



August 2026

CRAVEN u3a NEWSLETTER

An Away-Day Special Edition!

This newsletter highlights the Away-Days which were such a successful addition to this year's Summer Programme. But before we get to that, here are some reminders:

**Open Event at Skipton Town Hall –
11 August 11.00 – 13.00**

We are very pleased to invite you to the annual Open Event where you will have the opportunity to meet many of our wonderful group leaders and hear about their new sessions for 2026 -2027. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the u3a, do encourage them to come along and learn more about the exciting range of groups and activities. They can also enrol in The Hub where our team will be there to assist.

(Please note that we cannot provide any refreshments).

Craven u3a Committee

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Dates for your diary:

*11 August – Open Day at Skipton
Town Hall*

*Various – Membership renewal and
Group Enrolment -see page 2*

*19 September – Monthly Meeting at
Champions 10 for 10.30*

*25 Sept – Disco at Skipton
Community Sports Hub 7pm – see
p12*

Membership renewal, group enrolment and WhatsApp 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.

The new programme is now available on the website with a login access for members to join groups **from 9.00 am on 12 August**. A hard copy of programme is available from Craven Stationers in Skipton for a small charge. You can also ask for a large print copy if needed.

Membership can now 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:

Tuesday, 11 August 10.00 - 14.00 in the Hub at Skipton Town Hall. (The Open Event is from 11.00 – 13.00)

For membership renewal and group enrolment and help with WhatsApp:

Wednesday, 12 August 10.00 - 12.00 in the room opposite the Hub (inside the main entrance) in the 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** August 12th 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 August 11th when they will be busy talking to prospective members about their groups.

I am sure you will join me in thanking group leaders and committee members for giving up their time to ensure support is available for members.

Linda Hoole, Chair

Armathwaite on the Settle-Carlisle Railway

As part of the Summer Programme Away Days, 16 members enjoyed a trip to Armathwaite on the Settle Carlisle railway. The weather was warm and sunny but, thankfully, not quite as hot as recently. The journey was enlivened by a volunteer guide, Nick Abbey, who gave us lots of interesting information about the history of the railway, while we were treated to tasty breakfast baps.

When we arrived at Armathwaite, the group divided into two, each group visiting the heritage signal box and Armathwaite church in turn. Volunteers demonstrated the working of the signal box, fully restored in 1992 to its Midland Railway appearance, which was saved from demolition by the Friends of Settle Carlisle Line. It still belongs to Network Rail but is leased to the Friends.



We were able to use the Old School Hall to eat our packed lunches. As the name suggests, the building originally served as the village school and is now used by the community. The Church of Christ and Saint Mary was another highlight of the trip. One of the church wardens, Jenny Roscoe, gave us an extremely interesting history and description of the church. The original church was built in 1402 and has undergone a number of restorations since then. One interesting artefact in the church is a tapestry depicting scenes from the local area. It was stitched in 2002 by local women to commemorate 600 years of worship in the church.

Of particular interest were the two stained glass windows depicting Christ and Mary, which were supplied in 1914 by the William Morris company.



The visit ended with the return train journey to Skipton.

Lesley Perkins

Craven u3a 26/27 programme updates

Due to popular demand, Nancy Stedman has decided to run **Sketching Outdoors** again next summer. It is a lovely way to spend a couple of hours on a lovely summer day, with your Sketchpad, and a group of friends.

The six sessions will take place in June and July 2027.

And there are two more new groups:

Creative Writing

Ballet DVDs

All details on Beacon and the u3a website

Bradford – The Hindu temple



There were 10 of us on this trip on Sunday 26 July. We were warmly welcomed by Rakesh at the Hindu temple and cultural centre at 11 am. He gave us an informative tour of the building and explained the main tenets of Hinduism with the importance of Brahman (God) taking human form in other gods such as Vishnu (the preserver) and Shiva (the

destroyer). Hindus believe in reincarnation and how one's actions determine the creatures or animal into which we are reborn.

