



January 2025

CRAVEN U3A NEWSLETTER

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Dates for your Diary:

18 January - Coffee morning
with speaker at Champions,
10 for 10.30 am

8 February - Coffee morning
with speaker at Champions,
10 for 10.30 am

Summer Programme – 24 &25 July 2025 Ermysted’s Grammar School, Skipton

SAVE THE DATES!

If you are interested in giving a presentation or organising an activity, then please get in touch with me as soon as possible: summer@cravenu3a.org.uk . I hope to have the first draft of the programme organised by the beginning of March.

NEW THIS YEAR – SUMMER PROGRAMME AWAY DAYS!

We are planning a variety of outings during the summer; the first to be organised is a visit to the **Heysham Nuclear Power Station** on **Tuesday, 22 July**. We will be travelling by coach, leaving Skipton Bus Station at 8.00 am and returning by about 4.30 pm. The excursion includes a stop for lunch in Morecambe. The cost will be between £15 and £20 and is non-refundable.

The deadline for applications for this trip is Monday, 17 February 2025. No payment is required until you have a confirmed place. The visit is limited to 30 participants, which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If the visit

is over-subscribed, it may be possible to organise a trip on another date.

Essential information

- You will need to provide your date of birth, nationality and home address on the application form which will be provided once your place is confirmed.
- Non-British applicants are required to provide additional information (to be advised).
- You must bring either a passport or photographic driving licence with you on the day.
- You will need to give emergency contact details.
- Although there are lifts in the buildings, all visitors must be able to negotiate up to 200 steps in the event of an emergency evacuation. Temperatures inside the building can get very high.
- Any health issues or disabilities must be shared with the Visitor Centre prior to the visit for a confidential one-to-one discussion about how any needs may be met.

How to apply:

Email Linda Hoole: summer@cravenu3a.org.uk

Or phone or text/Whatsapp Linda to secure a place: 07773 407628

A beautiful December day for the walking group - Leader and 12disciples at the 'Twelve Apostles' stone circle on top of Ilkley Moor



U3a Carol service

A massive thank you to one and all who attended the service on 11 December, and especially to Albert Bonham who pulled everything together, ably assisted by Kenneth Jackson, who also played the organ. The attendance was 152 (possibly a record), and the collection raised £560, split 50:50 between the church and Sue Ryder, which were both Gift-Aided.

It was nice to see a church full of members and families, and the carol singing was truly impressive both in tone and volume. Carols and readings were alternated, and musical variety was provided by the Recorder Ensemble who played a medley of French carols, and an *a cappella* u3a pop-up chamber choir.

A thank you was given to The Canon Rev. Kathia Shoemith and the vergers for hosting the event and making us extremely welcome.

Last, but not least, thanks to those members who did the catering, and to everyone who provided the mince pies and mulled wine. Anything left over was donated to the church.



Talk about getting ahead of yourself – the church is already booked for 10 December 2025!

Mick Richings

Summer Programme 2025 - Succession Planning

Planning for this year's Summer Programme is already underway, headed by Linda Hoole.

2025 will be the last year that Linda leads the organisation of this event. With that in mind, it is hoped that one or two fresh faces will become involved in the organisation – shadowing Linda and the team.

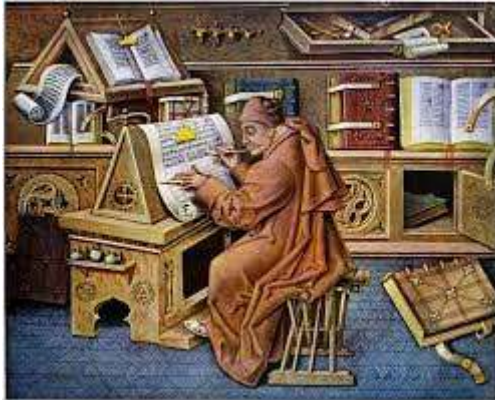
The timeline is as follows:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| October | Secure venue (Ermysted's, Skipton) |
| January | Advertise for about 30 speakers and facilitators and organise outside events |
| February | Prepare first draft of the programme and confirm with speakers – deadline for speakers 1 March |
| Mid March | Advertise programme – deadline end for applications end of April |
| April/May | Process applications, liaising with the Treasurer regarding payments |
| May | Confirm places to members |
| June | Advertise for volunteers to provide refreshments and serve on the day |
| July | Buy tea/coffee etc Print registers for sessions |
| 23.7.25 | IT familiarisation session at Ermysted's for speakers |
| 24.7.25 | Summer Programme |
| 25.7.25 | Summer Programme |

If you are interested in finding out more, contact Linda summer@cravenu3a.org.uk or on 07773 407628

Mick Richings

History Happens



In the autumn, I wrote a note in the u3a Newsletter to give notice of a possible new course *History Happens*, due to start September 2025.

