

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

Pam Alexander : Lindisfarne and More

Pam is based in Northumberland.

To book call 01670 514276

Chas Allen : The History of the Trolleybus

Chas is Commercial Director of the Sandtoft Trolley Bus Museum near Scunthorpe. His talk tells about the history of the trolley bus and its role in social history. Chas is based in Settle but is prepared to travel across the region.

To book call 07968 481762 or email callen@sandtoft.org

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

Zoom Only

Joanne Aston

Joanne presents a number of talks including:

Mad Woman Walking : A pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

Shackleton's Expedition to the Antarctic 1914 : The good and the bad

Pre-Raphaelite Art : A personal view

WW1 Conscription Appeals in the North Riding

Ancient Greek Drama : Child sacrifice, matricide and the world's first courtroom drama

Crazy Horses, Men in Tights : the Palio di Siena

Animals in Wartime : Brave cats, dogs, horses and a pigeon

Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital and the Hallelujah Chorus

Joanne lives in Thirsk and will travel up to 50 miles away.

To book call 01845 523530 or 07843 605345 or email jpa246@clannet.co.uk

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

Gaynor Ayres : Foraging

Gaynor offers informative talks, walks and demonstrations regarding foraging.

She explains and how to identify wild plants that are edible and their medicinal uses and benefits, including seasonal herbs fruits, trees and seaweeds using visual aids. Also preserved products such as elderflower and elder berry cordials, sloe gin, dried herbs and herbs preserved in vinegars etc. She is an experienced and qualified forager and has been running foraging walks within a 20 mile radius from Danby and Whitby for many years but will travel elsewhere within the region.

To book email greengaynor1@gmail.com or text 07812 652606

Sandra Barber : Me and My Camera

Sandra is a self-employed photographer based in Filey. Her talk consists of a slideshow of photographs accompanied by a commentary regarding context. She also speaks about the history of photography and gives tips on how to take better photos using a mobile phone.

Sandra is happy to travel throughout the region.

To book email info@sandrabarberphotography.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

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

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 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

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

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 Rotherham. 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

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 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

Adrian Gray : History and Travel Talks

Adrian Gray lives near Lincoln and is the author of thirty books on aspects of local and national history. He is also historical adviser to Pilgrims & Prophets Christian Heritage Tours and Bassetlaw Christian Heritage, both of which are community groups working to develop heritage tourism in Notts and Lincs. His talks include:

Why did they all come from here?: The Mayflower Pilgrims

Religious Liberty: A Gift to the World from Notts and Lincs

Katherine Willoughby, Duchess of Suffolk: Lincolnshire's Greatest Tudor Woman

The Top Ten Scandals of Sherwood Forest

By Train through the Andes: Peru and Bolivia

Georgia: An Extraordinary Country

Kyrgyzstan: Land of Mountains and Nomads

Biblical Lands: A Visit to Israel and Jordan

Adrian will travel within North Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire

To book email adriangray@pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk or cal 07470 366689

Mike Greatorex : Trials and Tribulations of Family History

Mike comes from Harrogate. To book call 07786 870043

Zoom talks available

Mark Gregory : Weddings and Funerals

Mark is an award-winning Family and Funeral Celebrant, Live Vocalist, Quizmaster, Master of Ceremonies, and generally all-round entertainer. He has experience in theatre, having performed on both the West End and Broadway, is a self-published fantasy author, and occasional TEFL teacher, translator from English into German and Russian, and theatre and sports correspondent for the Yorkshire Times. His talks are generally focused on the wedding and funeral industries, and how celebrants like himself are looking to change the way that the industries work.

To book email markyouroccasion@gmail.com or call 07928 829773

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 or call 077255 80046

Zoom Only

Neil Hanson : Inn and Out at the Top

Neil Hanson is a successful author with 70 published books to his name. As well as his own work, he's also a 'ghost writer' for many sports stars, showbiz legends, explorers, captains of industry, SAS men and fast-jet pilots. His talk *Inn & Out at the Top* is a laugh-a-minute tour of the quirks and foibles, highs and lows of his time running Britain's highest inn back in the 1970s and 1980s. Neil's account of grappling with tight-fisted farmers, eccentric characters, bizarre local customs, naturist weekends, 'lates and lock-ins', police raids, rats in the attic, close encounters with magistrates and planners and the shooting of a famous double-glazing commercial is suitable for all audiences.

To book call 07940 917745 or email ghostwriterneil@gmail.com

Chris Helme : A Selection of History and Nostalgia

To find out more visit www.chrishelme-brighthouse.org.uk

Book via 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. 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 To book call 07535 544307.

