



## CRAVEN u3a NEWSLETTER

### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Trip

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#### ***Dates for your diary:***

14 November & 12 December -  
Monthly Meeting at Champions 10  
for 10.30

4 December – Live Music & Dance –  
see p 8

9 December – Carol Service-see p 4



This year, 2026, is the Railway Study Group's 30th Anniversary. So, on 16 September, to celebrate the occasion, 40 members and friends of the group boarded a coach in Skipton and travelled to the East Lancashire Railway's Bolton Street station in Bury.

After exploring the beautifully preserved buildings and visiting the excellent

Trackside Bar, they were called to step on board the Midweek Lunch Train.

Thankfully, after a summer when trackside fires were a constant risk, the train was steam-hauled, being former British Railways 2-6-4 locomotive 80097 dating from 1954. This was of great significance to one member of the group who worked on its footplate when it was in service in East London during the early 1960s.



The dining train departed on time at 12.30 and headed out along the Irwell Valley, through Ramsbottom to Rawtenstall, where the train reversed. The group had the whole carriage to themselves, so could easily chat and move around with ease in the sumptuously upholstered 1st Class saloon.

During the outward journey, they enjoyed a lunch of Roast Honey

Gammon with a Dijon mustard sauce and on the return journey they were served a Coffee and Mandarin Gateau followed by tea or coffee. Needless to say, the celebration justified an occasional wine or beer with the meal.

Back at Bury, the group had the opportunity to visit the nearby Bury Transport Museum to examine their fine collection of road and rail exhibits and displays, bringing back memories of what life used to be like in the 1950s and 1960s.



On arrival back to Skipton, all agreed that it had been a Grand 30th Anniversary trip. Here's to the next 30 years!

*Paul Haywood*

## Still spaces in these Groups:

Ad hoc Walking

Adaptive Tennis (summer)

Allotment

Badminton

Birdwatching

Book Group Fiction A

Bridge Play

Craven u3a Orchestra

Creative Arts for Wellbeing

Croquet (summer)

Culture Vultures

E biking

Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art

Floral Art

Four Great Female Artists

History of Art

Indoor Games

Indoor Curling and Boccia

Italian Improvers

Modern Art & Architecture

Motorcycle group

Music Theory & Improvisation

Podcasts

Popular Music

Racketball

Railway Studies

Recorders

Science & tech

Stories of Scientists

Sunday Lunch

Ten Pin Bowling

Victorian Women Novelists

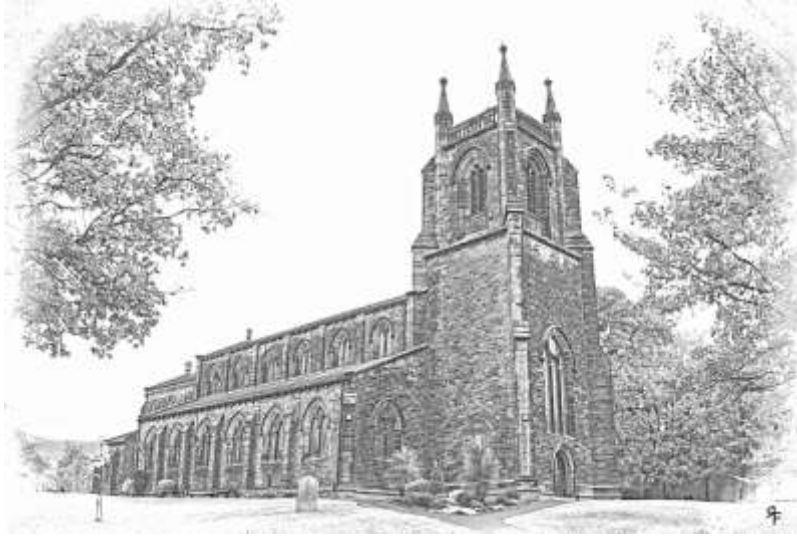
Wharfedale Walkers

### Guided Tour of Cliffe Castle

There is till time to book for this guided tour on Thursday 3 December 2026 from 11am – 1pm, cost £3.50. To reserve a place please contact Amanda Sitto at

[sittoamanda4@gmail.com](mailto:sittoamanda4@gmail.com)

## u3a Carol Service



Will be held at 2pm, Christ Church, Skipton, Wednesday 9 December. This will be our 28<sup>th</sup> Carol service and it's a great way to feel a bit festive, even if you're not that way inclined! Community singing, readings from various texts, and accompanying music for an enjoyable afternoon rounded off with refreshments.

