**In July 2024, Craven u3a held its annual Summer Programme at Ermysted’s School, Skipton.**

This year, 28 of our members gave talks or lead activities for the 205 members who attended the two day event. Members were able to attend four activities, two each day.

We will hold another Summer Programme in July 2025 and is open to non-members. For further information, contact the Craven u3a Secretary, [secretary@cravenu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cravenu3a.org.uk)

**The 2024 talks and activities:**

**The Business Case for the Green economy**

*Despite reliable scientific evidence of the need for Net Zero, politicians, governments and fossil fuel providers are moving away from measures to address the problems. Yet the Green economy can provide the growth we need and, under the mainstream media radar, a great many companies, farmers, investors and other influencers are*

*moving towards green solutions. My talk will focus on these and on the reasons why green solutions are so needed. There will be ample opportunity for discussion.*

**Thomas Hardy: 19th Century Novelist - 20th Century Poet**

*Born in 1840, the son of a stone mason, Hardy became the most famous novelist of the late 19th century. He turned to writing poetry for the rest of his long life, covering subjects including the Boer War, the First World War, and even Einstein’s Theory of Relativity*.

**The Lives of Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace**

*Charles Babbage is best remembered for his differential and analytical machines which were the forerunners of modern computing while Ada demonstrated mathematical skills which would be at home in our present world of artificial intelligence.*

**Part 1: A Writer's Journey** - *the long and winding road to getting published and researching themes, especially human trafficking*.

**Part 2: Creative Writing Workshop on 'Flash Fiction'**.

*What is flash fiction? It's a very short story, typically 300-500 words but ranging from 1,000 to just six words.. You'll do some exercises to get your creativity flowing, with guidance on where to submit your work when you've polished it up. Bring a notebook and pen or a laptop/tablet.*

**From Glass Balls to Crystal Balls - a short history of Anaesthesia**

*We will look at the discovery and development of anaesthesia to provide painless surgery from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Why did it take so long to mitigate the horror of surgery?*

**Stephen Sondheim - music, lyrics and life.**

*The lyricist of West Side Story went on to create the most innovative and often controversial musicals of the 20th century. Come and hear about his life and see clips of some of the shows of this multi-award-winning composer, whose original productions sometimes failed but whose revivals now sell out.*

**Harold Hopkins - Optical Genius**

*Born into poverty in Leicester in 1919, Harold Hopkins displayed great academic ability. Guidance and fate led him into the field of optical physics. His work led to the development of a variety of lens systems and other optical devices which have revolutionised modern life, yet his name is virtually unknown.*

**China - a Brief History, then a Grand Tour**

*Douglas Goode has visited China five times since 1988. After a brief history of China from Confucius to Mao, Douglas will talk about the places he has been to in North, South, East and West China and the changes he has seen.*

**The Country House in Tudor & Stuart England**.

*This talk looks at the evolution of the English country house during the fifteen and sixteen hundreds, including the manor houses and great 'prodigy houses' of Elizabethan and Jacobean times; the adoption of Italian Classical architecture; and the mighty Baroque palaces such as Castle Howard & Blenheim.*

**Bardsey Island: Haven of Wildlife**

*We will explore the wildlife, geology, archaeology, human and monastic life of Bardsey Island, a tiny gem, the ‘Iona of Wales’. Our speaker is Life President of the Bardsey Bird and Field Observatory which has monitored wildlife daily for the past seventy years. Last year the island was awarded the first International Dark Sky Sanctuary in Europe.*

**Stroll around Skipton:**

*Oversubscribed last year so a second chance if you missed this two hour guided walk around Skipton, taking in some historical highlights (and lowlifes!), buildings and byways, cultural curiosities, and industrial heritage. Discover the sometimes surprising stories behind the place which began as 'Sheep Town'.*

**It’s Not All Sushi - a culinary trip to Japan**

*One of the highlights of a trip to Japan is the food. In this talk we will introduce you to some of the ingredients, types of meals, famous dishes and the places to eat that you will find in Japan. Sorry – no samples!*

**The Impressionists and their Legacy**

*We will look at the development, techniques and impact of the Impressionists, as a group and as individual artists and their impact on late 19th century art, most particularly the Post Impressionists such as Van Gogh, Cezanne and Matisse. Jacqui will provide a powerpoint presentation and numerous books on the two movements but please bring books/ pictures and enthusiasms of your own as well!*

