



Interest Groups Timetable for October

Interest group	Meeting date and time	Venue
Arts & Crafts	26th Oct at 2 pm	Shirley's house
Bird Watching	TBA	TBA
Bridge	2nd, 16th & 30th Oct at 7-9 pm 9th & 23rd Oct at 2-4 pm	Ivanhoe Social Club Hood Park Leisure Centre
Calligraphy	10th Oct at 10 am	Megan's house
Canasta	12th Oct at 10 am	The Masseys'
Computer	Wed 4th Oct at 2 pm Mon 16th Oct at 2 pm	16 Winchester Way 2 Marlborough Way
Digital Photography	5th Oct at 10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	18th Oct at 10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Family History	11th Oct at 2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	19th Oct at 2 pm	Harvest Lunch at Packington Hall. See Paul for details
History	26th Oct at 2 pm	A Talk by Industrial Heritage Group about Chatham Royal Dockyard
Industrial Heritage	18th Oct at 9.30 am	Great Central Railway, Loughborough. Car share from Featherbed Lane.
Italian	TBA	TBA
Literature	10th Oct at 1.30 pm	28 Willesley Gardens
Lunch	12th Oct at 12 noon for 12.30	The Belper Arms, Newton Burgoland
Medium Walks	9th Oct at 9.45 for 10 am start	Meet at Osgathorpe church
Music Appreciation	4th Oct at 10 am	9 Ashtree Rd
Quiz	18th Oct at 2.30 pm	Bull and Lion Packington
Recorder	5th Oct at 10 am 19th Oct at 10 am	TBA TBA
Short Walks	20th Oct at 10 am	Lower car park at Staunton Harold Garden Centre
Trips and Outings	21 March 2018 at 2 pm	To see Warhorse at Theatre Royal Nottingham. See web page for details
Walking	3rd Oct 9:45 for 10am start 17th Oct 9.45 for 10am start	The Globe Inn, Snareston Rosliston. Phone Bob Baxendale for details

Early November

Interest group	Meeting date and time	Venue
Bridge	6th Nov at 2-4 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Computer	1st Nov at 2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	2nd Nov at 10 am	16 Winchester Way
Music Appreciation	1st Nov at 10 am	43 Cambrian Way
Recorder	2nd Nov at 10 am	TBA
Walking	7th Nov at 9.45 for 10 am	The Hurt Inn, Ambergate

*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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

2017	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
October	TBA	Neil Roberts	Bird Watching, Bridge
November	TBA	David Oakley	Calligraphy, Drawing & Painting
December	Christmas event – The Committee	The Committee	No reports this month

Last meeting - 26th September. The Can-Can by David Price

David gave a most instructive and entertaining account of the history of this dance. He related how, in trying to find out more about it, he found very little written so decided to do the research himself, starting at the Royal Academy of Dance. His work has culminated in a book called 'The History of the Can-Can'.

The dance has its origins in folk-dancing, transformed by ballroom dancing in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. However, whereas the ballroom dances were choreographed, the country dance was more freestyle. Mostly it was the men who improvised as it was considered indecorous for ladies to 'show off' as it were.

The two styles merged with time. So what had been an elegant movement representing prancing horses morphed into a galloping motion. This seems to have released a more energetic style yet.

In France the students took it a step further, mainly developed by the men, becoming wilder. As the fashion spread, the women began to join in, only lifting their skirts a little, while the men would raise their legs sideways, but unbending. Fashion being what it is, the variations became rapidly wilder, and were adopted by outdoor professional entertainers. These trained dancers could make much more of the twirling and jumping.

Then the displays moved indoors, and the venues became established centres for the new 'Scandal' dance (Cancan means Scandal in French). It was sometimes called 'Chahut' or 'Uproar/noise'. But that didn't catch on as a name. Respectable women did not attend these places.

By the mid-1800s, individuals such as Celeste Mogador were becoming famous, usually gaining nicknames such as La Gouleu (The Glutton), Rigolboche (Street Urchin) and Grille d'Egout (Street Drain: so-called because her missing front teeth looked like said drain cover!)

The iconic style of flirting high skirts did not really emerge until the general advent of knickers and particularly of cheaper, machine made, frilly lace garments.

