



CRAVEN U3A NEWSLETTER

In this issue:

[Days Out with Friends](#)

[Musical Theatre](#)

[Treasure Trail](#)

[Ripon Races](#)

[Red Squirrels](#)

[Quiz](#)

[Repair Café](#)

[Birdwatching](#)

Dates for your Diary:

*12 July - Coffee morning
with speaker at Champions
10 for 10.30 am*

*24 & 25 July - Summer
Programme at Ermysted's
Grammar School*

*8 August - [Treasure Trail
and BBQ](#) -*

12 August - [Open Event](#) -

*13 August- [Group
enrolment](#)*

Prepare for the u3a New Year

Step 1: Renew your membership

The easiest way to renew is via Members Login on the Craven u3a website www.cravenu3a.org using Paypal. If you require further assistance, you can get it at any of the following times and places:

12 July: 9.45–10.15 Champions

17 July: 10–12pm, Holy Trinity Church café

23 & 24 July: 10am–1pm at the Summer

Programme

9 August: 10–11.30am Champions

12 August: Open Event – Town Hall Hub, 10am to 4pm and Main Hall 1 – 4pm, after the Open Event.

16 August: 10 – 11.30 am, Champions Church.

Payment by cash, cheque or card. Members paying by card need to bring a smartphone.

The fees are:

Membership £20

Membership with Third Age Matters (TAM) £24

Group Leader £15

Group Leader + TAM £19

Associate member £15

Step 2: Decide which of the 80+ groups you would like to join. The Programme is on the website, and you can chat to Group Leaders at the Open Event on 12 August 11am -1pm at Skipton Town Hall. Craven Stationery on Coach Street can print off a copy of the Programme for a small cost.

Step 3: Enrolment in groups will go live on the website on 13 August. More details to follow, including support for those not online, will be provided nearer the time. In the meantime in case of query email chair@craven3a.org.uk

'Days out with a Bus Pass' – a new look and a new name – 'Day Trips with Friends'

Given that bus services from Skipton don't go everywhere we would like to, our latest idea is to add the use of other public transport or car-sharing to enable us to visit a much wider range of locations. A Senior Railcard gives you a one third discount on most rail journeys.

We have recently been to Leeds by train, followed by a water-taxi ride to The Armouries, and train trips to Lancaster, Morecambe and Carlisle are future possibilities. On a lovely summer day, what could be better than a trip to the coast? The train to Carlisle goes through glorious terrain and picturesque stations.



We organise our outings very easily through a WhatsApp group. Anyone can suggest an outing, along with the transport details. Then each member decides whether or not they want to come. It works very well.

Do come and join us for a nice day out with a group of friends!

Anne MacDonald and Sheila Mason

Musical Theatre – A History

Do you enjoy stage musicals? If so then a new course starting in October on Monday afternoons (fortnightly) might be the course for you.

From early beginnings to the 2020s we will explore the development of musical theatre, taking a look at some of the great composers, from Gilbert and Sullivan, through Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and George Gershwin to the so called Golden Age of Rodgers and Hammerstein and Lerner and Lowe and will move on through composers such as Lionel Bart, Stephen Sondheim, Jerry Herman and many others to the 21st century with Alan Boubil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, Lloyd Webber and Lin Manuel Miranda. We will look at iconic choreographers like Jerome Robbins and Bob Fosse and key producers and directors such as Harold Prince and Cameron Mackintosh, considering the changes in technology, subject matter, form and audience appeal over the last 150 years.

Extensive use will be made of video clips from performances of well loved shows and will also introduce you to some less well known but equally significant and enjoyable productions.

It is also hoped to include some audience requests for extracts from particular musicals if they are not already included in the programme and are available.

If you want to know more come and see me at the open day on 12 August. I look forward to meeting you and hearing about your favourites.



Judith Barras

Treasure Trail Walk around Skipton!

8 August - Cost: £1 per person

Barbecue items: £3.50 - £5.00

The trail starts (and finishes) outside the Royal Shepherd, Canal St, Skipton BD23 1LB between 2.00 to 2.30 pm, with a staggered start for teams.

