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What's New? Innovative additional groups.

Craven u3a's many walking opportunities: something for everyone.

Reviews: Syd's USA; Monthly Meeting.

New Groups, new Group Leaders

MOTORCYCLE GROUP, David Fox

Last Autumn the membership secretary asked if anyone wanted to form a motorcycle group. I have ridden my bike since I was seventeen, though never with other people. I never imagined motorcycling could be a u3a activity. And I never saw myself as a group co-ordinator.

A few of us got together and arranged to ride every couple of weeks. We mix prearranged dates with ad-hoc rides when the weather looks good.

We now have 16 members. Three joined Craven for the bike group, some from other u3as and one after seeing a notice in Morrisons!

In the absence of other volunteers I ended up coordinating the group. I learnt to use Beacon but mostly we use WhatsApp for day-to-day arrangements with the occasional 'formal' email through Beacon. I was well supported when I needed advice. Initially the phone calls took time but now the group really runs itself.

I find coordinating the group rewarding. No special skills are needed and there is plenty of support. If you see an opportunity to set up a group, go for it!

EXPLORING MYTHOLOGY, Denise Jones

The aim of the course is to explore the origins and functions of mythology from cultures around the world. We will discuss sources, possible means of historical verification and the social and religious significance to civilizations in the ancient world.



A discussion of Jung's Theory of the Collective Unconscious and his use of 'archetypes' will provide a framework for the study of Greek, Norse and Celtic myths. We will also be investigating the legacy of mythology found in art and literature in Western culture. And sometimes we will be eating cake.

INDOOR GAMES GROUP, Alan Newall

The idea came about last winter, when I felt a Group was needed to provide opportunities for members to play less physically demanding games, for fun, in a social environment.

The group (25 members) meet weekly at The Three Links Club in Skipton. We currently play darts, draughts, dominoes, pool, scrabble and whist. Refreshments are available. New members are welcome to join at any time & suggest additional games.



Setting up a new group was simplified by the U3A Committee, who helped with publicity, recruitment and venue arrangements. The Beacon system is most useful in facilitating communication within the Group.

Craven u3a walking opportunities

There are opportunities galore, with **six** walking groups in Craven u3a: Ad Hoc Walking, Geology Walks, Shorty Walks, Walking Group, Walk to Lunch, Wharfedale Walking. Here are some of their stories...

WALK TO LUNCH (WTL) Jenny Robinson, Brigida Martino

In all weathers, every other Thursday since 2013, we have gathered at 10 am for a five mile walk within the surrounding area - hills, dales, moorland, woodland, reservoirs - clambering over or squeezing through stiles. A recent walk had 15! This is followed by lunch at a local pub - fish and chips, steak and ale pie, soup, sandwiches, curry and very occasionally a dessert for those of us with a sweet tooth.

The new film 'Emily' (out on October 14) reminded me of a cold, winter's walk on **Haworth Moor**. One of the members read from her novel 'Wuthering Heights' at **Top Withins** (*right*). We will be walking in this area again in December. I can already feel the wind in my hair!



'Wuthering Heights is the name of Mr Heathcliff's dwelling... Pure, bracing ventilation they must have up there, at all times, indeed: one may guess the power of the north wind, blowing over the edge...' Ch 1 p 4.



'On that bleak hill top the earth was hard with black frost, and the air made me shiver through every limb.' Ch 2 p 9.

As well as fortnightly walks, two four-day residentials are organised - one in the spring, the second in the autumn. We generally use the HF holiday company for accommodation. The map rooms are a great resource for our leaders. We've yet to venture abroad but who knows.....

WTL is a very popular group and always has a waiting list. Because of this we ask members to attend regularly.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank group members who prepare and lead walks. This enables us to WTL throughout the year. Thank you.

WHARFEDALE WALKING, Nick Jarvis

These weekly Saturday walks in our local area have proved friendly and popular. We walk at a pace to suit everyone, and like to stop from time to time to appreciate the scenery and anything else of interest during the walk. The walks are 4-8 miles, and are mostly led by the four of us (Nick, Maggie, Keith, Wendy).

Here is a typical walk. On Saturday 8th October, seventeen of us met at **Conistone Bridge** and walked towards Bastow Woods. Going through Grass Wood, we contemplated the historic monument at Far Gregory and walked the mossy wilderness.

Continuing on to Lea Green, we returned to Conistone via the Dales Way. Some of us climbed down Coniston Dib, while others took the easier but longer route back to Conistone. The weather was great, as was the companionship.



[Photo: lunch stop at Lea Green overlooking Wharfe valley. WB]

WALKING GROUP, George Mackley

Within our varied programme we also do some long-distance walks in stages, most recently the Limestone Way. Below is the glorious walk from **Kirkby Lonsdale to Ingleton** along the Limestone way, 11½ miles.

Take the footpath out of the pretty centre of Kirby Lonsdale to Ruskin's View (*right*), painted by JMW Turner in 1813 and declared by Ruskin to be 'one of the loveliest scenes in England and therefore in the world'.



An impressive start, down to the River Lune then over the Devil's Bridge (*right*) spanning the river, and into tight lanes climbing out the valley into the rolling countryside towards Cowan Bridge crossing the A65.



Out of Cowan Bridge along the Leck Beck you make your way to the pretty village of Ireby. We had lunch there in the sunshine. The walk takes you through the Village of Masongill and hamlet of West View before descending in the town of Ingleton. The long-distance views of this section were stunning

The Walking Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday for walks of differing lengths and types. All are prewalked and therefore safe for you to walk. Our motto is Fitness, Friendship and Fun. Come and enjoy this very social group

GEOLOGY WALKS, Keith Berrington

Walk to rock! Seventeen of us came on the first geology walk, on October 3rd at **Malham**, to view Gordale Scar and Malham Cove.

