



September 2026

CRAVEN u3a NEWSLETTER

Welcome from the Chair

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Dates for your diary:

19 September – Monthly Meeting at Champions 10 for 10.30

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

10 October - Monthly Meeting at Champions 10 for 10.30



I'd like to welcome everyone to the start of a new year of talks, walks and a variety of sports activities and interest groups. We are going to have a lot of fun, meeting old and new friends and engaging in familiar and new groups, led by our amazing group leaders.

The team that forms the committee has worked hard to ensure that the year ahead is crammed with many opportunities to take

part in over 80 groups. You will find the team totally approachable, open to new suggestions and ready to help whenever possible. Our team:

Role		Contact
Chair	Linda Hoole	chair@cravenu3a.co.uk
Vice-Chair and Secretary	Mick Richings	secretary@cravenu3a.co.uk
Programme Secretary and Groups Co-ordinator	Anne MacDonald	groups@cravenu3a.co.uk
Treasurer	Lesley Perkins	treasurer@cravenu3a.co.uk
Venues Secretary	Sandra Firm	venues@cravenu3a.co.uk
Inclusion Officer	Maggie McLennan	inclusion@cravenu3a.co.uk
IT Administrator	Sheila Thompson	itadmin@cravenu3a.co.uk
Database Administrator	Wendy Brown	beacon@cravenu3a.co.uk
Committee Member	Adrienne Gilchrist	Trustee02@cravenu3a.co.uk
Minutes Secretary	Vee Eastham	minutes@cravenu3a.co.uk

If you are uncertain who to contact, we can also be contacted at committee@cravenu3a.co.uk

If you have not yet renewed your membership and are uncertain about how to go about this or about how to pay the annual subscription, do contact us before the end of September. Alternatively, you can use the links on the website: cravenu3a.org.uk.

I hope to visit as many groups as possible this year, to meet members and to share their experiences (I promise not to participate in any activity which requires singing as this would send members screaming from the room, covering their ears!).

With very best wishes, *Linda Hoole*

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 - 10.30pm.
- Very reasonably priced bar
- Parking either down by the side of the rugby club or at Sandylands Sports Centre
- Cost: £10

Tickets will not be available on the door

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.

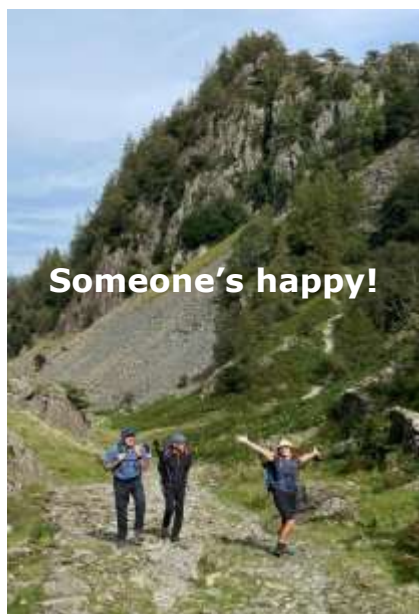
When you apply, be sure to request your favourite dance track (just one!)

Be there or be square!

Linda Hoole

Return to Glaramara

Twenty three members of the Walking Group group gathered in early September in delightful Borrowdale at the Glaramara Hotel for a four night stay. Each day, despite the vagaries of the weather, several walks were proposed and led by those more familiar with the area. From bagging Wainwrights on the high fells such as Grassmoor, Robinson and Grey Knotts to a stroll along lovely Derwentwater there was an outdoor experience for everyone.



A group of early rising ladies practised their Tai Chi exercises each morning against the superb backdrop of the Borrowdale Fells. Evenings found us gathering in the comfort of the hotel's lounge to swap tales of our day's experiences, or joining the card sharps for a game or lesson in Canasta. Inevitably, this was followed by the renowned three course meal challenge. With our after-dinner coffee and home-made chocolates we plotted and planned our walks and challenges for the morrow. Would we be up to the 'big walk' with Mike? An easier 'down' day in the valley? A shopping day in Keswick? We would all be out and about and we departed already thinking of our return next year.

Carol Wilkinson

2026 Summer Programme – Report

Quantified:

180 members attended the 2 day event at Ermysted's Grammar School on 23 and 24 July

- 27 speakers and facilitators provided a range of talks and workshops
- 78 members signed up for the 6 Away Day excursions
- Countless cups of tea and coffee, biscuits and cakes were consumed, served by a team of only 4 or 5 people.

Qualified:

This event could not have taken place without the many wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to:

- prepare and deliver a well-researched and resourced presentation or workshop
- help with serving refreshments
- bake or buy cakes to be enjoyed at break times.

Heartfelt thanks must go to all those who made the programme such a success this year. It was truly wonderful to experience the buzz of conversation in the hall at break times, whether it was a discussion about the execution of Charles I, the glaciation of the Yorkshire Dales, or simply friends catching up over a cuppa.

However, as no-one has stepped forward to become involved in the organisational team and I am taking a break as lead organiser next year, it has been decided that there will be no Summer Programme in 2027.