Zoom talks available

Mary Holmes : Elizabeth the Feisty Feminist

Mary's talk is drawn from the research for her book in which she outlines how Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy led the way in early women's rights and fighting for the vote. She generally uses slides and aims to engage with folks and relate the topic to where and how we live. All funds raised are for charity. Mary is based in Leeds and is prepared to travel to most of Yorkshire.

To book email mary@woodhall28.co.uk or call 07956 121465

Sir Thomas Ingleby : Ripley Castle

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

Jeff Jacklin

Jeff has three talks available. They all contain a lot of humour which he finds can provide a welcome contrast to some of the detailed subject matter talks often offer and are suitable for mixed audiences.

Life in the NHS – It Only Hurts When I Laugh

Retirement for Beginners

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Yorkshire

Jeff charges a fee of £50 which he donates to the Kirkwood Hospice in Huddersfield. He will travel to anywhere in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Durham and Lancashire but does not accept bookings outside of Huddersfield in January, February or March due to weather concerns.

To book call 07968 171197 or email jefftheref2000@yahoo.co.uk

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 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

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

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

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

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

The Leeds Waits : The Coffee House

This amusing and informative presentation tells the story of how coffee came to England, how the coffee house evolved and how the drink itself changed over the centuries from the early 1600s to the early 2000s. The accompanying music and Medieval costumes illustrate the times, mood and some of the sentiments being expressed. For more details visit

<http://www.leedswaits.org.uk/waits.htm>

To book email parkin804@hotmail.co.uk

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

Book via 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 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.

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

North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service : Safe & Well Visits

Safe & Well visits involve coming to your home to offer fire safety advice. Advice can also be given about health and wellbeing including giving up smoking, avoiding falls and keeping your home warm.

To book call 01609 788545 or visit www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/your-safety/safe-at-home

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 or call 07770 834836 or 01895 676594

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

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

Fran Sandham : A Solo Walk Across Africa

An experienced speaker at u3as, author, journalist and lecturer Fran Sandham has given well over 200 talks. He was the first person in history to walk across Africa solo from Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean at Zanzibar, as described in his *Traversa*.

For testimonials from u3a talks, please visit www.traversa.co.uk (under 'News' tab)

To book email fsandham@yahoo.co.uk

Zoom talks also available

Paul Schofield : Hull and Beverley History Talks

Paul is based in Hull. Book via schopaul@hotmail.com or by calling 01482 878535

Zoom talks available

David Sibbald : British Entertainment and History

David is based in Harrogate. His passion is cruising where he also gives talks by way of audio-video with commentary. Here is just a selection of the many options he offers:

Records banned by the BBC in the 40s and 50s : a humorous meander through time.

Step toe and Son : a Happy Family? An insight into the actors' real relationship.

Burke and Hare : Edinburgh's infamous suppliers of corpses.

Sir Bernard Spilsbury : the Home Office pathologist who helped convict Dr Crippen.

David will travel up to 30 miles. To book email davidtent@aol.com or call 07729 870039.

Kevin and Joy Siddall : Songs and Stories

Kevin and Joy have created 5 different 50 minute presentations that involve telling stories and performing songs from a variety of genres. They recently performed a Jubilee Themed show/talk for Oldham u3a which was very well received. They'd like to offer their presentations to other groups in West Yorkshire and are willing to travel up to 60 minutes from the M60.

To book email ksiddall@ntlworld.com or call 0161 612 3519 or 07709 9522366

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

Sue Stokes : A Taste of Wine

Sue runs a virtual Wine Appreciation Group in Barnsley. Members take it in turns to choose a wine, or an aspect of the wine industry, do their research and then share their presentation on the evening before leading the tasting section. Sue has given the presentation virtually for Barnsley u3a members and has subsequently done it for an external group.

To book call 07931 865903 or email ronsuestokes@btinternet.com

The talk can be done in person or via Zoom

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. 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 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 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

Book via 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

Zoom talks available

Helen and Keith Wilberforce : The Kirkwood Hospice

Helen and Keith are u3a members in the Holme Valley who also volunteer at the Kirkwood (the local hospice for Kirklees). They would love to give a talk, with slides, to any u3a that meets within the Kirklees area.

To book email ehwilberforce@gmail.com or call 07557 259933

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

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, and include as much detail as you can. They 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.

You could also email Marion Gamble via marion@mariongamble.karoo.co.uk or call her on 01482 868199.

Zoom talks also available.