



June 2026

CRAVEN u3a NEWSLETTER

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Dates for your diary: SEE THIS PAGE FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & GROUP SIGN-UP DATES

11 July- Monthly meeting at Champions, 10 for 10.30

23 & 24 July - Summer Programme at Ermysted's.

11 August - Open Day at Skipton Town Hall

Membership renewal and group enrolment help desks

We are fast approaching the end of another year, that has been packed with workshops, sporting activities, walks and talks, and are now looking forward to another varied and exciting programme for 2026-2027.

It is hoped that the new programme will be available the first week of July, on the website with a login access for members **from 9.00 am on 12 August**. A hard copy of programme will be available from Craven Stationers, in Skipton, for a charge.

From 1 July, membership can be renewed via the website. For those who may wish to have support in doing this, and in joining groups from 12 August, the following help desks are available:

For membership renewal only:

Thursday, 23 July 10.00 – 13.00 during the Summer Programme at Ermysted's Grammar School
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Friday, 24 July 10.00 – 13.00 during the Summer Programme at Ermysted's Grammar School

Tuesday, 11 August 10.00 - 14.00 in the Hub at Skipton Town Hall, during the Open Event

For membership renewal and group enrolment:

Wednesday, 12 August 10.00 - 12.00 in the Hub at Skipton Town Hall

Saturday 15 August 10.00 - 12.00 at Champions Church.

Please note that group leaders will not be able to enrol members in their groups **before** 12 August unless those members are essential to the running of the group. It would be appreciated if group leaders are not put under pressure to do this during the Open Event on 11 August when they will be busy talking to prospective members about their groups.

Linda Hoole, Chair

It's never too early to think about Christmas!



One of my favourite things about Christmas is that it gives me a good excuse to make lots of things. This autumn I'll be running a new group, Crafting for Christmas, where we'll be making a variety of Christmas decorations, cards and presents. We will primarily be using fabric and ribbons. Each session we'll make a different item, some of which you may

finish during the session and others you may need to finish at home. Participants will need basic sewing skills.

The course will run fortnightly from September to December on Wednesday afternoons in Draughton Village Hall, for a total of 6 sessions.

Crafting for Christmas will be available for enrolment in the normal way in August. However, if you have any questions about the course in the meantime, please feel free to email me at wendywoo.22@hotmail.co.uk.

Wendy Brown

The E-Biking group – Coast to Coast Ride



On 17 May, the e-bike group set off on its first coast to coast ride. We followed the Way of the Roses national cycle trail from Morecambe to Bridlington, and the 170-mile route was full of adventure and challenge. Indeed, before we had gone far, we were rescuing a cow that had wandered onto the A65 and were soon shepherding two young lambs back to their mum!

Following brunch at the recently renovated Midland Hotel in Morecambe, with its enviable panoramas across Morecambe Bay, we were soon enjoying glorious sunshine and a cooling breeze as we headed out across the Trough of Bowland. Our reward was steady progress on almost empty roads and truly phenomenal views of the Yorkshire Dales ahead of us. Day 2 saw similar fair weather as Linda and Keith took advantage of a later start to climb out of Settle and across the Dales to Stump Cross Caverns. Day 3, however, was very different. Our climb over the highest point of the route at Greenhow Hill, and the drop into Pateley Bridge, was in torrential rain. With the benefit of waterproofs and strong fellowship, there was still much to enjoy including café stops at Brimham Rocks and Fountains Abbey. We reached Ripon, again in torrential rain, only to discover our accommodation no longer existed! Thanks to the kindness of strangers at the new Furlong

and Furrow pub, we were soon settled, dried off and knew we were well on the way.

The next two days saw sweeping views and empty country lanes as we came across the Vale of York and through the Yorkshire Wolds. Our first glimpse of the sea from the lane above Burton Agnes Hall was coupled with a long downhill section as we picked up the pace towards the finish at Bridlington and a well-deserved celebratory meal together.



Made it to Bridlington!

With special thanks to Linda, John, Chris, Keith and all group members riding and training with us.

Sarah Williams

Review of Popular Music

For something like our 15th season, our delve into the history of Popular Music began again last September. We started as usual with a summary of what we aim to do- tracing the story of the popular music which has punctuated the lives, not only of ourselves, but recalling the music which our parents (and maybe our grandparents?) loved in their own lifetimes. As I've often said: Our music stems from nostalgia as much as anything else!

Our first three weeks covered the early years of the 20th Century with songs like "Only a bird in a gilded cage" (1902), "In the good old summertime" (1904), "Pretty Baby" (1909), and "Moonlight Bay" (1912). Due to a shortage of records, we reverted to singing quite a few! Curiously, there were few record shortages in the First War, as we recalled the marching songs of those years - "Pack up your

troubles" and "It's a long way to Tipperary". We were looking for composers who wrote the music covering the 20's and 30's, and we latched on to the music of men like Irving Berlin and Johnny Mercer.