The craze spread to England early in the second half of the century, but its presentation after WWI on the stages of the Music Halls forced a change from freestyle to the chorus-girl line up we usually associate with the dance. Strangely, this style called 'The French Can-Can' was re-imported into France and taken onto the stages of such as the Moulin Rouge, where it is still shown today. David considers modern examples too fast, with unflattering costumes.

There have been recent interpretations by the Bolshoi Ballet and in 'The Merry Widow' but it seems that David regards the dance as past its best.

He illustrated his talk with many pictures and photographs from various ages showing different interpretations. His favourite was a clip from a black and white film of the 1950s which he thought showed the original freestyle version better than most. But the paintings and posters of Toulouse Lautrec and Picasso were most evocative of the atmosphere.

Altogether a most thorough and revealing gallop through an aspect of European society, at once integral to its time, and yet for the most part existing outside the bounds of polite society. Thank you David!

Christmas Lunch Dorothy reminded us that tickets for the Christmas lunch are now on sale. Places are limited so it is first come, first served. A non-refundable deposit of £10 is required. It will be held at Willesley Park Golf Club on December 7th at 12.00 for 12.30.

Tickets cost £24 for 4 courses + coffee.

Next Monthly Meeting on 24th Oct at 2 pm: Speaker Alan Grey on “You cannot be serious”

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Shirley Bunting 01530 415755

28th September The group met very late this month, unfortunately too late for our deadline.

Bird Watching – Leader Anne Donegan 01283 760348- birdwatch@ashbyu3a.co.uk

25th September Trip to Willington Gravel Pits

6 members met at the entrance and the rain stopped for the morning after a very wet night. Willington Gravel Pits are situated between Repton and Willington alongside the River Trent. The former sand and gravel quarry provides a haven for wildlife in the Trent valley. There are a number of lakes with viewing platforms.

On our way to the first platform we heard a robin and spotted a mistle thrush on the ground. At the lake a heron sat and posed for us on a boulder. A group of lapwings were grazing on a grassy bank but soon took off when spooked. On the water we saw mallard, tufted duck, Canada geese, a female teal and cormorants. A marsh harrier was seen flying over. In the reeds and surrounding bushes we heard the Cetti's warbler but no sight of this unfortunately, which is common for this bird.

Suddenly we were all alerted to the sight of a bittern flying over. This was a real treat because although the bittern is becoming more common, they are elusive and difficult to catch sight of. We continued to the Hide where we stayed for some time.

There were plenty of black headed gulls, juveniles, not brown just yet but just a smudge of grey behind the ear. Grebe were on the lake, again juveniles, very light in colour. The common gull was also seen. A single egret was spotted. Through the telescope a sand martin was spotted and we also spent some time looking at a snipe through the 'scope.

Two reed warblers were spotted close to us, a male and a female. A buzzard was seen in a tree for some time then moved onto the ground and later we spotted him on a nest of sticks on a platform.

These 2 platforms were set up in the hope of attracting ospreys who migrate up the Trent but with no luck so far. The buzzard seemed to be enjoying the facility.

Coots, moorhens and gadwall were seen and a number of mute swans flying over.

We all enjoyed the visit and it is a site worth visiting at different times of year to see the variety of birdlife passing through.

Anne Donegan.

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.

The group has 2 new venues. They now meet at the Hood Park Leisure Centre in the 1st floor function room for afternoon sessions and at Ivanhoe Social Club in the front lounge for the evening sessions. Free car parking is available at both venues, but must be signed in at Hood Park.

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.

Three people were unable to make the meeting this month but we welcomed Gillian James as a new member who, before moving to Ashby, had done quite a lot of calligraphy with another U3A group. She had been taught by someone who was actually a calligrapher and showed us some beautiful examples of her work, which spurred us on to begin our next project. Our approach has been slightly more informal than Gillian's but she was happy to explore our way of working, just as we were keen for her to help us improve our writing skills, especially as we had planned to really get to know a chosen font and use it for a longer piece of writing. After the usual 'catch up' we ruled guide lines, taking into consideration the nib size we planned to use for our chosen style of writing and really appreciated any helpful tips that Gillian was able to give us during the rest of the meeting, as we attempted to produce flowing letters without using the prompt. Hopefully we will continue practising at home, ready to start planning the layout of our chosen piece next month.

Canasta – Leaders Tom & Gillian Massey 01283 212380

Tom and Gillian have just started this new group and are waiting to see what day(s) members would like to meet. If you are interested in joining, then contact them on the above number or email canasta@ashbyu3a.co.uk

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.