One of our participants said they were moved by the announcing of the Shiva Lingam and felt transported to a previous time when they had travelled to India with all the beautiful marble sculptures and general 'cacophony' of the ceremony.

Amanda Sitto



Breezy Knees

The last time I was asked to do a write up of a trip, I was in top juniors and won a box of liquorice allsorts for my efforts! Here's hoping!!



We left Skipton by coach on a very warm Wednesday for a visit to Breezy Knees gardens. After a somewhat slow journey there, we arrived in the sunshine. The garden is divided into sections with photographs showing how some areas looked in 2007. What a change in the intervening years. The borders were full and flourishing though the dry summer had taken its toll on some of the planting. There are 20 separate areas including a rose garden, rock garden pond and shade garden as well as many others.

Throughout the gardens are interspersed many interesting sculptures. More crucially on a very hot day, there are lots of benches, many in the shade, to enjoy the sights of the lovely flowers and plants.

There is a lake, whose waters were sadly depleted by the lack of rain, and an arboretum. Still some lovely dragonflies to see there though.

Finally, the café, where many enjoyed a cuppa in the very welcome shade and dappled light under the trees.

We all agreed what a lovely day it had been, with thoughts about returning a little earlier in the season to enjoy the flora at a different time of year.

Nancy Hollingworth

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Allerton Waste Recovery Park

"We've had two fire alarms already this morning, some days there are more -probably rechargeable batteries in the crusher" our guide told us when our group arrived at Thalia's Waste Management site in North Yorkshire on Thursday 16 July. First lesson learned: Don't throw batteries in the bin. Boat anchors, old bed sheets and duvets also cause problems!

During our induction in the Visitor Centre, it soon became clear this was a visit to a working industrial site: we signed in, had our photograph taken, carried ID, wore the correct clothing and agreed to abide by the rules of the site- including no photographs!

This Waste Recovery Park is NOT a recycling centre. It processes general household and commercial waste, aiming to eradicate landfill. It is one of 4 in the country, run by Thalia and operates continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

At first, the site itself appeared to be a nondescript set of grey buildings, entered via 2 sets of security gates. As the slightly sweet, rotten aroma slowly became stronger, the scale and extent of the work became apparent.

Massive lorries queued at the weigh bridge then went to unload at the Collection Hall, where tons of rubbish are shredded, to break up the bags. As visitors, we were not taken to view it: apparently, it's too unpleasant. We were quietly relieved!



The waste is then sorted by size by giant barrels with holes in the side, called Tumbrels. We viewed seemingly endless conveyor belts carrying the graded waste in a mesmerising procession of assorted grey-brown lumps. Among the mire, I spotted a single yellow croc, assorted logos on plastic bags, a lump of wood and a small potato bouncing down the belt. The smallest waste is generally food waste, which is sent to the digester. Magnets remove metal, sensors blow off plastic and aluminium is extracted, all this is crushed, baled and recycled. Finally, the remaining waste is destined for the burners.

Nearby, food waste is fed into the anaerobic digester- a towering cylinder, like a giant stomach, which sometimes needs an antacid to keep it balanced and working. This produces biogas, which is used elsewhere as fuel.

Finally, we visited the control room where staff work 12 hour shifts 24/7- including Christmas Day. Here we viewed the enormous mountain of waste. If you've ever tried to grab a toy at the funfair, you will understand the task. Like a scene from Toy Story 3, the giant 4-pronged claws were at work, mixing and lifting 8-ton loads into a hopper, from where it was fed into burners. The control team monitor banks of computer screens, overseeing the work of the whole site. They have detailed analytical data on each stage of the process, which creates electricity from the heat generated by the furnaces, also ash.

We could only admire the skill and enthusiasm of the control room team and all the men and women who work on the task of reducing landfill.

A fascinating trip- well worth the visit!