Everyone is more than welcome to our annual service. So please come along and join us. Any mince pies you can bring along will be gratefully received.

The Event is being organised by Albert Bonham and Kenneth Jackson - massive thanks to both.

The collection will be split 50:50 between the church and Sue Ryder.

*Mick Richings*

### **Take part in the carol service by joining our scratch choir!**

We will sing a couple of unaccompanied carols, nothing too difficult. There will be 3 or 4 rehearsals, probably from mid-November, on a Wednesday at 12.30 or 2pm. 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 Chris Skidmore ([chrisskidmore47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisskidmore47@gmail.com)).

## Photography Group Focus – Capturing the Weather



*Rainbow – Steve Wilkinson*

The photographs featured here were all taken by members exploring the theme of “**Weather**”. From dramatic skies to subtle changes in light and atmosphere, our monthly themes encourage us to look at the world around us with fresh eyes and capture something interesting through our cameras.

Each month, we choose a new theme to inspire our photography. Previous subjects have included *The Colour Purple*, *Yorkshire Life* and *Architecture*. We also organise photoshoots at selected locations, giving members the chance to explore and photograph somewhere with others. Recent outings have included Salts Mill and Bradford city centre.

Our WhatsApp group is an important part of our activities, providing a place to share photographs, exchange information about the monthly theme and highlight anything else that might catch a member’s eye. We also upload a selection of our photographs to a shared Google Photos album.

At our monthly meetings, we enjoy viewing these images together, discussing what works well and offering constructive, positive feedback. These conversations are a valuable opportunity to learn from one another and develop our photographic skills.

Our members have a wide range of experience and ability, from enthusiastic beginners to more experienced photographers. Whatever our level of expertise, we share a common interest in creating images that are interesting, striking or aesthetically pleasing.



*Red Raindrop – Sue Whitehead*



*Misty Morning – Alison Bowley*

Above all, the group is about enjoying photography, sharing ideas and seeing the world from different perspectives.

Christopher Bowley

*Bench after a Shower – Sheila Mason*



*Weathervane – Shirley Phillip*

## News from the Orchestra

Once again Embsay Village Hall resounds on Wednesday afternoons to the sounds of the Craven u3a Orchestra. But there have been some changes this year.

We have said a sad farewell to Peter Young, our conductor for several years. Unfortunately, he is no longer able to see well enough to continue to conduct us. We will miss his musicianship, patience and good humour very much.

We were very pleased to welcome four new members at the beginning of the season. Three of them had come to the Open Rehearsal we held in March and liked what they heard. So the trumpet and saxophone sections have grown and we now have an accordion player who turned out to have other hidden talents. She was interested in conducting! She has taken up Peter's baton ensuring that the orchestra can continue to offer an afternoon of enjoyable music making. We also have an addition to the clarinet section.



So far this season we have tackled amongst other things Handel, Faure, Gershwin, Sousa and some traditional Irish tunes. Plenty more to come from our extensive library!

We now have a strong wind section **but we are very short of violin players to balance the sound. If you play or have ever played a violin, please consider joining us.** We welcome players of all standards. Another viola player would be nice too! If you are interested, please contact me at [suestid@gmail.com](mailto:suestid@gmail.com).

*Sue Stidworthy*

## Friday Night Fever

Following the success of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary disco back in March, around 70 members gathered at the Skipton Community Hub in late September to strut their stuff once again. Three fabulous DJs - David, Tim and Keith - entertained us with an eclectic mix of tracks throughout the evening, incorporating guests' requests into their diverse playlists. Also on the team was dance captain Fran to encourage everyone onto the floor, and it proved a very convivial event.

