

## YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE REGION U3A SPEAKER DIRECTORY

This is a list of speakers who have spoken at various u3as and/or have been particularly recommended. Speaker-finders might find the list useful but should appreciate that the appearance of a name on the list does not imply an endorsement by the YAHR committee.

Fees and/or expenses are for individual u3as to negotiate direct with prospective speakers. Current fees quoted typically range from £35-£70.

As a matter of principle and policy, no u3a member will charge a fee or seek a donation if invited to speak at a u3a function. Reasonable expenses may of course be paid.

If your u3a has recently had the pleasure of listening to a first-class speaker please let us know so that we may include the name in this list for the benefit of other u3as. It is important however that the speaker concerned will have given consent to be included in this directory.

**For further information or queries please contact : [regionalyorku3a@gmail.com](mailto:regionalyorku3a@gmail.com)**

### **Pam Alexander : Lindisfarne and More**

Pam is based in Northumberland.

To book call 01670 514276

### **Brad Ashton : The Job of a Lifetime**

Brad has written a number of TV series for some of the most famous names in British comedy including Dick Emery, Les Dawson, Bob Monkhouse and many more. His talk contains a raft of amusing backstage stories. He is based in London.

To book call 0208 886 5343 or 07901 845765 or email [ashtons@email.com](mailto:ashtons@email.com)

**Zoom Only**

### **Stuart Atkins**

Stuart's career as a trombonist, pianist, arranger, and conductor has taken him to many countries of the world, including Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico, Falklands, Europe and the USA where he has worked with some of the biggest stars. He is based in Tingley and offers four talks about his experiences.

#### **My Life in Music**

#### **The Great American Songbook**

#### **Sammy Cahn : The Man who Put the Words into Frank Sinatra's Mouth**

#### **Big Bands of the Swing Era**

To book call 0113 252 3867 or 07730 333445 or email [stuartatkins70@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stuartatkins70@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Derek Barker : Archaeology, Industrial History and Applied Geology**

Based in Bradford, all Derek's talks are given in an informal and chatty way. Book via [brickman108@gmail.com](mailto:brickman108@gmail.com)

**Zoom talks available**

### **Kathleen Barnett : Born Free Foundation - Nature talks**

Kathleen is based in Hull. To book call 01482 890050.

### **Peter Barnard : Life as a Tudor Musician**

Peter is based in Scunthorpe. To book call 01427 873937

### **Roger Burnett : Britain in Bloom & Chelsea Flower Show**

Roger is from Malton. To book call 01653 697388 or 07967 465284

### **Gaynor Cavannah : Hearing Dogs for the Deaf**

Hearing Dogs train dogs to alert deaf people to sounds they would otherwise miss such as a doorbell, alarm clock and danger signals like a fire alarm. Hearing dogs can make a significant difference or save people's lives. For details visit [www.hearingdogs.org.uk](http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk)

To book call 07769 901297 or 01844 348100

**Zoom Only**

### **Patrick Clarke : The Yorkshire Dales**

Patrick's talks are illustrated. He lives in Ilkley and prefers to work fairly locally.

To book call 01943 601045

### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)**

The CWGC is the body which is responsible for commemorating the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in both World Wars. In the North of England, we have around 45,000 war graves in over 2,000 sites. Elizabeth Smith works for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as the Public Engagement Coordinator in the North of England. Her role is varied with part of it being giving talks about the history and work of the CWGC to groups. Book via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DX or email [elizabeth.smith@cwgc.org](mailto:elizabeth.smith@cwgc.org) or call 07812 369576.

### **Jon Conroy : Orthopedic Surgery**

Jon is based at Harrogate District Hospital. He specialises in all things bone and joint related and has a gift for conveying complex information in a fascinating and accessible way. For those of us who have the inevitable questions about this aspect of our health, why not listen to an expert directly rather than getting everything second hand.

To book call 07894 813597 or email [jonconroy1@sky.com](mailto:jonconroy1@sky.com)

**Zoom talks available**

### **Michael Cullingworth : The History of Pantomime**

Michael is based in Settle. To book call 01729 823978

### **David Davies : Post-1945 UK History**

David's talk, entitled 'Our Times', is illustrated. He comes from Harrogate.

To book call 01423 871673.

### **Brian Daniels : The Trials and Tribulations of a Theatre Director**

Brian was Artistic Director of the New End Theatre, Hampstead for 14 years and also CEO of the Shaw Theatre and New Players Theatres in London. He has also written 20 plays around health and social issues and is based in Leeds.