From 4.00 pm there will be a social with (optional) barbecue and prize-giving at Skipton Community Sports Hub, Sandylands, Carleton New Rd, Skipton BD23 2AZ.

We suggest teams of no more than four. If you are looking after young ones in the holidays, this could be a great way of keeping them entertained, and providing them with their tea! Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed.

Part of the trail follows the canal so please be vigilant, watching out for trip hazards, and if you are bringing children, it is your responsibility to look after them.

The trail is about 2 miles and should take no more than 2 hours.

To book your place, and barbecue food, please use the booking form and either email it to Linda Hoole at lindahoole@yahoo.co.uk or post to Linda at 5 Brown's Court, Bradley, BD20 9BE. Linda will contact you with your start time.

You can also pay for the treasure trail on the day or at Ermysted's Grammar School during the Summer Programme (10.00 am to 4.00pm) on July 24th and 25th, by card, cheque, or cash.

You do not have to pay in advance for the treasure trail unless you are also ordering barbecue items which must be prepaid.

- Bank details: The Craven u3a, sort code 20-78-42, account number 83984230
 - Reference payment with prefix TT and your name (e.g. TT Linda Hoole)
- Cheques payable to The Craven u3a

Please click here for the booking form: [TT booking form.docx](#) - or if it doesn't open, [try this](#)

A Day at the Races

On an unsettled 29 May, a group of racing enthusiasts gathered at Ripon racecourse hoping for an afternoon of excitement and increased wealth.

The group had been organised by Mike Eaton as part of the u3a's wide range of 2025 activities.

Our group was determined to ignore the two Christian arguments for not gambling i.e. you might lose and bring ruin on your family, or you might win and be tempted into a sinful life of gambling.



Fortunately, the first race showed that there was a middle way which applied to at least two of us. They contrived to bet on a horse who decided that the whole racing game was not for it, and refused even to enter its stall at the starting line. This meant that our lucky two got their money back. So, no money gained, no money lost.

By the second race, the weather had stabilised enough to coax our group outside to the area by the finishing post where most of the bookies were stationed. The group motto now seemed to be 'you have to speculate, to accumulate' or 'only bet what you can afford to

lose.'

The latter hopefully applied to most of the group as over the next five races wins were rare and losses frequent. However, there was one glorious exception when one of us won more than £100 on a big outsider called Ey Up It's The Boss (*Ed.- no begging letters please!*).

In between races, the group gained much satisfaction from studying the wide variety of fashions on display. Can you tell which footwear belongs to our members?



Despite an overall group cash deficit, the afternoon was great fun and an enjoyable way to get to know other members of the u3a.

So many thanks to Mike for organising the event and we look forward to similar events in the future.

John Hoole

Ilkley u3a Disco Group 1960s-1980s is in search of a new disc jockey! Can you help?

Our founder Group Leader is moving on; the admin side has been re-allocated but we need someone to formulate playlists and provide the music for us to dance to. You don't need to be a techno-wizard and help is on hand for guidance as to what is required by way of playlist preparation and connection to the venue's sound system. A knowledge of the music principally of the 1970s would be useful but again help is available to put together a session programme. We meet fortnightly on Wednesdays 2-3.30 at the Scout Hut in Ben Rhydding, with usually a month's break at Christmas and Easter and a long vacation between mid-June and mid-September. If you can help, please contact Fran Valiant at franvaliant@hotmail.co.uk.

U3A Walking group - Red Squirrel Walk

Our walk on 6 May was to visit the Red Squirrel sanctuary in Widdale valley, near to Hawes. I had led this walk a few times and it is always slightly different as wildlife is not predictable. This particular day was very interesting.

Widdale Wood sits in the bigger Snaizholme valley. Two years ago the Woodland Trust had raised £3.5 million to buy the 560 hectares valley and they have started their ambitious project to create 290 acres of new mixed woodland. It will become the largest woodland in the Yorkshire Dales. They have already re-vegetated bare peat areas and re-profiled eroded areas. One of their aims is to create a haven for red squirrel and black grouse. Watch this space!