Irving Berlin was writing songs pre-1st War like "Alexander's Rag Time Band", whilst Johnny Mercer sped us across the years from "Lazybones" in the 1920's to "Moon River" in 1962. By now, Victorian and Edwardian ballads like "After the ball was over" and "I wonder who's kissing her now?" had given way in popularity to dances like the Charleston and the Black Bottom, and after the war the world began to dance (again?).

The sounds were changing from musical saws and xylophones to dancing stars like Astaire and Rogers and singing duets like Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald. And before we knew it, it was November and December and we were in the world of the Big Bands, - Ellington, Miller, Goodman, Dorsey and their contemporaries. And here in England, we danced to the music of Jack Payne, Henry Hall, Ray Noble and Roy Fox. Whilst people romanced to vocalists like Al Bowlly, Denny Dennis, and Vera Lynn. (It was said at the time that four married couples out of every five nationally had first met on the dance floor!)

Oh, and amidst all the composers of the first 50 years of the 20th Century, for one afternoon in November we introduced our music class to Ivor Novello! Totally British, we realised what a contrast his music was to everything we had ever heard before and after. We even had a vote as to which of his songs were the most memorable. The result was 1. "We'll gather lilacs" (from "Perchance to Dream") 2. "My Dearest Dear" (from "The Dancing Years") 3. "Someday my heart will awake" (from "King's Rhapsody"). The voting papers ranged in opinion from "Boring" to "Perfection", and you'd have been surprised how many thought his music was boring! During the 40's, that would have been seen as treasonable! We had two Tuesdays when we held "gift draws", when all members present shared in a musical raffle, and everyone went home with different free CD's- WOW!

However, life goes on, and the New Year awaited us, with film and theatre music from the last 50 years. We listened to well over 200 musicals in the months of January to March. From Judy and Barbra to Rodgers and Hammerstein! And always Bing!

It's not too late to join us. We re-commence our musical pilgrimage from the years 1920-1970 at the end of September, every Tuesday from 2-4pm at the Three Links Club. Recall the music of your youth with us all. Same time, same place, same memories!

David Wiseman (01756 797443)

La Classe Française se dirige vers La France

It's not just the Walking Groups that can do 'residential's. Some of the French Conversation Class have recently come back from a 5-day break to Rouen, in northern France.

The idea for the trip came about after reading in class the murder-mystery novel "Nymphéas Noirs", The Black Water Lilies, by Michel Bussi. The book is set in and around Giverny and features Monet's gardens and paintings. After reading the book someone said, "Wouldn't it be nice if we all went to look at the place?". Research was undertaken on travel options and costings and in the end, we concluded a 5-day Shearings Coach Holiday offered the most practical solution.



Let's not beat about the bush, the two travelling days were gruelling. It was a shock to learn, only when we got our tickets, that for most pickup was in Skipton at 2am. We then travelled down to Folkestone, with a few intermediate stops, for an 11am transfer for our coach to France. A ferry across the Channel and then a drive to Rouen, our base for the trip, gave an arrival at 7pm. Just time for an evening stroll and dinner along the bank of the Seine. The return journey was equally bad. A 7am departure and a three-hour delay for customs and the new EES checks at Calais meant we

missed our scheduled ferry. As a result, we didn't return to Skipton until 1am the next morning. Very, very tired.

But we had three wonderful days in France. The sun shone, the skies were blue and the long journey was forgotten. The first day was the coach trip to Giverny and Monet's gardens. Yes, they were busy. The world and his wife were visiting, but they were glorious. Most of us decided to forego the coach back in order to have more time in Giverny. We had a wonderful al-fresco lunch at L'Ancien Hotel Baudy, which featured in the book, then caught the train back to Rouen. Everyone was happy.

The next day was the scheduled trip to Versailles. Not everyone went, many preferring to have a more leisurely day looking around Rouen on their own. The day after was a trip to the town of Lisieux followed by tastings of Camembert cheese and Cider/Calvados at various production places. Again, most went, but some didn't and stayed behind to do their own thing.



Only breakfast was included in the package, so we had to fend for ourselves for most meals. Finding restaurants in Rouen that could take 16 of us each night was a challenge, but we managed and indeed we dined well. We enjoyed the wine, learned new words and made friends. Conversation and laughter were everywhere. "On apprend, on rit, on vit". Now where have I come across that before?

Mike Evans

The Diamond Story



I married Bob on the island of Haiti in 1972. He divorced at 10.30am and we married at 12 noon. The wedding was all in French as are our marriage papers. I had a lovely 3 diamond engagement ring. (Digression – When our son Chris was about 8 years old, I was talking with Bob and suddenly, quite out of the blue said 'For all we know, we may not really be married? Perhaps our papers are not totally legal'. A little voice immediately piped up and said, 'Oh Mummy, Mummy do you think I'm a bastard? I was stunned to think he knew such a word!)