His talk illustrates what it takes to put on a show and also lots of anecdotes about the actors and directors he has worked with. These include Eartha Kitt, Dionne Warwick, Elaine Stritch, Michael Feinstein, Ken Russell, Shirley Anne-Field and many more.

To book call 0113 237 9682 or 07740 372333 or email [brdan@icloud.com](mailto:brdan@icloud.com)

**Zoom talks available**

### **Jackie Depelle : General Family & Local History**

Jackie is based in Leeds. To book call 0113 2360253

**Zoom talks available**

### **Sheila Dixon : Family & Local History**

Sheila comes from Hornsea. To book call 01964 670686

**Will work in Zoom if necessary**

### **Ken Dunn : U3A members active in Africa**

Ken comes from Rotheram. To book call 07528 529766

**Zoom talks available**

### **Derek Edwards : Smiles to Tanzania**

Derek's talk deals with charity work in East Africa. He is based in Filey.

To book call 01723 513223

### **Andrew Elliker-Reeve : Travelling Blind**

Nearly two years ago Andrew suddenly became blind. He began writing a blog to explain to people what it was like learning to be blind, about the challenges he faced and also how funny it can be. He now speaks to people directly so if you would like to hear some funny old guy with some amusing and informative tales, please contact him, preferably by phone. He's based in Beeford (East Yorks) and works in person only.

To book call 07719 490803 or email [andyreeve2@aol.com](mailto:andyreeve2@aol.com)

### **Geoff Forster**

Geoff is based in Saltaire and offers a number of different talks.

- As an Example to Others: The Secret Life and Public Death of a Leeds Attorney
- Regency Showman: The Life and Exhibitions of William Bullock (c1774-1849)
- The Creation of a Victorian Bestseller: Samuel Smiles and the Writing of *Self-Help*
- As Large as Life: A History of Waxwork
- Joseph Priestley in Leeds
- The Navvies' Memorial and the Building of the Bramhope Tunnel
- For a Few Days Only: Bonaparte's Military Carriage on Tour in Britain

To book email [fozzy49@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fozzy49@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07887 910065

### **Patti Gold : An Amusing Look Back at my Life in Showbiz**

Patti has worked with many famous names in showbiz and in her talk she recalls many amusing anecdotes which have happened in her lively and hectic life. She also offers other talks in which she sings some of the songs she has performed throughout her career as a successful entertainer. She comes from Tingley. To book call 0113 252 3867 or 07708 121533 or by emailing [patatkins8@hotmail.com](mailto:patatkins8@hotmail.com)

### **Mike Greateorex : Trials and Tribulations of Family History**

Mike comes from Harrogate. To book call 07786 870043

**Zoom talks available**

### **Michael Grillo**

Michael gives three different talks.

**Two Kinds of Teardrops:** The Roy Orbison and Del Shannon story

**The Day the Music Died:** The History of Rock and Roll

**Your Cheatin' Heart:** The Story of Country Music

The talks are all presented with music and video clips.

To book email [m.grillo@btinternet.com](mailto:m.grillo@btinternet.com) or call 077255 80046

**Zoom Only**

### **Chris Helme : A Selection of History and Nostalgia**

To find out more visit [www.chrishelme-brighthouse.org.uk](http://www.chrishelme-brighthouse.org.uk)

Book via [enquiries@chrishelme-brighthouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chrishelme-brighthouse.org.uk) or call 01422 205763

**Zoom talks available**

### **Alan Hemsworth : Yorkshire Humour; Inn Signs; Nursery Rhymes**

Alan prefers to work within 1 hrs drive of Settle. To book call 01729 823902

### **Jim Holmes**

Jim is a documentary photographer and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society who works on commercial and humanitarian projects around the world. Over 35 years of travel has taken him to some of the most remote and extraordinary places on earth. He offers a range of talks which are illustrated with an abundance of strong images and are both entertaining and informative. Jim is based in Chester but is happy to travel. For more details visit [www.jimholmes.co.uk](http://www.jimholmes.co.uk) To book call 07535 544307.

**Zoom talks available**

### **Sir Thomas Ingleby : Ripley Castle**

Sir Thomas is based in Harrogate. To book call 07770 923633 or 01423 770152

### **Eric Jackson**

Eric is a professional speaker and specialises in community groups. He offers a wide range of informative and entertaining talks on various subjects including *Votes for Women*, *Crime and Punishment*, *After You're Dead*, *The Gunpowder Plot*, *Model Villages* and many more. Eric is based in Pontefract.