I would now like to ask anyone who is interested in doing a talk as part of the course to get in touch with their idea. We aim to hold 10 sessions, every two weeks from September 2025 to March 2026,

probably on Wednesday afternoons, with a variety of 10 or more speakers on a topic of their choice.

We would like stimulating, thought-provoking, wide-ranging subjects on anything historical – from the ancients to the end of the 20th century, and preferably a talk that you have not already delivered to u3a or to other local societies. The talk can last up to 1½ hours, but in the interest of encouraging more speakers, we can have two speakers per session; so a talk of up to 45 minutes will be welcome.

If you have a particular idea in mind, please send a 50-word synopsis to me at jane.houlton@btopenworld.com

Jane Houlton

Redundant?

After 14 years our Mah-Jong Group is having to leave Princess Drive Community Centre; it is being converted to livings.

As a consequence our 3½ pint teapot is redundant. Does any Craven u3a group have use for it? In our new home in the Soroptimist Rooms we don't need it. Failing any u3a use, would any member like it for another group?

If anyone who is interested contacts me at andrew.todd@tiscali.co.uk we can make arrangements to pass it over.

Andrew Todd, Group Leader



CRAVEN u3a 2025- 2026 PROGRAMME

The development of the next Craven u3a programme commences over the next few months, with completion by the beginning of June. The programme will then be distributed to the membership in the summer, ready for our Open Event in the Town Hall.

NEW GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

There is plenty of support for any Craven u3a member who might consider facilitating/running a new group or activity.

The Yorkshire and Humber u3a Regional website, accessible to all u3a members, provides support information on how to run a group or activity. It also has an advice team which can provide specialist subject advice, on a wide range of topics: www.yahru3a.uk

I am keen to extend the range of activities that our u3a can provide for our membership. We have over 900 members, with a lot of untapped talent out there! A number of suggestions have been made for possible new groups including Padel tennis, Pickleball, Aerobic Dancing, Walking Cricket, Dog Walking and Spanish Conversation, to name but a few. (I have contacted Sandylands to enquire about Pickleball and am awaiting a response) Any ideas for new groups are welcomed, hopefully with volunteers to run them!

The Committee is here to support any member (or pair of friends) who might consider starting up a new group. The information that we would require is:

Name(s) of group leaders

Name and description of the group activity

Venue requirements (if any)

Dates and times of the activity

Maximum numbers for the group/activity

VENUES

The venues are booked centrally by our Venue Secretary. All invoices are paid centrally by the Treasurer. (Currently 20 weeks per year are invoiced to the u3a)

COMMUNICATION

The Beacon system provides access to send group emails, enabling the Group Leader to contact all group members via one email. WhatsApp is becoming an

easier method of group communication. The member must give their permission to be added to the Whatsapp group (Data Protection).

So, -if anyone is considering or would like more information on running a group for our u3a, please contact me (or any committee member) for a chat. It is totally due to the commitment and enthusiasm of our Group Leaders that Craven u3a is a success.

My thanks to all our Group Leaders, who volunteer and give up their time, to provide all our members with a huge selection of activities, enabling us all to enjoy an enhanced retirement and make new friends.

Best Wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy 2025 and thank you for your support

Anne MacDonald anne.f.macdonald@btinternet.com

Films on Tuesday and Thursday

Here is the wonderful selection of films being shown over the next three months. All films start at 1.30 pm (doors open just after 1pm). A variety of British and foreign films, but all have subtitles. A lovely, social way to enjoy a film on a wintry afternoon.

