

Craven u3a Summer Programme

Ermysted's Grammar School, Gargrave Road, Skipton, BD23 1PL

Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th July 2026

Morning sessions: 10:00 to 12:30

Afternoon sessions: 13:30 to 16:00



Welcome

The entrance is to the left of the main school, as seen from Gargrave Road, and will be appropriately signed.

Please do not use any other entrance; there will be no-one available to direct you to the correct entrance.

Access

Please note that there is no parking available to us at the school. Coach Street car park is the nearest public car park. There is very limited parking on site for **Blue Badge holders and presenters only**; a team member will be on hand to advise. There is no lift in the school. **Please let us know if you have mobility issues** so we can do our best to schedule your sessions on the ground floor.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available during the break-times and at lunch time for a donation so do remember to bring change. You might wish to bring a packed lunch.

How to Enrol

On the enrolment form, list the sessions you would like to attend. You can apply to attend sessions on Thursday and Friday mornings and afternoons, but equally you can attend just one, two or three sessions if you prefer. **There is a separate application form for the Away Day visits.**

Apply by completing the enrolment form, listing up to three preferences for each period – demand for the Summer Programme is high. Therefore, the more choices you list, the more likely you will be able to attend a session if your first choice is over-subscribed.

Send the completed enrolment form to Linda Hoole, 5 Brown's Court, Bradley, BD20 9BE. **PLEASE** include a **stamped, self-addressed, envelope** to receive confirmation of your choices. Payment needs to be made at the time of the application, either by bank transfer (preferably) or by cheque. Bank details are below. The enrolment form will be returned to you to show which presentations you are registered for. You will also be able to check on the Beacon Members' Portal.

The cost is £12 for members and £15 for non-members. If you are non-member and subsequently enrol as a u3a member during the event, you will receive a £3 refund.

Payment details:

Cheque: payable to The Craven u3a

Bank transfer:

Include a payment reference which begins with SP and then your name. E.g. 'SP L Hoole' and to arrange the transfer when you send in your form. Please do not wait for confirmation. Please note that if you wish to take part in an Away Day, wait for confirmation of your place before you make a transfer.

Bank details: The Craven u3a, sort code: 20-78-42, account no: 83984230.

You can apply whenever you wish. Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.

As demand for some presentations may be very high and space is strictly limited by the size of the classrooms, it is a good idea to get your application in as soon as possible.

If you have any queries, contact Linda Hoole summer@cravenu3a.org or 07773 407628

Please note that smoking and vaping are not allowed anywhere on school property.

Thursday 23rd July 2026

code	23 rd July Thursday morning 10.00 -12.30	code	23 rd July Thursday afternoon 13.30 – 16.00
AA	<p>Diane and Geoff Killock: The Protagonists of Bosworth: <i>In August 1485 Richard III and Henry Tudor fought the battle that would prove pivotal in the history of England.</i></p> <p><i>How did these protagonists, one who had schemed and murdered to take the throne, one the son of a Welsh peasant find themselves in opposition to claim the throne of England?</i></p>	BA	<p>Nigel Holden: The life and death of the Cathars: <i>The Cathars were a heretical group of peaceable Christians who flourished in southern France in the 12th and 13th centuries. The rattled Pope Innocent III declared a crusade against them. The rapacious rulers of northern France did his bidding for promised heavenly, earthly and especially territorial rewards. The story still shocks.</i></p>
AB	<p>Judith Barras : The Extraordinary lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley: <i>Wollstonecraft is now regarded as the mother of feminism, Shelley renowned as the author of Frankenstein. These women, mother and daughter, both defied convention leading lives that scandalised society.</i></p>	BB	<p>Jonathan Hauxwell: Architecture - photo-diary of an obsessive: <i>Ever since I bought the wrong guide book at a historic monument, architecture has held me. This portfolio of pictures details my fascination from the Neolithic to the present, with both classic and odd structures along the way.</i> <i>(Please note the talk will last about an hour)</i></p>
AC	<p>Sue Jackson: A parish clerk and a pauper: <i>John Summerskill (1805 – 1882) was parish clerk for Rylstone and a relieving officer for the Skipton Board of Guardians. An “excellent penman” he left behind a hand written book of the “west gallery” tunes that would have been played by the church band. Richard Ryley (1822 – 1864) was a cotton weaver in Barnoldswick. An educated man and brass band member, he left his diary from 1862 – 1864 when he was in receipt of parish relief during the “cotton famine”. We will look at their contrasting lives and the music of their times.</i></p>	BC	<p>David Turner: The Diaries of Annie Parker Greenwood of the Mason’s Arms, Eastby 1875 to 1882: <i>Annie began her diaries aged 19 and over the next 8 years wrote nearly half a million words. They cover all aspects of life at the Mason’s Arms, their many visitors, navvies building Barden Reservoir, her romances, as well as family tragedy. She concluded with her marriage and a detailed account of her emigration and arrival in Nebraska in 1882.</i></p>