A decade later Bob bought me another beautiful 5 diamond ring which I had worn for more than 45 years.

A month ago, when at Holy Communion Service in St Michael's, I looked at my 5 diamond ring and was horrified to see the centre diamond had disappeared. I immediately looked on the pew floor but without any joy. Even announced it over the PA at the end of the service which meant the entire congregation was walking around with heads down looking for glitter on the church floor. I continued to have my head down for days after. It could have been in the church car park, in the car, in bed, in Grassington Square. My friend Frances, in Scotland said 'Oh it will be in the U Bend having gone down the sink'. Chris was going to open the U bend on his arrival from France for Bob's 100th birthday party.

In the meantime, I told my sister Anne. She immediately said 'I have a diamond upstairs and haven't looked at it in years' She found it in seconds and it looked to be a perfect white and the correct size. Two days after the loss, we both went to Skipton to IWJ Jewellers in Sheep Street. He took Anne's diamond and it was fitted into my ring within four days. I was so very happy and thrilled. My sister is the most generous person in the world.

Exactly two Sundays later, I was again at Holy Communion wearing my new perfect ring and trying hard not to keep looking for the original diamond.

Just before going up for Communion, I felt a vice like grip on my shoulder, not a gentle tap as one would expect in church. Hilary (Richards) was standing there holding open her Communion Order of Service booklet, the centre page. In the middle, in the crease, was a diamond! She said 'Bunty is this your diamond?' I wet the tip of my finger and lifted the diamond from the booklet. It was my diamond.

How did this happen? Obviously when I noticed the diamond was missing, it must just have fallen out a few seconds before and landed in my booklet. It stayed snugly in situ for the next two weeks undisturbed. The week before had been Morning Prayer so not the same booklets. Needless to say, I semi-collapsed and Betty (Hammonds), who was trying to usher me to go to the altar rail, thought I was in dire distress because my eyes were filled with tears. What great luck that Hilary found it and not a visitor who might have thought it was a tiny shard of glass or tinsel from Christmas past and swooshed it onto the floor.

Many had been praying to have my diamond found but I thought Our Lord was far too busy for such a triviality. The word miracle kept moving around the church and I really did feel it was so. When I said this to Matthew, the rector, he replied with some words of wisdom to the effect: 'Our Lord is never too busy to hear sincere prayers'. Dear Lord I give constant and endless thanks to You because it does have huge sentimental value to me, particularly at this time.

Even though this is a trivial and materialistic story I did feel Our Lord had dealt graciously with me that morning and my gratefulness still knows no bounds.

I thank our congregation for walking around with 'eyes down'. How very kind you all were.

Bunty/Rowena Leder

BBC Proms Catch-Up Group – July to September



I know absolutely nothing about music but I enjoy watching Proms concerts on the telly. But it's always nicer to watch them with someone else who you can chat to afterwards about the music, even if it's only to share a mutual dislike, or confusion.

So I am floating the idea of a small (select?) group to watch a Proms concert on Catch-up each week throughout the Proms season. It would initially be at my house (on the edge of Skipton) so would be limited to 6 people, but I am open to relocating if someone else can offer a better convenient venue.

The Proms start on 19 July, so I was thinking of watching them on Tuesday nights on BBC iplayer, starting at maybe 7:30 pm, on Tuesday 21 July. I will provide a few nibbles but I don't drink so you would have to bring your own wine or intoxicating beverage of your choice (and/or flag and silly hat!).

I think group online joining on Beacon will be suspended during this period, so interested people should contact me directly. I will add them on Beacon so that we are covered by u3a insurance.

Doug Hirst doug.hirst@btinternet.com

Summer Programme 2026

Less than a month to go before the two day Summer Programme begins on July 23rd at **Ermysted's Grammar School** in Skipton. It is not too late to send in an application; the deadline is 14 July 14.

Most talks have spaces on them. The sessions delivered by David Turner, Nigel Holden, Kenneth Jackson, Sue Jackson, Colin Speakman and Vee Eastham (film international) are now full. There are limited spaces available in the sessions provided by John Hoole, Linda Hoole, Stewart Longbottom, Elizabeth Morrison and Chris Skidmore.

The **Away Day** trips are fully booked with the exception of the trips to the Hepworth in Wakefield, Hindu Temple in Bradford and the Allerton Waste Recycling Centre. If you would like to join us on these trips, please apply by 8 July. Please note you will need to make your own way to these events, either by train or car. Lift-sharing can be organised.

The programme and application forms are available on the website, and have been emailed to all members several times. Any queries can be sent to Linda Hoole at Summer@Cravenu3a.org.uk or to Chair@cravenu3a.co.uk Please note the slightly different email addresses.

Linda Hoole

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