



# CRAVEN U3A NEWSLETTER

## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quiz Night - Thursday 5 June, 6.30 for 7.00**

Skipton Community Sports Hub, Coulthurst Memorial Grounds, Sandylands, Carleton New Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 2AZ.

As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, the committee is pleased to offer you an evening of fun, food, fantastic quiz questions and...a bar!

The cost of £10.00 per person includes a buffet supper:

- Sandwiches (choice of 4 varieties)
- Pork pies
- Mini sausage rolls
- Cheese & onion quiche
- Pizza
- Marinated chicken drumsticks or homemade chicken goujons

Dietary requirements can be catered for but we just need to know what they are!

There will be a bar open throughout the evening; like the quiz participants, the prices are very competitive.

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### ***Dates for your Diary:***

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

14 May – Craven u3a AGM – 2.00 for 2.30 pm at St Andrew's Church Hall

5 June – Quiz - see this page

14 June - Coffee morning with speaker at Champions

Come as a team, or join others when you arrive. It will be a great way to meet new people and argue politely about what is the correct answer.

To secure your place, contact me - [lindahoole@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindahoole@yahoo.co.uk) or 07773 407628.

We would like payment up front please:

- Bank transfer: The Craven u3a, sort code 20-78-42, account no. 83984230  
Reference: quiz and name
- Cheques payable to The Craven u3a can be posted to Linda at 5 Brown's Court, Bradley, BD20 9BE
- Cheque or cash after the AGM on 14 May at St Andrew's, Skipton

The Skipton Community Sports Hub is a brand new building at the cricket ground with excellent facilities; there is ample car parking, and it is a short walk from the town centre.

We very much look forward to seeing you on the 5<sup>th</sup> June.  
The deadline is May 27<sup>th</sup> to allow for the catering order.

*Linda Hoole*

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*Beautiful Hogarth Curve creations from the Floral Art Group*



## History, Hail and Happy Memories – with 'Walk to Lunch'

The Northumberland coastline close to Alnwick has much to offer; from extremes of weather to kippers at Craster. The Walk to Lunch group was drawn there by the spectacular scenery, local history - and the expectation of hearty evening meals and entertainment at the HF property in Alnmouth.

We weren't disappointed, even though we also experienced some "bracing" weather when visiting the Duke of Northumberland's sprawling estate Hulne Park, on the outskirts of Alnwick. Wind, rain, hail (and outbreaks of sunshine) were ignored as walkers admired the work of Capability Brown, the landscape designer born a few miles away near Morpeth.

The first day had been devoted to the awesome views which can be enjoyed when exploring the coastline and inland areas around Craster, famous for its smokehouse where kippers were first cured more than 130 years ago. The towering ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle are a memorable landmark, a short walk from the harbour. Birdlife is a welcome feature as well, with numerous skylarks, wagtails and reports of razorbills and sandpipers. Apparently razorbills can be spotted nesting on the cliffs, plus sightings of seals.



Our third and final walk, in windy conditions, was partly spent on the vast open expanse of sandy beaches after approaching via a narrow coastal path through sand dunes. Each day represented a departure from the group's tried and tested formula of a walk followed by a pub lunch. Part of the HF package was a picnic selection, but some of us did manage to find a lunchtime pint at least once!



The break was organised - and walks plotted - by Jenny and Stuart Robinson, Brigida Martino and Robert Greenwood, with back-up from all the staff at the Alnmouth HF house. Evening talks, a quiz and a skittles contest, combined with the presence of other HF guests, ensured the proverbial good time was genuinely had by all.

*Mike Eaton*

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### **Craven u3a Orchestra**

The orchestra ended its season in style with a well attended afternoon concert in Skipton Baptist Church on 26 March. This year we were pleased to welcome some guest performers – the u3a Recorder Ensemble and the Gargrave Handbell Ringers.

The orchestra started 'with catlike tread' (Pirates of Penzance). The programme also included Elgar (Chanson de Nuit and Chanson de Matin), waltzes by Shostakovich and Frank Bridge, a South American bird (El Condor Pasa), three Scottish songs and an Ashokan Farewell before finishing with a rousing military march by Schubert.

The recorders treated us to some folk song arrangements. The Handbell Ringers demonstrated their skills with a rousing Caribbean 'Mango Rock'.

The players all enjoyed the opportunity of performing to an audience. The audience seemed to enjoy it as well. As a result of their generous contributions, we were able to send £300 to our chosen charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind.

We are now enjoying our summer break but will be starting again in September. If our concert has inspired any of you to pick up that neglected instrument again, please come and join us.

*Sue Stidworthy*

## Summer in Craven u3a

There are plenty of activities on offer for members, throughout the spring and summer. A number of groups carry on through the summer and some groups all year round.