Instead we plan to go ahead with a number of Away Day events and various activities throughout the summer. I will be setting up a working party at the start of 2027 to gather ideas for trips and events. If you have any suggestions, do get in touch: chair@cravenu3a.co.uk.

Once again, a huge thank you to all those who contributed to and attended our 2026 Summer Programme.

Linda Hoole

Singing carols from scratch



This year we hope to repeat the successful innovation of 2024 and organise a scratch choir to sing a couple of unaccompanied carols at the u3a carol service on the afternoon of Wednesday 9 December at 2pm. We hope to have men's as well as women's voices but we will modify our plans to fit any volunteers that we get.

We will probably organise three or four short rehearsals to suit those who want to take part, one of which will be immediately before the service. Enthusiasm and an enjoyment of singing are the main requirements, although an ability to read music would be an advantage!

If you would like to take part or want to find out more, please contact me (chrisiskidmore47@gmail.com).

Chris Skidmore



Some of the season's produce from the u3a allotment group

Open Day and Membership Update

Every August the Open Event at Skipton Town Hall is our shop window, for both existing and potential members. This year we put a lot of effort into publicising the event in advance. Aside from advertising, posters were on display in all the Skipton supermarkets, surgeries, the library, Town Hall, estate agents, and the buildings we use for group venues. The 2026-27 Programme was also available to view at each location. All this work paid off:



Around 200 new members have enrolled this year and our membership is over the 1100 mark.

At the Open Event there were 60 different group activities on display, and it was busy! Group Leaders were available to talk about their groups and answer questions. They did a brilliant job, promoting the huge range of choice on offer.

Outside the main hall, those manning the desks to help with membership applications and renewals were in high demand. Many new members were signed that day, and the following day the support desk to help with group enrolment was also well-attended. I would like to thank all our Group Leaders for their support on the day, and our extra helpers, Ruth and Gail, who manned the enquiry desk at the entrance to the Hall.



up

Anne Macdonald

Craven u3a Film Clubs

The Tuesday and Thursday film groups are back at Champions Church, Skipton for another season of great International and British films. All films have subtitles. Here are the planned programmes for the autumn session. 1 pm for 1.30 pm start. £10 venue surcharge per session.

Films on Tuesday

6 Oct	The Crime is Mine (2023, French)
13 Oct	Radio-Active (UK, 2019)
20 Oct	The Fencer (2017, Finland, Estonia & German)
27 Oct	Rental Family (2025, Japan/USA)
3 Nov	Central Station (1998, Brazil)
10 Nov	Four Letters of Love (2024, Irish)
17 Nov	Flocken (2015, Sweden)
24 Nov	The Women on the 6 th Floor (2010, France)
1 Dec	The Butterfly's Tongue (1999, Spanish)
8 Dec	Hope and Glory (1987, British)

Films on Thursday

8 Oct	The Wrong Man (1956)
15 Oct	I Swear (2025)
22 Oct	H is for Hawk (2025)
29 Oct	Frankie (2019)
5 Nov	In a Better World (2010)
12 Nov	The Outrun (2024)

19 Nov	The Motorcycle Diaries (2004)
26 Nov	Breathe (2017)
3 Dec	Lilies of the Field (1963)
10 Dec	A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood (2019)

Enjoy a walk in Swaledale from your armchair

Back in July, George Mackley of the Walking Group led an 11.25 mile circular walk from Gunnerside to Keld via Muker, following the Coast to Coast and Pennine Way paths. He has made a beautiful 8 minute video of the walk's highlights, which you can view on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GG7GiYk4r64>. Definitely good for a chill-out over a glass of your favourite beverage.



If you wish to unsubscribe from the newsletter please email the word "Unsubscribe" to unsubscribe@cravenu3a.org

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Here are the speakers who will be presenting at the forthcoming monthly meetings, usually held on the second Saturday of each month at Champions Church Hall, Carleton Road, Skipton. Refreshments are available from 10 am, so there is time to chat before the presentation starts at 10.30 am. There is a charge of £4 to cover all costs.

19 September: Douglas Goode – “Seven Wonders of the Modern World”

10 October: Eric Jackson – “The Gunpowder Plot”

14 November: Ken Cothliff – “Avro Yeadon: The story of a shadow factory”

12 December: Andrew Barton – “Guide Dogs for the Blind”

Guided tour of Cliffe Castle, Keighley

Would you like to visit this local heritage museum in the grand neo-Gothic Cliffe Castle? You can see sparkling Victorian rooms, full of paintings, furniture and art of every style, together with an eclectic collection of exhibits related to archaeology, the natural world, local history and much more. Following Amanda’s successful trips to various Bradford cultural landmarks, here is one more.

Thursday 3 December 2026

Date: 11am - 1pm

Cost: £3.50 to u3a members

Transport: 66 bus or drive (shared car lifts possible)

To reserve a place, please contact Amanda Sitto at:

sittoamanda4@gmail.com