Thanks to Linda Hoole and Mick Richings for dealing with the admin; the Ilkley Disco team for the music; Mike Valiant for the lighting effects; and Tilly, Emma and staff at the Hub for hosting us at the venue. We're already planning the next one, so look out for advance publicity coming soon via the newsletter and website.

*Fran Valiant*



## Live Music & Dance

There will be another opportunity to show off your Strictly dance moves when Jacqui Eames and her band will be performing at the Skipton Community Sports Centre (cricket club).

- **Friday 4 December 7.30 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

***Tickets will not be available on the door***

### How to book your tickets

**Paying by bank transfer:** email Mick Richings ([secretary@cravenu3a.co.uk](mailto:secretary@cravenu3a.co.uk)) first, stating how many tickets required. Mick will confirm by email and send you the bank account details. Do not transfer money before confirmation. Use the reference 'Disco'.

**Or 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. Enclose either a stamped SAE or your email address so Lesley can confirm you have been successful.

Sequins optional...

*Linda Hoole*

## Indoor Games Group

This group was formed 5 years ago at the end of the covid pandemic. The initial aim was to get people back out of their houses, meeting people and enjoying some friendly competition.

After a slow start, with around 12 mostly male group members, playing traditional pub games, the group has continued to blossom and to diversify.

This session, we have 35 group members, now mostly women (but men are welcome!), playing a wide range of board & card games. Sadly, the Three Links Club can no longer offer darts & pool. Last week our range of games included canasta, dominoes, quirkle, rummikub, scrabble & Settlers of Catan! Members often also bring in their own games to try out.

Group members are able to learn new games, play old favourites and meet new people, in a friendly environment. We have no trophies or prizes and certainly no pressure on anyone.

The group meet on Monday 2 – 4pm at The Three Links Club, Skipton. We can currently fit in a small number of new members. Single taster sessions are also available. Anyone interested, please contact me by email on [newallaandj@gmail.com](mailto:newallaandj@gmail.com)

*Alan Newall – Group Leader*

## Interested in Pirate Radio?



National "u3a Rewind" presents Nick Bingham, a former pirate, who will be giving an online illustrated talk on Zoom about his time on Radio Caroline on Friday 30 Oct at 10 am. Sign up [here](#)

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If you wish to unsubscribe from the newsletter please email the word "Unsubscribe" to [unsubscribe@cravenu3a.org](mailto:unsubscribe@cravenu3a.org)

## Dancing in the Dark – Video Podcasts

"I get up in the evenin', And I ain't got nothin' to say". (The Boss - 1984)  
Do you ever feel like that? That's one of the reasons I started looking into making podcasts. You have to start somewhere. You can't start a fire without a spark.

It's time now to move a step forward with podcasts and so I've had a go at making video podcasts. I think it is always better when you can see who is talking and get more from their expressions. You can also use more visual effects.

So I was delighted when Charles Green (Drumming Circle) and Chris Brown (music improvisation) agreed to help out with my first video podcast. It is just over 10 minutes long. I was on a steep learning curve, so it may not be as slick as we would have liked, but still good fun. We have learnt a lot from this, even if it felt like I was dancing in the dark..

As with the other podcasts, I have published this on Spotify (free). You just have to click on this link to view/listen. It works well on phones and other mobile devices.

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/5d3CXIPGLZ0XkIb3x9ccbK?si=An\\_EYZkAS1ymv\\_bMkR0DXg&utm\\_source=copy-link](https://open.spotify.com/episode/5d3CXIPGLZ0XkIb3x9ccbK?si=An_EYZkAS1ymv_bMkR0DXg&utm_source=copy-link)



The podcast is also available on the Craven u3a WhatsApp channel:

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb6zPHeK0IBITFa0IV3I>

When you click on the link, if you only get audio you may need to click on the "Switch to Video" button.(just below the photo).

If you would be interested in making a podcast or helping in any way, please feel free to contact me. It doesn't have to be music. Anything with a bit of visual content would be worth a try.

*"I'm dyin' for some action  
I'm sick of sittin' 'round here tryin' to write this book  
I need a love reaction  
Come on now, baby, gimme just one look !*

Please don't leave me dancing in the dark.

*Doug Hirst*