Beacon provides information on what is available. Have a look to see if there is anything you might like to dip into. It is worth contacting the group leader to check there are still places available as, although Beacon might indicate the group is full or over-subscribed, not everyone who joined groups at the outset actually attended!

**Floral Art** runs every 2 weeks until July. Springtime in the garden brings a wonderful floral display so why not take the opportunity to create a floral masterpiece for your home!

**The Gardening group and allotment group** make the most of the Spring and Summer months. It is a joy to see the results of our hard work, when the garden come to life and we harvest our vegetables and fruit on the allotment

What could be nicer on a sunny day than a trip out on the bus with a group of friends with the **Days out with a Bus Pass group** or with the **Sunday Lunch Club** once a month, or a visit to the theatre or cinema with the **Culture Vulture group**

Join up with our **E-Bikers or Motor Cycle group** to enjoy our glorious countryside, or join one or more of our **Walking Groups** (2 hour walks, nature rambles, Wharfedale walks, Shorty walks and Walking group)

If you feel a bit more sporty, how about **Table Tennis, Racketball, Croquet or Crown Green Bowls** (there may be a small charge per session for these groups ).

Let's make the most of our spring and summer months

Linda Hoole has produced an **amazing Summer Programme for July**.

Many thanks to all the Group Leaders and Members who have offered to contribute to the programme.

*Anne MacDonald*



## Rylstone Psalmody

### Sing and Play the Lost Church Music of the Dales

I've enjoyed leading "The Story Behind the Song" for the past two years. Among other topics we've looked at protest songs, 18<sup>th</sup> century songs and the songs we sang at school. But the highlight for me was when Katharine Cheney brought along a manuscript she thought I might find interesting. Probably written by her great great grandfather John Summerskill, parish clerk at Rylstone St Peters in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it proved to be the first "west gallery" tune book found in North Yorkshire.



Together with Paul Guppy, and supported by St Peters PCC, I'm organising a workshop at Cracoe Village Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 10.00 - 16.00 where some of the music in the book will be recreated using modern scores. Paul Guppy is a retired musical instrument repairer. He's a double bass and tuba player and director of the "Gladly Solemn Sound" West Gallery Choir. He's an excellent workshop leader.

Country Psalmody, or West Gallery Music, was the music of church choirs and bands known to Thomas Hardy and the Brontes in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. You already know some of the psalms – Psalm 100 is *All Creatures that on Earth do Dwell*. We'll perform it to *Craco*, a tune written by Accepted Widdop, a wool comber and hymn writer from Halifax. For a West Gallery hymn there's *Cranbrook*, written by Thomas Clark, a cobbler from Canterbury. The original words were *Grace 'Tis a Charming Sound* but it's now sung to *Ilkla Moor Baht 'At*. Think of Handel in frock smock and gaiters.

Country psalmody was accompanied by a church band doubling the voice parts. Locally there are records of cellos, oboes, clarinets, flutes, fiddles, and

a brass band. Skipton Baptist Church's ophicleide is now in Craven Museum. Suitable instruments for the workshop are orchestral and band instruments (strings, wind and brass). Unsuitable are chordal instruments (e.g. melodeons, accordions, guitars). Players should be able to read music and play reasonably well since their function is to lead the singers. For singers, knowledge of written music is useful but if you learn quickly by ear you'll be welcome.

Katharine, Paul and I would love to raise the roof with music not performed for almost 200 years. For more information contact me:

[suejacksonskips@gmail.com](mailto:suejacksonskips@gmail.com)

Sue Jackson 01756 796967

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## Bridge for Beginners



Have you ever thought you might like to learn to play bridge? It's a fascinating card game which helps to develop memory, concentration and strategy as well as an opportunity to join a friendly group. I am planning a new course designed for people who have never played bridge before. It will run from October to December on a Wednesday afternoon at my home in Addingham. The course will be quite intensive, consisting of 10 sessions with handouts and follow up exercises. You should reach a standard where you can join in the Bridge Play group which meets on Thursday afternoons in Draughton.



The photo shows a recent Bridge Play session where one table is finishing off a hand, and the other table enjoying a well earned cup of tea. We typically play between 12 and 15 hands of duplicate bridge each session, which means that every pair plays each hand once, and the session is then scored to produce a league table. At our final session in March, there were 28 players enjoying a two course meal and

prize giving.

Unfortunately I can only accommodate 9 people for the beginners course. If you are interested or have any questions about the beginners course or the Bridge Play group, please get in touch.

David Lowe 07854 410892

## The Hepworth and the YSP with Culture Vultures

Towards the end of February seven members of the u3a Culture Vultures group travelled to The Hepworth in Wakefield and to the nearby YSP (Yorkshire Sculpture Park).