Book via [amiducour@live.co.uk](mailto:amiducour@live.co.uk) or call 01977 791087

**Zoom talks available**

**Rod Jenkinson : The English Longbowman**

Rod comes from Thirsk. To book call 01845 597362

**Malcolm Johnson : Popular Music**

Malcolm's talk features lots of nostalgia. He also offers talks on a number of different topics. He is based in Horsforth. To book call 0113 258 2594

**Dorothea Kazounis : Actions Speak Louder than Words**

An interactive session. Dorothea comes from Sheffield. To book call 0114 230 6366

**Alan Lavender : Travels and Tales of a Celebrity Chef**

Alan is based in Hornsea. To book call 01964 671322

**Kevin Lennox : The Wonders of New Zealand**

Kevin offers other talks featuring Canada, Switzerland, Californian and the Chanel Islands. He comes from Doncaster. To book call 01302 851830 or email [oak20@directsave.net](mailto:oak20@directsave.net)

**Zoom talks available**

**Stephen Lovell : Natural History**

Stephen is based in Lincoln. To book call 01522 689456

**Zoom talks available**

**Jenny Mallin**

Jenny is a Berkshire-based award-winning author and public speaker. Her book *A Grandmother's Legacy* won the Best In World cookbook award for 2017 with the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Society. Jenny offers a selection of ten talks which deliver a fascinating insight into five generations of her family who lived during the days of the British Raj in India. Through her Powerpoint presentations she captures a period of British history with an extensive collection of family sepia photographs which bring her stories to life.

To book call 07854 964886 or email [jennymallin@yahoo.com](mailto:jennymallin@yahoo.com)

**Zoom only**

**Tony Martin : Birds and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**

Tony comes from Hessle. To book call 01482 441013

**Dr Tim Mason : Plagues and Pestilence, Past & Present**

Four separate lectures available. Tim comes from Fareham. To book call 01329 844426

**Peter Mathers : Gardens of the British Isles**

Peter comes from York and offers a selection of five talks. To book call 01904 763090 or 07940 517442 or email [peter@petermathers.plus.com](mailto:peter@petermathers.plus.com)

**Zoom talks available**

**Jane McKeowen**

Jane is from Selby and offers two talks: **The History of Nursery Rhymes** and **Personal Insights of China**. To book call 01757 269185

### **Alison Mees**

Alison gives talks with great pictures of her Community and Conservation work in Africa during the last 16 years. She now works for Cheetah Conservation UK and donates 50% of her fee to them. For details visit [www.alisonmeesphotography.com](http://www.alisonmeesphotography.com)

Book via [Alisonmeesphotography@gmail.com](mailto:Alisonmeesphotography@gmail.com) or by calling 07497 163391

**Zoom only**

### **Milo Milinkovic : Over the Pyrenees to escape the Nazis - The Freedom Trail**

Milo is based in Barnsley and offers other topics in addition to the above.

To book call 01226 790342

### **Graham Mitchell**

Graham was formerly Town Mayor of Keighley and Chairman of Keighley & Worth Valley Railway. He offers a choice of three illustrated talks.

**Richard, the Northern King:** The Life of Richard III as Duke and King

**Why Stanbury never got a Railway Station:** Victorian Politics in the Worth Valley

**Catholic Revival, St. Anne's & the Amazing Fr. Russell:** St. Anne's Church Keighley & its most Famous Priest.

Graham is based in Keighley and will travel within a 30 mile radius.

To book email [rgm@dockroyd.co.uk](mailto:rgm@dockroyd.co.uk) or call 01535 645454

**Zoom talks also available**

### **Colonel Richard Mole : The Siege of Sarajevo - A Year of Living Dangerously**

Richard comes from Bridlington. To book call 01262 488530

### **David Morris : The Potential of The Human Whistle**

David is based in Saddleworth. For details visit [www.davidmorris-whistler.com](http://www.davidmorris-whistler.com).

To book call 01457 874778 or 07971 662115

### **Steve Mullins : The Big Yorkshire Conversation**

Steve likes to conduct debate and discussion about Yorkshire and Yorkshireness. Subjects can range from devolution to the White Rose Flag.