In pleasant sunshine we set off walking to the Squirrel Feeding area. There are notices asking you not to feed them as the National Park controls their diet. It took us about 45 minutes to get there. We started drinking our coffees and the squirrels appeared. They started by running up to the feeder, grabbing some food and then for the next half hour we were entertained by two or three squirrels chasing each up and around the tall trees at high speed. They then leaped onto another tree and again running down around the tree, all at high speed. They would then change trees and it would all start again. We postulated that as it was spring it was one or two males chasing a female. I subsequently spoke to the National Park Ecologist who is involved with the squirrels. He said they were either performing a mating ritual or they were protecting their territories, which overlap near the feeder station. Whatever, I said; it was very entertaining.

Their hind legs have a special flexible joint meaning their feet can turn backwards, which was demonstrated as they ran down at high speed. Too fast to get a good photo but here is one I didn't take!



We had to leave them eventually, and continued our walk up above the wood giving us extended views of the Snaizholme valley. We found a tranquil spot for lunch next to a quiet stream. We walked out to the cars and on to Hawes Creamery to have our fruit cake with Wensleydale cheese and a cuppa.

Graham Reay

40th Anniversary Quiz Night

What a fitting beginning to Craven U3A's 40th celebrations! The u3a's stated aims include promoting social interaction, learning for pleasure and sharing knowledge and skills. This event managed all three with some panache.

The new venue at Sandylands was a triumph with comfortable chairs, up to date equipment with excellent lighting and acoustics for which I was most grateful. The excellent bar was run by Damen and Catherine Davison, which lubricated our lively discussion as the evening progressed very nicely, thank you. The buffet by Art Catering was tempting, tasty and plentiful.

There were 67 keen competitors forming 11 teams containing 5-7 members, who shared common interests linked to the many groups. We enjoyed plenty of head scratching as we tackled the challenging questions, cleverly linked to the theme of the evening, such as the ingenious 'Ruby' round. The one about the '4th of something' rather the first, better known one, was quite fun. I remember a particular question: *What is the 4th longest mountain chain?* Try working out the answer yourself before looking at the answer below. (By the way, my team made the wrong choice between the third and the fourth!) Once we realised that getting around half marks was a good score, we all enjoyed our head scratching. I felt a similar thrill as when actually answering a question on University Challenge.

The team who arranged all this worked incredibly hard ranging from Linda Hoole an amazing organiser, the clever question setter, John Hoole, the quiz caller and computer expert to all the other invaluable general helpers. We were greeted by a friendly face who explained the evening plan and then helped us find a suitable table. Teams were balanced in size and lone attendees found places with no discernible fuss, which is quite a talent! In fact, everything went smoothly. Enormous thanks to everyone involved.

This was a fitting tribute to the Craven U3A and I personally am looking forward to the other events with some enthusiasm. Do give them a try if you can.

Gillian Wheatley

Answer: The Rockies

Sharing and Repairing at Skipton's First Ever Repair Café

Members passing through Skipton the other week may have noticed the buzz of activity around vacant St Andrew's Church on Newmarket Street. The site now hosts [Skipton Repair Café](#) on the last Saturday of every month, organised by volunteer group Share Skipton out of their popular Library of Things across the road.

The free July event will be on the 26th, 10am-1pm again at St Andrew's. June's repair café brought together over 100 residents to share practical skills and help mend each other's belongings, which many of us wouldn't have the confidence or equipment to attempt alone. Items given a second chance included broken lamps and electricals, dulled kitchen knives, worn-through clothing and leather handbags, glasses, jewellery, and children's toys.

And there's a reason it says 'café' in the name: even if you didn't bring anything to repair, it was a great opportunity to chat over a cup of tea and watch local experts



and retired professionals work their magic. There was even a volunteer dispensing biodegradable cleaning liquid refills made in Silsden. If there's anything you're adept at mending or you just want to lend a hand somehow, they were so friendly and I'm sure would love to hear from you.