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AD	<p>Maureen Street: Jane Austen: a revisionist view: <i>Do you think of Jane Austen's works as 'demure dramas in drawing-rooms', involving Regency gowns in elegant mansions – a sort of higher-class Bridgerton? Do you imagine the author as a super-refined, comfortably-off, probably smug posh lady? Do you assume no real man should be caught dead reading Pride and Prejudice? If so, you have some rethinking to do ...</i></p>	BD	<p>Wendy Brown: Making fabric cards: <i>Learn how to design and make greetings cards using a variety of fabrics. Sewing skills would be useful but are not essential.</i> Please bring a small, sharp pair of scissors for cutting fabric. All other equipment and fabrics will be supplied. <i>Max number: 10</i></p>
AE	<p>Ian Adams: The Rise, the Fall and the Survival of the English Country House, 1837-2000: <i>More country houses were built in the Victorian period than in the previous centuries put together. Yet in the twentieth century more than 1,200 country houses were demolished. This talk looks at the fortunes of the English country house in these changing times.</i></p>	BE	<p>Roland Styles: Studio Ceramics in the 20th century: <i>The studio pottery movement was one of the key artistic forces of the 20th century.</i> <i>It placed great emphasis on small- scale pieces and individual craftsmanship.</i> <i>The focus will be on pottery as an expressive art form and looking at the work of renowned potters who inspired designers, makers and collectors.</i></p>
AF	<p>Liz Morrison: Philip Larkin: <i>An introduction to this mid 20th century British poet, whose tantalising verses can be read as a running commentary on his own life. Working 9-5 in a library, he insisted, "I don't want to transcend the commonplace... everyday things are lovely to me." But not all was lovely.</i></p>	BF	<p>Dick Newson : The mystery of Spontaneous Generation: <i>Living creatures generated by or from non-living material? A look at the rise and fall of a strange notion that held sway in the most intelligent circles, and elsewhere, for 2000 years. Featuring (but not in the flesh) mice, maggots, Aristotle and Francisco Redi amongst others.</i></p>
AG	<p>Ian Blomfield: Mitigating climate change: sorting the fact from fiction: <i>Informed by Hannah Richie's recent book "Clearing the Air: A hopeful guide..." and other professional analysis. Divided into topics, each with a short quiz, we will discuss how individuals, businesses and governments all have essential roles to play in mitigating climate change.</i></p>	BG	<p>Linda Hoole: Barbara Hepworth: her relationship with landscape: <i>We will explore the importance of landscape to Hepworth, and its impact on her sculpture. Hepworth is regarded as one of the greatest artists of the 20th Century. And she was born in Yorkshire!</i></p>