18th September

There were two problems to be resolved today. Firstly to find and download a free laptop security program. AVG was chosen and it was installed on the naked laptop. Secondly, solving the ongoing saga of too many photos on a single memory card with the inevitable discovery that some files are irrecoverable. We discussed taking it to an expert to see if the faulty files can be recovered but in the meantime over 400 of the 1057 files have been recovered by manual effort. _

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.

7th September

There being too few to review photos, we concentrated on helping Peter to transfer his wife's photos to a pen drive.

After a short tutorial in the correct procedure for transferring large files (check size of source file; check capacity of target storage device, check size of intermediate device if needed), attempts were made to copy the photos onto the hard drive of Pete's laptop. These finally succeeded using a piece of old technology in the form of a basic USB card reader.

The files were indeed large, and too large for the intended pen drive, so they were copied onto Pete's hard drive. The transfer was still going on when we broke up, so Pete will report back.

In reviewing the pictures it became clear that many of them were duplicated several times for no apparent reason, so Pete will first eliminate all unnecessary duplicates before committing them to long term storage.

Meanwhile we discussed the way in which these large files can be broken down into folders, either by observation or automatically by using software such as Picasa which sorts photos into groups by date.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

The group didn't meet in September. Their theme in October will be "harvest time".

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

14th September A good turnout today, in pleasant sunshine.

Some sticky problems today which needed joint working to attack. Eileen and Audrey worked together on Eileen's grandparents, and on Audrey's Australian connections. John worked with Rosemary on her great grandparents, and her grandmother, in the 1871 Census. Attempts to find this family either before or after are proving difficult, so we will maybe try further work outside the meeting.

The two Johns tackled a problem with Ancestry not displaying Iris's tree despite all the data being present. She had downloaded a GEDCOM ready to back up onto a pen drive, which she had to hand. Despite much to-ing and fro-ing, the Tree remained stubbornly absent, so we transferred the download to John D's pen-drive, and uploaded it to his Ancestry account. Success! The process was reversed and, using access on Iris's laptop to John's Ancestry account, success was once more achieved.

However, the same process using Iris's own account once more failed. So Iris will talk to her son who set up the account. Meanwhile offline work will proceed to see if there is a reason for this quirk. The GEDCOM was downloaded to Iris's pen-drive for security and as an exercise for Iris in the process.

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.

21st September

The group's coach trip was to the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. Despite some very heavy rain the intrepid gardeners thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There were many exotic plants growing in the tropical house and glass houses including alpiners, desert plants, bonsai etc. we had a very informative guide who showed us around the garden and a BBC film crew filming for an upcoming BBC program which added interest. There has been a garden on the site since 1829. There is a small café on site providing a welcome respite from the weather. Several members asked if we could book to go again in springtime because they had enjoyed it so much.

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

28th September Self-drive visit to Kedleston Hall.

24 members shared cars for the 40 minute drive to the Hall a few miles north west of Derby. The weather was fabulous and the Hall itself stunning, set in a wonderful Adams landscape. After lunch in the cafe, situated in the Grand Kitchen, we then split up to tour the Hall and gardens independently.

The Hall is magnificent, built in one of the earliest Palladian styles and clearly intended to overpower with its style and scale. In the huge main hall massive columns soar for 20 or more feet to a beautiful curved ceiling, sporting three circular domed lanterns. What you only see if you enter through the ground floor underneath this hall are the base columns supporting this, and the extra columns put in to support the ornate marble floor itself.

Next to this is possibly the most beautiful single room I have seen in a National Trust property. Circular, and with a domed ceiling copied from the Pantheon in Rome, it has a sprung wooden floor and simple but elegant designs all around.

The rest of the Hall is more conventional, but still with large elegant rooms, designed for entertaining and not really for living in. The restoration work done by the NT is excellent, with much attention paid to the beautiful wall coverings and furniture fabrics. The Hall was one of the sites used for the film 'The Duchess', about the Duchess of Marlborough, in 2008. The Curzon family still live in the private East Wing.

The Hall museum on the ground floor houses the collections acquired by the later Curzons as they plied their diplomatic trade around the world.

Also in the grounds is a now defunct church, which is the last resting place of famous Kedlestons and Curzons and worth a visit on its own.