**Offsite exploration of Bingley**

*A 3 mile walk around Bingley, exploring the unique challenges created over the last 400 years by this narrow valley and the growing demands of modern transport. Highlights include the 5 Rise Locks, Bingley Bog, a dissected graveyard and the canal that was moved to make way for a bypass.*

**Drumlins & Reefs: the little hills of Craven**

*An illustrated appreciation of our drumlins and limestone reefs. These hills show Craven at two extremes. Reefs formed from life-teeming tropical seas over 300 million years ago, drumlins from ice-age glaciers scouring the land 20,000 years ago. The presentation explores these contrasts, and the relevance to current climate change.*

**Travellers’ Tales from New Zealand**

*New Zealand: a land of stunning beauty where the colours are brighter and the atmosphere seems lighter. Our Speaker and his nephew, hired a car and enjoyed a 5 day self-guided odyssey. Having nothing booked gave a great sense of adventure and freedom but how did it work out and what was it like?*

**M. and Mme Lavoisier and the chemistry between them**.

*Antoine Lavoisier (1743-1794) has been called ‘the father of modern chemistry.’ Remarkably, his great triumph of wrenching chemistry from the obscurity of alchemy and wonky ideas about combustion was significantly facilitated by his marriage to the spirited Marie-Anne Paulze. Then in 1789 came the French Revolution, and country’s republican leaders declared they had ‘no need of scientists and chemists.’*

**International film: 'Tampopo'**

**A Japanese film, directed by Juzo Itami with English sub-titles**.

*'Tampopo' is a comedy where a group of vagrant Samurai guide a noodleshop owner in her quest for the perfect recipe for pulled noodles. This film is a sweet, sexy and surreal song to the sensual joys of nourishment.*

**The Songs We Sang at School.**

*This covers the historic and political forces that drove the development of community singing and singing in schools, the background to a selection of songs that featured in commonly used school singing books in the 50s - 70s and the BBC programme Singing Together which most u3a members will remember.*

*No singing is required of participants***.**

**Paper Craft - making a 'Blizzard Fold' notebook.**

*We will make a small notebook, using paper folding techniques. This book has replaceable papers that slot into the book spine. There will be guidance and opportunity to practise the folds before completing at least one notebook.*

*It would be helpful if you can bring a pair of paper scissors but paper and glue will be provided.*

**Samuel Beckett, the Irish playwright, the most philosophical of 20th Century**

**Writers**

*Beckettian theatre represented a Copernicus revolution. His stage characters exult in endless, pointless, yet entertaining metaphysical argument, as in his seminal work “Waiting for Godot”. His biographer described him as “The last Modernist.”*

**Desperate Romantics**

*A glimpse at the paintings, lives and loves of the best-known Pre-Raphaelite artists. Rebelling against the strictures of the Victorian Royal Academy, they blazed an exciting colourful new trail in British art.*

**Victorian Women**

*The Victorian Age is usually seen as a male-dominated period in our history. So what was expected of women at this time and what did they expect for themselves? Many women made outstanding contributions in their chosen fields. Who were they and what were their achievements?*

**Indoor Games**

*This session will provide a taster of the activities of the winter Indoor Games Group. You will be able to participate in some friendly competition, taking part in a wide range of board & card games. Dominoes, scrabble & many others available.*

*No prizes or trophies – purely for fun.*

**Boulton and Watt - Men who powered the Industrial Revolution**

*We will look at their early lives, how they came to meet, and the history of the company they formed*.

**Hackfall and the Picturesque**

*Hackfall is a steep wooded gorge near Ripon, once part of the Studley Royal Estate. In the 18th century, it was a famous attraction for travellers in search of the Picturesque. Come and hear about this wonderful place, and the ideas these early tourists were pursuing.*

**Latin Dance: no partner or experience required**

*Dancing is great for well-being, toning, muscle and bone strength. Our leader is a trained dance teacher who will teach you how to dance solo: the cha cha, samba, rumba, jive and paso doble to the rhythms of Latin music. Comfortable clothing and footwear are essential, plus water and enthusiasm.*

**Offsite Visit to Craven Cattle Market, Skipton**

*The manager of Craven Cattle Marts Ltd, will give an insight into the history and development of livestock sales in Skipton followed by a tour and discussion about the site and its development in the last 25 years .If members would like to observe the end of a sheepdog auction, it is advisable to arrive as early as possible. There is a café where you can soak up the atmosphere and get a bite to eat.*