A gentle walk, with time to talk and explore the dramatic landscape.



For the next six months, we have a series of fortnightly Monday morning walks lined up. This could be to a rock, landscape, hill, river, quarry or mine. For example on 17th October we explore the historic **Hebden** lead mines, and on 31st it is **Brimham Rocks**.

New members are welcome to join at any time. No prior knowledge of geology is assumed, just an enthusiasm for a short and rocky walk, to exchange knowledge and enthusiasm about our local landscapes in a friendly group.

[Photo: Geology walkers and dipping strata at Janet's Foss, RF]

Reviews of u3a activities

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE USA, Syd Matthews

Syd is well known in Craven U3A for his entertaining and informative lecture courses on politics and economics. He has spoken about the constitutional history of the USA at the Summer School and this course develops that theme. It's no list of dates and presidents, although that is part of the "geography" of the historical trends.

It's a thematic study, and so far Syd has led us through the development to the west of the eastern mountains, out of the area covered by the original states who declared independence, relations with other European countries which for some time claimed an interest in parts of the places now regarded as the heartlands of an immense country - not that they were particularly using them, just a couple of trading posts here and there, by all accounts - and the way the states tried to maintain a union of some sort while the immense conscience issue of slavery continued in surprisingly large areas of the country.

Of course there's something special about a country that's trying a new way of governing themselves and this led to strife of various sorts - often legal, and occasionally really violent. Who now knows about the Kansas War of the 1850s? That was about slavery too and was a precursor, although unrelated to the events and attitudes that caused the massive Civil War of the 1860s.

Syd has emphasised that that conflict was not about slavery in itself, but rather a determination to keep the country together. We sit in the group and think that this has a very familiar ring to it.

The great pleasure of history is to learn about events in the past and to compare them to the present day. That saying about history repeating itself seems apt, but perhaps it's the case that there seem to be strands which run through history and that's what we're seeing. Syd's course certainly brings those strands to mind in a lively way.

This course will be repeated after Christmas.

Maurice White

MONTHLY MEETING

Our October meeting's attendance was adversely affected by appalling weather and the national booster programme... which was a great pity because **Douglas Goode's talk on Wren and the Building of St Paul's** was fascinating, revealing as it did how the design approved by Charles II, if built, would have been a disaster.

Douglas's expertise in Civil Engineering and his communication skills enabled him to demystify the complexities and difficulties of building domes, comparing St Paul's to the Duomo in Florence, and St Peter's in Rome among others. We learnt a lot about engineering and architecture, and 'stress' now has a whole new meaning for me!

An array of cakes, generously provided by members, were consumed with considerable gusto and attendees were able to purchase cakes for a mere 50p to enjoy at home.

Let's hope for good weather for Bonfire Night and our next meeting which will be held on Saturday 5th November at Champion's Church, Carleton Rd Skipton, from 10am with refreshments.

Our speaker is **Richard Wadwell who will be providing us with a talk on his personal experience of Guide Dogs for the Blind, ably assisted by his dog, Martin!** Richard comes warmly recommended and we are confident it will be an interesting, indeed inspiring talk.

I urge members new and old to come along. It is a great way to meet other members of the u3a.

Jacqui Eames

CRAVEN u3a GROUPS FOR 2022/23

AD HOC WALKING	ITALIAN - CONTINUING *
AEROBICS HIGH INTENSITY	MAH-JONG
ALLOTMENT GROUP	METAL DETECTING
ARTS FORUM - ZOOM	MOTORCYCLE GROUP
ASPECTS OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE	MULTI MEDIA *
ASTRONOMY	MUSIC FOR FUN
BIRDWATCHING	ORIENTEERING
BRIDGE BEGINNERS	PEOPLE: A STORY TO TELL
BRIDGE PLAY	PLAY READING
CALLIGRAPHY	POLITICS DISCUSSION GROUP *
CLIMATE FORUM	POPULAR MUSIC 1920-1970
COASTAL NAVIGATION	QUILTING AND SEWING *
COFFEE AND CHAT	RACKETBALL
CRAVEN U3A NEWSLETTER *	RAILWAY STUDIES
CRAVEN U3A ORCHESTRA	RECORDER (CONTINUERS)
CREATIVE WRITING *	RECORDER ENSEMBLE
CROQUET	RENAISSANCE GARDENS AND OVID
CROWN GREEN BOWLS. groups 1 & 2 *	SACRED MUSIC MEDIAEVAL TO BAROQUE *
EXPLORING MYTHOLOGY *	SAFETY ON THE WEB. groups 1 & 2
EXPLORING POETRY *	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION *
FILM - FRENCH	SHORT HISTORY OF THE USA. groups 1 & 2 *
FILM INTERNATIONAL	SHORTY WALKS
FILM INTERNATIONAL EXTRA	SPANISH INTERMEDIATE *
FLOWER ARRANGING	STORIES OF SCIENTISTS
FRENCH (ADVANCED)	STRETCHING/MOVEMENT *
FRENCH CONVERSATION *	STRETCHING/YOGA *
GARDENING GROUP	TABLE TENNIS *
GEOGRAPHY FORUM *	TEN-PIN BOWLING
GEOLOGY WALKS	WALK TO LUNCH *
GERMAN (CONTINUING)	WALKING GROUP
HEY. NONNY NO! INTRO TO MADRIGALS	WALKING NETBALL
HISTORY OF ART	WATERCOLOUR LEISURE
HOMES FIT FOR HEROES	WHARFEDALE WALKING
INDOOR GAMES	WOODTURNING. groups 1 & 2 *
IRON CURTAIN: TRAUMA OF EASTERN EUROPE	WORLD OF ART
ITALIAN BEGINNERS *	

* Group currently full (if this is your favourite, why not form a new group?)