Altogether a splendid day out. Many thanks, Dorothy et al, for organizing this. Not to be missed.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

23rd & 27th September

The Industrial Heritage Group made two trips this month; firstly to Barrow Hill Roundhouse Railway museum for their gala re-opening after a £1.2m lottery funded refit, and then 4 days later to Imperial War Museum Duxford airfield.

11 members travelled to Barrow Hill and were most pleased to see both Flying Scotsman and Tornado in steam and hauling carriages along a short stretch of line. Trips on either train were included in the ticket entrance price and proved popular all day long. In the morning, Scotsman was on duty whilst Tornado stood, in steam, in a siding. In the afternoon they swapped over giving us all a glimpse of some shunting and shuffling. Whilst Flying Scotsman was built in 1923 and retired from regular service in 1963, Tornado is almost brand-new. Built with money raised by subscription, construction started in 1994 and was completed in 2008. It meets modern safety standards and reached 100 mph this year, the first steam engine to do so in the UK since 1968.

The roundhouse itself (which is actually square!) was built in 1870 and in active use until 1991 after which it fell into disrepair but it was restored and re-opened to the public as a museum in 1998. Last year it underwent a significant rebuild and re-opened to the public this month.

The following Wednesday 19 members climbed aboard a coach for the 100 mile trip to Duxford. Unfortunately we were barely halfway to Coalville when the traffic came to a dead stop. A diversion through Ravenstone and Ellistown (allowing 2 members to pass their own houses which they had left an hour earlier) and further hold-ups on the A14 got us to Duxford barely 30 mins late. After booking in and a cup of coffee, we were free to wander about the vast site. 3 hangers plus several other buildings are packed with planes, tanks, vehicles and much other memorabilia. On show amongst many, many other aircraft are Spitfires, Hurricanes and a Lancaster; a Vulcan, a Sunderland flying boat, TSR2, Harrier and Concorde. And that was just part of one hanger! It is quite amazing to walk underneath and then through Concorde or to look into the Vulcan's bomb bay. The American hanger, I think, impressed most people the most. Surrounded by Blackbird (the world's fastest plane), an F15 Eagle, a "Gary Powers" U2 spy plane, and many others stood the absolutely enormous B52 Stratofortress. Its 185 foot wingspan completely filled the hall with its eight turbofan engines hanging below. The B52 first entered service in 1952 and is still in service today, but such is the cost of developing such large, long range aircraft that it is going to remain in service until 2050 by which time it will be 98 years old!

As ever, there wasn't enough time to see everything properly, or take in all the information, but it was an excellent trip enjoyed by all.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

The Group didn't meet this month due to a mix up over dates. The next meeting has yet to be arranged.

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The Group met on 19th September to discuss "What Milo Saw" by Virginia McGregor. This month they will be discussing "Sense & Sensibility" as the start of a Jane Austen season.

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 form below the notice board 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 phone number.

The September meal was held at The Hollybush Inn, Breedon. The pub has changed hands several times in recent years and now seems to have settled down under its latest ownership. The food was excellent and generous, but some of us still managed to eat the "legendary" sticky toffee pudding or chocolate fudge cake!

Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409

6th September

With three apologies there were seven of us at this month's meeting and once again we had an enjoyable two hours of music, chat and laughter.

Dorothy launched us off with 'Vivaldi's Flute Concerto', reminding us that this choice of composer usually means his Four Seasons. Her second choice was the 'String Sonata No.3', a delightful non opera piece by Rossini.

David had chosen two pieces by actors we don't usually associate as singers. The first was Lauren Bacall singing 'Woman of the Year', from the show of the same name. This was followed by Robert Ryan singing 'It's Lonely in the White House' from 'Mr President'; Irving Berlin's last, but disappointing, musical.

After several previous unsuccessful attempts Ann was at last able to play 'Make them hear you' from the musical 'Ragtime'. Her second choice was Bryn Terfel singing the 'Toreador Song' from Carmen and she recounted the story of a chance meeting with Bryn at a Cambridge concert. Her later track was Frank Sinatra singing 'Pennies from Heaven'. Believe it or not this was the first time since the group was formed that an 'old blue eyes' track had been chosen.

Sally had selected Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata', a piece she used to play as it was the slowest piano piece she could find. Then staying with a piano theme she chose a blast from the 1950's past with Winifred Atwell playing 'The Poor People of Paris'. Her later choice was Frankie Vaughan's 'Garden of Eden', a singer for whom the torch still glows. Neil reminded us Frankie was probably the only man who refused advances from Marilyn Monroe.