| TUESDAYS | THURSDAYS |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 14 Jan – Sweet Escape | 16 Jan – An Affair to Remember |
| 21 Jan - Barbara | 23 Jan – The garden of the Finzi Contini |
| 28 Jan – 23 walks | 30 Jan – Breakfast at Tiffany’s |
| 4 Feb - Il Treno dei Bambini | 6 Feb – 84 Charing Cross Road |
| 11 Feb - Thelma | 13 Feb – Enchanted April |
| 18 Feb – Only the River Flows | 20 Feb – The River Dir |
| 25 Feb - Touch | 27 Feb – A Quiet Passion |
| 4 March – Gold Run | 6 March – The Heat of the Day |
| 11 March – At the Height of Summer | 13 March – The Englishman Who Went up a Hill but Came down a Mountain |
| 18 Mar - Perfect Days | 20 March – Stella Days |
| 25 March – Finding Your Feet | 27 March – To Olivia |

Craven u3a monthly meetings: another year of varied and interesting talks

Following a very successful year in 2024 organised by Helena Tudhope to whom we owe many thanks, I have taken back organisation of speakers for 2025. I very much hope the excellent attendance of 50+ will be maintained so thought it might be useful to give members a taste of things to come...

Speaking of taste, I know the cakes will continue to be a delight but if anyone would like to assist our team of three, they would be most grateful, given the increased number of mouths to feed!

This month's talk, which has had to be postponed to 18 January is:

Liz Morrison on Children and Mobile Phones- a serious and current issue that grandparents among us will be all too aware of. Good to have a technology - focused talk.

On 8 February **retired District Judge Gordon Lingard** will regale us with “**Tales From the Bench**”, including many years in Skipton.

Following that on 8 March, we focus on the Arts and Theatre in particular when we welcome **Dave Stannard, author of Leeds Playhouse: A Tale of Two Theatres**, which attendees will be able to purchase at half its cover price!

Books will remain at the forefront when the **Stripey Badger Bookshop** visit us in the Spring to offer suggestions of local and less local good reads. If members would like to give me a steer as to whether you would prefer a focus on fiction or non-fiction, I can let them know.

Stephen Warren is a pioneering caver and also an expert in local geology. He has published a number of books and will share his experiences and expertise with us in the early summer.

So lots to look forward to. Come along and bring a friend

Jacqui Eames

Stories of Scientists Group – not too late to join!

The title sounds a bit techy, but the real purpose of the group is discover about the life behind the scientist, and yes there is some science at times.

Our group meets at Carleton Village Hall, starting on 8 January 25, from 10am – 12pm, for 10 weeks. The upcoming presentations are an eclectic mix ranging from Joseph Lister, The Lunar Society to Women in Science.

Although most of the scientists profiled are men, I'm indebted to Margaret



Goode who has unashamedly showcased women, eg Ada Lovelace, a mantle I'm trying to continue. She is regarded as the first computer programmer long before modern computers were invented. Her notes on Charles Babbage's proposed analytical engine are considered to be the very first computer algorithm.

It's a matter of history that science appears to be a male dominated field. However, scratch the surface and you find that women have made important contributions to science and technology.

Who had ever heard of Katherine Johnson before the film *Hidden Figures* profiled her story and achievements. Her calculations of orbital mechanics at NASA were critical to sending the first Americans into space, despite having to work in a heavily segregated environment. Or Margaret Hamilton, who was the director of MIT Software Engineering Division Instrumentation Lab, which developed the on-board flight software for NASA's Apollo programme.



If you would like to dip your toe in, you'll be more than welcome. Come and find out about their lives and achievements.

Mick Richings

The **National u3a** website provides all sorts of entertainment for a cold winter day when you might want to stay indoors. For instance:

15 Jan, 10am – Introduction to Duplicate Bridge for Bridge Improvers

17 Jan, 10 am – Essential Driver and Vehicle Checks

21 Jan, 2pm – An Introduction to AI for Older People

6 Feb, 10am – Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords

Could you or a member of your family complete the Great North Run for Team u3a? We have secured 5 places in this iconic race - one of the biggest half-marathon events in the UK. This year places are open to u3a members and their families.

If you are interested in taking part please send your details to fundraising@u3a.org.uk by Friday 28 February 2025 (title your email '@Great North Run'). Please include the u3a where you are, or your family, are a member and let us know if you have run a half marathon before.

Places will be randomly selected in early March. If you are one of the runners chosen, we'll be in touch by mid-March to give you all the support you need and allow plenty of time to start training. Good luck!

Summer Groups 2025

There are still spaces available for some of our u3a groups that run throughout the summer.

Allotment

Badminton

Croquet

Day out with a Bus Pass

E- Biking

Culture Vulture (Theatre/Cinema trips)

Gardening group

Motorcycle group

Racketball

Shorty Walks

Sunday Lunch club

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