Shirley Davids



Bradford Synagogue and Little Germany, Bradford

Around fifteen members enjoyed a guided trip to the Bradford Synagogue and Little Germany on 20 July. We started at the synagogue, where our guide, Nigel Grizzard, a long-standing member of the synagogue specialising in heritage gave us an excellent introduction to the history of the building and the Jewish community, who started to arrive in the area in the 1830s. Founded in 1873 to provide a place of worship for the growing Jewish community of the Bradford area, many of whom were involved in the wool trade, the building includes splendid stained glass windows. We were able to inspect a Torah and were introduced to some key personalities. The congregation has now shrunk to around 30 members but is still active.



Nigel then came with us to the Jewish section of the Scholemoor Cemetery in the appropriately named Necropolis Road, whose interments include Charles Semon, the first Jewish Mayor of Bradford, Rabbi Strauss, the first rabbi of the Bradford Synagogue and the descendants of Jacob Unna, the synagogue's founder.

From the synagogue, we went on to Little Germany, Bradford's commercial centre for the wool and textile trade, developed from 1855 with four and five storey buildings in an Italianate style, though also including an 1871 building in the Scottish baronial style. Again Nigel led our guided tour, providing a commentary on the history of the offices and trading buildings, the Jewish connections and the changes of use in modern times, including a stopover

outside one warehouse, which has featured as a location in many recent films.



We moved on to the centre of Bradford, providing those of us unfamiliar with the city with an understanding of the relationship of Little Germany to the Town Hall and the Wool Exchange (now Waterstones), its beautiful ceiling well preserved, with the tour ending at outside the Alhambra theatre. A thoroughly enjoyable morning!

David Mander

The Hepworth Wakefield

On a bright warm summer day in July, 10 of us set out by train from Skipton to visit the Barbara Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield. We were all pleasantly struck by the modern design of this iconic museum and garden on the banks of the river Calder. We were taken on a one hour tour of the museum by Lucy, an Arts graduate employee, who gave us a well-informed sense of Britains greatest woman sculpturist of the 20th century.

Hepworth was born in Wakefield. Her main studio after 1939 was in St Ives, Cornwall, now also a museum. In her lifetime, she struggled to get as much attention as her fellow Yorkshire sculptor Henry Moore. She pioneered abstract "direct carving" methods. She declared: "I, the sculptor, am the landscape". "I am the form and the hollow, the trust and the contour", and "My left hand is my thinking hand".



We were all struck by her "Mother and Child", 1934, made from pink ancastor stone around the time Barbara gave birth to triplets! There is also "The Winged Figure", see photo, a variant of which can be seen on the side of John Lewis, Oxford Street, London.



At the end of our tour, we all enjoyed a light pleasant lunch in their cafe/ bistro. We came away inspired and uplifted!

Cecil Northridge

Never too old to boogie! – 25 September 2026



Come and join us for a **DISCO** at the Skipton Community Sports Hub (aka the Cricket Club) and show off those groovy moves!

- Friday, 25 September from 7.00 until 10.30pm.
- Very reasonably priced bar
- Parking either down by the side of the rugby club or at Sandylands Sports Centre
- Cost: £10 per ticket (NB you won't receive a physical ticket but your name will be on the list)

Tickets will not be available on the door because of limited numbers and anticipated high demand

How to book your tickets

If you are paying by bank transfer: email Mick Richings (secretary@cravenu3a.co.uk) first, stating how many tickets required. Mick will confirm by email and send you the bank account details and reference. Do not transfer money before confirmation.

If you wish to pay by cheque: send your request for tickets plus your cheque (payable to The Craven u3a) to Lesley Perkins, 13 West View Close, Bradley, BD20 9BU. You will need to enclose either a stamped self-addressed envelope or your email address so Lesley can confirm you have been successful.

When you apply, be sure to request your favourite dance track (just one!)

Be there or be square!

Linda Hoole