Neil's track selection were all tracks by Brenda Lee, a singer he considers should have been the Voice of the Century, but he was devastated to find she didn't even get a mention in the BBC listing. His three Brenda choices were 'Speak to me Softly', 'My Colouring Book' and a pre-Elvis rendition of 'Always on my Mind'.

Nev, with an eye on the season, had chosen the Kinks 'Autumn Almanac' with a second choice of Hugh Laurie playing and singing 'Kiss of Fire'. A later choice was a guitar instrumental of 'Brother can you spare a dime' leaving the artist for us to guess. To the surprise of many it turned out to be Joe Brown.

To some amusement Mike had brought along the same Hugh Laurie album that Nev had chosen so instead he chose 'Slowdown', a track by the prolific composer Louis Jordan, and a wonderful recording of 'Summertime' with Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. Finally Mike had a track from 'The Blues Brothers', Cab Calloway singing 'Minnie the Moocher'.

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 before the meeting as teams will 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.

18 members did battle at the September quiz with questions chosen and posed by Clive Caulfield. A great time was had by all - especially by the players who won the prizes. This included group organiser Malcolm Bird who has enjoyed his chocolate! The October quiz will be run by Malcolm but the reins will be passed to Chris and Eileen Smith who will run the November meeting

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

The recorder group meet 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.

21st September

Although there were only 3 of us, we had a good time. We played most of the trios from Abracadabra 5, with Barbara on descant, and Chris F and me on treble, and a bit of tenor.

Luckily the music wasn't too difficult, as we got used to "ensemble playing" (sounds impressive, doesn't it?), managing to keep roughly together. Great fun!

Trips and Outings Group - Contact Margaret Howlett 01530 461774

There were no trips this month, however they are planning trips to see Warhorse at Theatre Royal, Nottingham on 21st March 2018 and a coach trip to Bristol on 24th May.

See the website or contact Margaret for further details.

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.

19th September Dovedale.

16 happy carefree strollers set off from the Oakover Arms, Mapleton at approximately 10:15, headed for Thorpe village and Dovedale via the Tissington Trail. The weather was very fair, possibly even warmer than would we would've liked. Unfortunately heavy rain the night before had left the ground very slippery underfoot in places, although not too boggy, which slowed us down and made some of the slopes particularly hard work on the return track alongside the Dove back to the pub. That's our excuse anyway. Because of the mud, some commented that the definition of a moderate walk might need further examination for future reference.

But as usual when walking in the Peak District we were able to enjoy a great variety of terrain and vistas, much of it very pretty, in the 6 1/2 miles which we completed in a somewhat slower than usual 3 1/4 hours.

Another positive note was the quality of the fare at The Oakover Arms. Best chips so far this season!

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

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

11th September Appleby Magna

Four walkers met in the Layby in Tamworth Road, north of J11 of M42. It was overcast and turned to drizzle just before we set off. The rain continued for most of the walk, with some heavy rain and some dry spells.

We set off southwards to the M42 island and across the A444 into the A5493 Tamworth Road. Entering the fields on the right we followed the hedges toward Chilcote, striking across some fields, until we came onto No Man's Heath Road. Entering the village and turning right we again entered the fields. Crossing two large fields we crossed the A444 into Stretton en le Field. Going along the single road through the village we then followed a track towards the A42. Going through the tunnel under the road we walked alongside the A42 Southwards. After a kilometre we turned left across the fields until we came out onto Tamworth road near our start point. There were a few stiles but mostly gaps in the hedges. Unlike the last walk, there were no crops as the fields had been ploughed or harrowed, with just a small growth of crops. There was some mud but not a problem despite the weather. Total distance was approximately 5.8 miles.

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.

15th September Short walk around Bradgate Park. 3 miles

10 of us met on a damp day for Cynthia and Sandra's walk around Bradgate Park. As we were a relatively fit bunch we decided to take the trail up to Old John. When we got there, they were preparing some sort of reception but unfortunately not for us. We then walked down to the cafe in the park where we had tea and cake. Cleverly Cynthia had arranged for the drizzle to stop before we set off and the heavy downpour came while we had tea. We then walked along the road back to the car park. It turned out to be a bit further than 3 miles but everyone coped well.

Your Committee

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