Friday 24th July 2026

code	24 th July Friday morning 10.00 – 12.30	code	24 th July Friday afternoon 13.30 – 16.00
CA	<p>Kenneth Jackson: The View of Skipton from the Springs Canal: <i>We examine Skipton’s urban landscape for evidence of industrialisation, improvement, and enlightenment in the Georgian town mainly, but not exclusively, between 1720 and 1830. If you can, please walk along the towpath before you come!</i></p>	DA	<p>Vee Eastham: Film: Radical (Mexican, 2023) <i>This is the tale of a deprived school located in the cartel-ravaged border country of north-eastern Mexico, being turned on its head by the arrival of Mr Juárez. There are any number of “inspirational teacher” movies, from the Hilary Swank-starring Freedom Writers to, To Sir, With Love. But this Spanish-language film (with English sub-titles), based on a true story, manages to breathe new life into this genre.</i> <i>The film is directed by Christopher Zalla who also co-wrote the script with Laura Guadalupe, working from an article, “A Radical Way of Unleashing a Generation of Geniuses” written by Joshua Davis in 2013, about a real-life teacher and his students.</i></p>
CB	<p>David Hawkins: Art in the Public Realm <i>Public art speaks of what was and is of value to a local community. The controversy over statues connected with slavery highlights how sensitive the subject’s become. We’ll do some art theory - what makes it art? And consider examples of public art and the messages they convey, including a sculpture co-created by David and Pippa Hale with homeless people for the centre of Leeds.</i></p>	DB	<p>Chris Skidmore: Amazing Grace: a history of hymns: <i>General William Booth said it was the devil who had all the best tunes but the Christian church has used music in many forms as an aid to worship since the beginning. Many of us will have been introduced to singing through hymns at school. This course will explore the history of hymn singing, particularly in Britain, and give participants an opportunity to listen to many styles of church music, and even to sing some old favourites.</i></p>
CC	<p>Susan Lesser: ANGELS, SAINTS, MILITANTS, AND MARTYRS: THE ART OF THE VOTE, 1903-1914 <i>Women had called for the right to vote since 1832 but their campaign was stalling. In 1903, a new group, the Women’s Social and Political Union, said ‘enough of words, it’s time for action’. Art was to become a crucial weapon in this new phase in the suffrage fight.</i></p>	DC	<p>Stewart Longbottom: The Barbizon School of Painting. <i>The Barbizon School emerged in the 1830s close to the Forest of Fontainebleau in France. The Artists rejected the formalism and idealised subjects of academic painting, instead embraced painting directly from nature. The Barbizon School (Corot, Millet, Daubigny and Rousseau) profoundly influenced the Impressionists who expanded the exploration of light and colour initiated by the Barbizon artists.</i></p>

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CD	<p>John Hoole: The Execution of Charles I: <i>A seismic event in British history: 'A world turned upside down' as described at the time and by later historians. We will explore what the King & Parliament were fighting for, whether the King's trial was a fair one and the repercussions of his execution.</i></p>	DD	<p>Bernard Peel: Glaciation in the Yorkshire Dales <i>Glacial periods have occurred in the Dales over the last 750,000 years, evidence for earlier ones largely overwritten by the last one, the Devensian. The session will concentrate on the various glacial features in the Dales. (Repeat of the talk given last year)</i></p>
CE	<p>Robin Bundy: Benjamin Franklin <i>Benjamin Franklin was a polymath: a writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, diplomat, printer, publisher and political philosopher. Franklin was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and among the most influential intellectuals of his time. This talk will concentrate less on the science and more on the other aspects of his life than the talk given to the Stories of Scientists course.</i></p>	DE	<p>Bob Seeley: A little bit of Chinese bronze: <i>A history of the Victoria Cross. The VC is the highest, most prestigious honour of the British honours system. Since introduction in 1856 only 1,358 have been awarded. The talk is about Non-Combatants e.g. Doctors, Priests, Stretcher Bearers and their display of supreme courage and devotion to duty. (This presentation will last for an hour, finishing at tea-time)</i></p>
CF	<p>Floe Shakespeare: Photography walk: <i>We'll meet at the gates into Skipton Woods at 10am, spend about an hour taking photos there, then return to Ermysted's for coffee and to look at and discuss our pictures. Whatever the weather! Mobile phones and cameras are welcome. We hope we'll have a mixture of complete beginners and more experienced people so we can help each other.</i></p>	DF	<p>. Maureen Wright: Creative Arts 4 Wellbeing (One hour taster session) <i>A mix of short creative activities designed to boost wellbeing in a friendly group setting. Suitable for anyone who is prepared to try various creative activities, which may include singing, dancing, different art media, drama, creative storytelling, photography, etc. No prior experience needed - just a willingness to try new things!</i></p>
CG	<p>Colin Speakman: Yorkshire - Ancient Nation, Future Province: <i>A light hearted look at Yorkshire history and why there is a powerful case for Yorkshire Devolution.</i></p> <p><i>We are delighted to welcome Colin to the Summer Programme this year. Colin is a keen walker and environmental campaigner, and the author or co-author of over 50 outdoor books.</i></p>	DG	