To book call 07932 020239 or email [mr.steve.mullins@gmail.com](mailto:mr.steve.mullins@gmail.com)

### **Susan Parry : From Forensics to Crime Fiction**

Susan is based in Swaledale. To book call 01748 886280

### **John Pearson : Blessed are the Cheese Makers**

John talks about the history of cheese and his achievements in the food industry, latterly as a cheese judge. Book via [john.pearson2@sky.com](mailto:john.pearson2@sky.com) or call 07770 834836 or 01895676594

**Zoom Only**

### **Peter Richardson : Audio-visual Sequences**

Peter comes from Hessle and offers a variety of subjects with commentary and music.

To book call 01482 645233

### **Susan Rumfitt : Jewellery as Antiques**

Susan is a well-respected and knowledgeable specialist and lecturer on the history of jewellery and has been one of the specialists on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow for over 12 years. She is based in Harrogate.

To book call 01423 705198 or 07855 429284 or email [susan@susanrumfitt.com](mailto:susan@susanrumfitt.com)

NB : Her speaker fee is likely to be in the region of £400-450.

### **Paul Schofield : Hull and Beverley History Talks**

Paul is based in Hull. Book via [schopaul@hotmail.com](mailto:schopaul@hotmail.com) or by calling 01482 878535

**Zoom talks available**

### **David Skillen**

David is based in Belper and was a member of the Towton Battlefield Society and a battlefield guide for seven years. He gives talks on this and a variety of other subjects. For details and how to contact him visit <https://speakernet.co.uk/speaker/103/david-skillen>

**Zoom talks available**

### **Allan Stuttard : Korea - The Forgotten War and Other Amusing Tales**

Allan comes from Hebden Bridge and is only available in the afternoons.

To book call 01422 844850

### **Alan Swann**

Allan offers two talks; **Memory Training - What Was I Saying?** and **Laughter is the Best Medicine**. He is based in Barnsley. To book call 01226 241200

**Zoom talks available**

### **Trish Taylor : Fairfax House – The Finest Georgian Town House in England**

Trish is based in York and offers other topics on Georgian York. For details visit [info@fairfaxhouse.co.uk](mailto:info@fairfaxhouse.co.uk). To book call 01904 655543

### **Andrew Thwaite : The Art of the Chocolatier**

Andrew is from Harrogate and gives chocolate making demonstrations.

Book via [chocolate@andrewthwaite.org.uk](mailto:chocolate@andrewthwaite.org.uk) or by calling 01423 330707 or 07584 903192

### **Brian Topping : Tales of a Customs Officer**

Ever wondered what Customs Officers are looking for? Brian is based in Burnley and talks about his many years in the former HM Customs & Excise at Heathrow Airport. Book via [btopping@gmail.com](mailto:btopping@gmail.com) or call 07702 531158.

**Zoom talks also available**

### **Stephen Wells**

Stephen is based in Driffield and is the speaker for all occasions. A man of music, mystery and magic, he offers talks from **Great Musicals** to **Jack the Ripper**. For details visit [www.wellsinternet.co.uk](http://www.wellsinternet.co.uk)

Book via [info@wellsinternet.co.uk](mailto:info@wellsinternet.co.uk) or call 01377 259166 or 07743 494290

**Zoom talks available**

### **Paul Whittaker : Music to Your Ears**

Paul is a profoundly deaf musician. He's funny, informative and very inspirational. He lives in Rishworth, Halifax and is happy to travel. Contact by email at [paul@paulwhittaker.org.uk](mailto:paul@paulwhittaker.org.uk)

**Zoom talks available**

### **Godfrey Wilson : Ripon Cathedral – The Story**

Godfrey comes from Ripon itself and gives an illustrated talk describing 1350 years of the cathedral's history. To book call 01765 608990 or 07867 574427 or email him via [godfreywilson@talktalk.net](mailto:godfreywilson@talktalk.net)

### **David Winpenny : Wentworth Woodhouse**

Wentworth Woodhouse is a Grade 1 listed country house in the village of Wentworth near Rotherham of which David offers extensive knowledge. He lives in Ripon.

To book call 01765 607641

### **Yorkshire Air Ambulance**

To book a speaker please email their team at [info@yaa.org.uk](mailto:info@yaa.org.uk), and include as much detail as you can. We will then contact you directly to confirm your booking. Alternatively, you can call: 01422 237900, or write to: Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Cayley House, 10 South Lane, Elland, HX5 0HQ.

**Zoom talks also available.**