The attractions at the Hepworth, apart from the permanent collection, were a temporary exhibition entitled 'Still Lives' and another on 100 years of surrealist landscapes. The curators of the surrealist exhibition had managed to secure works by well-known names including Salvador Dali, René Magritte, Max Ernst and Leonora Carrington, but an unexpected bonus was a section on Mary Wykeham, whose works had previously been largely hidden from view.



The selection criteria for the 'Still Lives' exhibition were based on the Dutch concept of *Stilleven* rather than the French *Nature Morte* and, as a result, embraced a very wide range of works. We saw paintings which contained representations of the human form, ceramics (with a number of exquisite pieces by Lucie Rie), abstract art and sculpture (no surprise that they managed to find room for some Hepworths in there!)

After a rather fine lunch at the Weston, we explored the YSP. At this stage we split up into different subgroups, but almost all of us made it to the main galleries where there were again many fine works on display. We were certainly helped by the weather – the first mild day after weeks of bitter cold. And while there was a shower in the afternoon we knew well enough to sit in the café until it had passed. So we got a magnificent rainbow without even getting wet!

Everyone who came seemed to find the day stimulating and uplifting as well as enjoyable. And it really wasn't difficult to organise. So, if you see a show or exhibition that you fancy going to, why not advertise it via Culture Vultures? It's far better to go with a group of like-minded people than to visit by yourself!

*Mark Woronowski*



And just a little further down the motorway...



## Wentworth Woodhouse - a 'nice day out', and a link to learning?

As we entered the grounds the house suddenly comes into view on the right; it was breath-taking, I had to stop the car and stare. I wonder if it does the same to you...?

A short distance from the M1 and in Rotherham Metropolitan Borough and next to Wentworth village is this massive piece of, largely, neo-classical architecture. For those who study it, formally or informally, the Palladian symmetry of the east front is perfect.



Visiting this, Yorkshire's "newest" accessible big house, one can hardly miss noticing the opportunities for researching or just absorbing things that fit with u3a interests. It has, of course, a team of knowledgeable room guides, and runs many educational projects - local, national and international.

Art historians will benefit from the fact that there is very little furniture in the house. The serendipity of this is that this adds to the power of the architectural detail, paintings and sculpture by having no furnishings to distract the eye. The true proportions of the rooms are clear. It's a bit like seeing a church interior without and pews for the first time.

Orwell said that "all issues are political issues" and recent debate over the sources of wealth that built these mansions has focused on slavery. The families that created Wentworth were coal owners over vast tracts of South Yorkshire; they created the mining communities for the workforce but they oppressed those same workers during falls in coal prices and re-privatisation of the pits. Lockouts and evictions were made. Social and political history is here for the u3a student.

In the mid-20th century open cast coal mining was initiated close to the house, so now, amongst the general horticultural projects, re-instatement of this land is a theme. Education on-site ranges from building restoration skills



*Jonathan Hauxwell*

to film-making, site management and more - with local schools and colleges and with European universities. It is growing fast.

[www.wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk](http://www.wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk) (Reduced entry fee for National Trust members).

The guidebook is £7 but it is attractively structured and has excellent photos.

### ***Forthcoming coffee morning speakers:***

*A great line-up:*

*10 May: Paul Fisher, u3a Orchestra's pianist: 'Why Music Matters'*

*14 June: Ian Blomfield 'The Principles and Practicalities of Low Carbon Technologies'*

*12 July: The Stripey Badger bookshop in Grassington*

**AND DON'T FORGET OUR AGM ON 14 MAY. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND. 2.00 FOR 2.30PM AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**

National u3a's array of online learning events in May include:

8 May at 10am: Turner and Impressionism

13 May at 2 pm: How to stay safe on social media

19 May at 2pm: On This Holy Island – how pilgrimage has shaped Britain

29 May: Life on a smallholding

You can find all these and more [just here](#)

## Notes from the chair

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the contribution that all our Group Leaders have put in over this past year. Without you we do not have a u3a- thank you.

Jacqui Eames and Doug Hirst are stepping down from the committee, and I would like to thank them for the support given to me and the committee and our u3a. and for all their hard work on our behalf.

Next month on 14 May is our AGM, the 40<sup>th</sup> , so we must be doing something right! Included in the official business is a request to a slight change to our constitution. Please come along and support the event. After the official business there will be updates on the 25/26 programme, the Summer Programme, and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.

All documents will either have been emailed out or posted to those not on email and are also available to view on the website under the 'Events' tab.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work of the committee and those who help organise and run our u3a.

An appeal is for any member who may be remotely interested in joining the committee to contact myself or any committee member. If interested you'll be more than welcome to observe a committee meeting.

Regards

*Mick Richings*

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