch designed engine fitted into a metric bike. From there we walked over to the fabrication and welding shop where we were told about the materials used, the welding processes and how a fuel tank takes 2½ days to be hand built and polished from 13 aluminium pieces. And that's before painting. A replacement, should you be unlucky enough to drop your bike, costs £2400! The frames are from steel tube, the rear suspension from aluminium, machined from a solid billet if you pay a lot extra, much of the bodywork is carbon-fibre. Back in the assembly room we watched 6 bikes being assembled in their separate bays by men and women mechanics with no help from machines. One person builds one bike at a time. Typical prices are around £28,000

We then saw the only 2 examples of the new 200bhp V4 Norton bike. This staggeringly beautiful, staggeringly fast, state of the art, carbon fibre bike with a chrome-effect paint finish will sell for a mere £45,000!

Clem gave us an excellent, in-depth, tour of the works and everyone was fascinated by amount of care, dedication and attention to detail that went into the making of these bikes.

## **Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922**

15th May

Four students and Lynda today.

More map reading today, including reverse navigating a route already spelt out for us in writing. But we needed to find a better route! Then we had some intense practice with the Superlative, making sure it agreed with the noun. Not at all easy! Finally, we worked through examples and exercises in using 'Potere'.

This was an intense session, leaving us feeling well worked over! Not as easy as it sounds!

## **Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653**

The Group are due to read "Rites of Passage" by William Golding this month, before meeting at 1.30 on the 13th June to discuss the book.

## **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.

The May meal was held at The Wheel, Ticknall. Some 20+ members turned out on a very warm day. We had the upstairs to ourselves where the food was very good and the service excellent.

## **Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409**

6th April

With several apologies for absence we were seven in number this month and as usual we were provided with a wide selection of musical choices.

The group were greeted with a rendition of the 'Padstow May Song' performed by a Cornish folk group, as we were just two days away from May Day.

Nev set us away with a few short tracks from the Harry Nilsson album 'As Time Goes By', including 'Never the Less' and 'What'll I Do'.

Ann had chosen a song written for the film 'The Odessa File', a movie she always enjoys watching. The song 'Christmas Dream' was, to every one's surprise, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, as it does sound very German.

Lesley spoke about Geoff Love, who had previously been Manuel and his Music of the Mountains as well as Rodrigo, and her first choice was 'Rodrigo's Guitar Concerto'. Her second choice was the music from the film 'Big Country' by Jerome Moross, rightly described as a 'sweeping score'.

Paul had chosen 'Claire de Lune' by Claude Debussy, it reminded him of his childhood as it was a piece his mother would often play, and he also revealed his mother sometimes played at the cinema accompanying silent films. His second choice was Nat King Cole singing 'Let there be Love' with George Shearing on piano.

Trish is an ardent John Denver fan and had decided on two pieces from his live album, 'I guess he'd rather be in Colorado' followed up by 'Country Roads'.

David's choice was two tracks by Ry Cooder from his 'Chicken Skin Music' album. 'The Bourgeois Blues' and 'He'll have to go'.

Ann had chosen 'If I were a Rich man' from 'Fiddler on the Roof'

Nev chose again with 'Misty' by Errol Garner and 'Summertime' sung by Sarah Vaughan. Ann came back with 'If I was a Rich Man' from Fiddler on the Roof, one of her favourite musicals. We finished the session with Peggy Lee's 'Fever. June's meeting will be at 10 am on Wednesday 3rd May at 43 Cambrian Way, hosted again by Ann Thompson.

## **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.

The May meeting was hosted by Steve Sinfield.

The June meeting, commencing at 2.30 pm as usual, will involve 1 hour of questions followed by a cream tea. Anyone wishing to partake of the scones etc. must sign up in advance on a list which is being circulated by Pat Ford. Pat will be putting the questions at the June meeting.

The quizmasters for future meetings will be : July - Malcolm Bird. August - Steve Sinfield. September - Clive Caulfield. October - Malcolm Bird and November - Chris and Eileen Smith.

### **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 meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings each month. New members would be very welcome. Complete beginners would find it difficult to catch up, though.

4th May There were 3 of us today: Barbara, Marion and Joan.

We carried on in the tutor book, reminding ourselves of C# on p. 66, playing 197 - 201. We also played 214, which we agreed was boring, and 216, which was challenging! We agreed to practise 216, to see if we can manage to play it, possibly at the suggested speed! We also played 219 as a 3-part round.

We then moved to page 72, and bottom C. It is challenging to get a good sound here! We played 220 to 223, then 235 and 236. These could use a bit of practice.

We then played "All in a Garden Green", "Little David", "Just Teasing " and "Chinese Dragon Dreams".

The group also met on May 18th at Joan's house

### **Trips and Outings Group - Contact Margaret Howlett 01530 461774**

There were no trips this month.

### **Walks**

The walk 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.

### **Walking Group - Leader Bob Baxendale 01530 481435**

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

16th May

Our walk was from the Arboretum at Alrewas today. 19 of us walked. We headed for the canal and walked along to Wychnor where we could see signs of the lost medieval village and the church here that dates back to the 12th century! Along a green lane towards Barton under Needwood and back to the canal for a short way, then over a very strange 'stile' almost on to the A38!!!! On past Barton Quarry where we came upon the historic Mythaholme bridge (2004) where the rivers Trent and Tame meet.

A saunter through the Arboretum brought us back to the restaurant where a good lunch was enjoyed by us all. All in all, a pleasant walk escaping the rain for the most part.

### **Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman**

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

#### **8th May**

8 members met at Mount St Bernards Abbey for a six mile walk. We started off walking through a very large bluebell wood. The bluebells we were informed were native ones, reminded us of our childhood. Then it was on towards Blackbrook Reservoir, which is only accessible on foot, a lovely peaceful spot with birds flying low over the water. Then on down Brick Kiln Lane in Shepshed with its lovely houses and crossing over the A512 into another bluebell wood, this time larger, still very beautiful. Then across a very large field to the A512 again, near to the windmill on Charley Road. Then across fields to the private road towards The Boat House on the edge of the reservoir. Round the edge of a very large field towards Swannymote Road. Then it was road walking for about 1.5 miles back to the Abbey Car Park. The Abbey is a beautiful spot very peaceful.

### **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.

#### **19th May**

Sence Valley was an open cast coal mine now turned into a nature reserve. 9 people met at the top car park despite the weather forecast. The weather was spits and spots of rain which we ignored and we set off down the road to the disabled car park and then onto the trail over the river Sence. we turned off the main trail up to the reserve boundary and left along the trail just outside the boundary.

Just after another bridge over the river there was a path back into the reserve along to Goss Lake. After studying the notice board we took the trail back up to the car park. some of the party missed the footpath and climbed over the gate on the road entrance.

We all adjourned to Beesleys for coffee and cake.

### **Your Committee**

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

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