For anyone not familiar with the '[Library of Things](#)', it's an extensive community-built collection of items that wouldn't make sense for everyone to buy individually: for example, a carpet cleaner that'd spend 364 days of the year in a cupboard, or folding beds for when the grandkids occasionally stay over. Craven U3A members may also find borrowing from Share Skipton to be a cost-effective way of exploring

new hobbies when deciding which groups to join: they carry hiking poles, sewing machines, gardening/DIY tools, indoor games, music gear, and more. Visit their website or drop by in person.

www.shareskipton.org

07378 508751 (*answered only when open: Tue 4-6pm, Thu 10am-12pm, Sat 10am-1pm*)

Birdwatching Group

Many apologies to Jacqui who sent me this article at the end of March and I mistakenly omitted it from the newsletter, but hopefully it will still serve to showcase the group's activities and what new members can hope to experience next year – Ed.

Official birding season nears end as birds migrate back to U.K.

The final several sessions for our 80+ members are taking place. Last Monday about 40 of us braved chilly winds to visit St Aidans, south of Leeds, where we saw over 30 species including the stunning black-necked as well as great –crested grebes. Another highlight were goldeneyes among a really strong range of ducks including shelducks (the largest) and teal (the smallest). After several hours we continued to Low Ings, abutting Fairburn Ings where good numbers of whooper swans were gathered and doing impressive flypasts. Little and great egrets were seen and we rounded off the day with the main site and a good variety of woodland birds including beautiful bullfinches. Well worth the journey and lots packed in!



Black-necked grebe

Our final trip will be on 24th March by coach to Saltholme, a firm favourite with the group and with loos and a cafe...



Golden eye duck

The last indoor meeting welcomed Ian Court from the Yorkshire Dales Authority who discussed birds in the park with particular reference to the Curlew and Peregrine Projects. Our area has such an abundance of interesting and beautiful birds and the expertise of many experienced members of the group mean we learn a lot from one another and spot far more than we would flying solo, if you'll pardon the pun.

We are continuing last year's extension of activities beyond the official season by having a Dawn Chorus walk from Barden Bridge on 8 April and a residential trip to the East coast in May. These should give ample opportunity to see migrants such as spotted flycatchers and blackcaps on the Strid and fabulous seabirds at RSPB Bempton Cliffs. Puffins are a delight but my personal favourite remains the gannet. We are hoping to take in Blacktoft Sands this year to see migrants on the 'Migration Superhighway'. 11 May is World Bird Migration Day.

We have room for another 20 members next year and the indoor meetings and outdoor trips provide related pleasures and information. Thank goodness the recent oil tanker crash didn't result in huge damage to our beautiful sea birds...it was another reminder of how we should protect and value them.

Jacqui Eames

To unsubscribe from the newsletter please email the word "Unsubscribe" to unsubscribe@cravenu3a.org

Booking form Treasure Trail and Barbecue: August 8th 2025

Deadline for barbecue orders is August 1st.

Name			
Address			
Telephone			
Email			
Treasure Trail: £1.00 per person			
Number of entrants		Total cost	£

Barbecue items			
	Cost per unit	Number required	Total cost £
Hot dog	3.50		
Burger	4.50		
Cheese Burger	5.00		
Veggie Burger	4.50		
		Total	£
Gluten free? Please tick if required			
Any other dietary requirements?			

Total remittance			
Payment method	Bank transfer	Cheque	Cash
Please circle			

Any other comments, including ages of children	
<p>Please email lindahoole@yahoo.co.uk with your booking form. You do not have to pay in advance for the treasure trail unless you are also ordering barbecue items which must be prepaid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank details: The Craven u3a, sort code 20-78-42, account number 83984230 Reference payment with prefix TT and your name (e.g. TT Linda Hoole) <p>Alternatively, you can post your order with a cheque to Linda at 5, Brown's Court, Bradley, BD20 9BE.</p> <p>You can pay for the treasure trail on the day or at Ermysted's Grammar School during the Summer Programme on July 24th and 25th, by card, cheque, or cash</p>	