

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. It has been sorted into broad categories but please note that some speakers cover more than one category.

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.

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. This list is updated as time permits. **(last update October 2026)**

For further information or queries please contact : **Pat Ackland:** TheSpeakerDirectory@yahru3a.uk

Index by Category

ENTERTAINMENT.....	3
ENTERTAINMENT/ HISTORY.....	10
HUMOUR.....	10
HISTORY.....	12
HISTORY/MUSIC	19
SOCIAL HISTORY.....	20
NATURAL HISTORY/TRAVEL.....	21
TRAVEL/HISTORY	21
TRAVEL	22
ASTRONOMY.....	25
NATURE / ANIMALS / CONSERVATION	26
PHOTOGRAPHY.....	27
SPORTS JOURNALISM.....	28
TV PERSONALITY	28
GENERAL.....	29

ENTERTAINMENT

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.	ashtons@email.com 0208 886 5343 or 07901 845765 He is based in London and can supply a memory stick of his talk for just £65 including postage.
Catherine Terry	'A Life Treading the Boards'	An Autobiographical Presentation of Life in Showbiz! All you every wanted to know about Show business... and some of the things you didn't want to know too!	catherine@songtime.biz 07971 890123 See her website www.songtime.biz She is very happy to travel anywhere for work, fee dependent.
	Theatre Traditions & Superstitions	The Mysteries behind the Curtain! Theatrical folk are among the most superstitious of individuals.	
	It's not where you start it's where you finish.	From Concept to Opening Night. A glimpse behind the curtain into the process of putting on a theatrical show from beginning to end.	
	The sensational singing stars of the 60's - Part 1.	Part 1. Lulu, Petula, Dusty, Helen, Sandie and Cilla. Flower Power & Free Love! The 60's was the era of great music, fashion & feminism.	
	The sensational Singing stars of the 60's - Part 2.	As above but covering the lives of Cilla & Petula Clark.	

	Doris Day- the darling of the silver screen.	Hollywood legend, Doris Day, was one of the biggest box-office draws of the 1950's and early-1960's.	
	Judy Garland- over the rainbow	Frances Ethel Gumm became a child star at the tender age of two years old. We look at how the rocky road of stardom and fame & fortune affected her life until her untimely death at just 47 years old.	
	Chocolate! A nation's favourite	It's not Terry's – It's MINE! A must for all chocolate lovers! The story of the famous 'Terry's of York'. Confectioner, Chocolatier, Industrialist and Politician - Joseph Terry, and what it means to be a relation of his....!	
	The Art of Afternoon Tea	A journey through Time and tradition! A celebration of elegance, tradition and indulgence to tantalize the tastebuds!	
	The British Obsession with Tea	<i>"The panacea for everything from weariness to a cold to a murder"</i> - Henry Fielding. George Orwell once declared that <i>"tea is one of the mainstays of civilization in this country"</i> .	
Stuart Atkins	My Life in Music.	Talk 1 is about all the big stars I have played for, the various bands, including my own 18 piece, the orchestras I have played with and	Stuartatkins70@yahoo.co.uk 0113 252 3867 or 07730 333445

		conducted, the places I have worked, the theatres and concert halls and about the time I was Musical Director at Batley Variety Club.	Stuart is based in Tingley.
	The Great American Songbook.	Talk 2 - I bring a keyboard and talk about, and play, a lot of the songs by the great writers, including: Irvin Berlin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, Johnny Mercer, Rogers and Hart, the Gershwin's, Burt Bacharach, etc. etc.	
	Sammy Cahn.	Talk 3 -The man credited with having <i>"put more words into Frank Sinatra's mouth than any other person"</i> ! I wrote a show about Sammy in the early nineties, which he saw and was very complimentary about. This talk is based on that show and I play some of his recorded songs by various artistes.	
	Big Bands of the swing era.	Talk 4 - From Duke Ellington through Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Stan Kenton, Billy May, etc. up to Ted Heath and my own band in the 70's.	
Malcolm Johnson	1000 Years of the English Language. Trekking in the Himalayas - the good and the bad. Famous for 12 Minutes? - a reality TV experience.	**These talks include popular music	malcolmjohnson261@gmail.com 0113 2582594 u3a member based in Rawdon, Leeds.

	**Charting the 1960's. **Charting the 1970s. **Charting the 1980s. Children's Favourites 1 - the 1950s Children's Favourites 2 - the 1960s and beyond. The Road to Big Sur - an off-beat account of a California road trip. Hull 1968 - the triple trawler disaster and the fight of "The Headscarf Heroes". "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Background" - stories behind the album and song lyrics.		
Bernard Bale	Various	You Must Remember This : A look back at childhood in the 1940s, 50s, 60s & 70s. Off The Presses : The life and times of a Fleet Street journalist. When Music Went Pop : A trip back to the music revolution of the 1950s and 60s. The Magic of The Movies The Great Entertainers : Behind the scenes with many of the great names. Norman Wisdom : A fascinating insight into the man. Sunday Night at The London Palladium: the fantastic stars the show hosted. Celebrating Doddy : Requested by (the late) Ken Dodd himself. So, You Want to Write? :	balewriting@gmail.com 01472 388717 Bernard is an award-winning former Fleet Street journalist who has worked on almost everything from serious investigations to politics, entertainment, sport, the royal family and finance. Bernard lives on the north-east coast of Lincolnshire and will travel all over the country.

		Includes a workshop section.	
Roger Browne	Roger presents twenty musical subjects & discusses and performs music from the genres of Jazz, Musical Theatre, The Great American Songbook, Ragtime, Vaudeville, and the Golden Age of Radio.	Roger is based in Stockport and will travel anywhere within the region.	Rogerafbrowne@outlook.com 07590 641386 Roger is a professional pianist, speaker, raconteur and singer. He is also President of Stockport Operatic Society and Artistic Director of Manchester Athenaeum Drama Society.
Brian Daniels	What it takes to put on a show.	This talk illustrates what it takes to put on a show and includes lots of anecdotes about the actors and directors he has worked with.	Briandaniels@plutoplayproductions.co.uk 07740 372333 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 will travel anywhere if costs are covered. Based in Leeds.
	'Write Now' - everybody has a story or a book in them.	In this 2nd talk, Brian Daniels talks about how he started playwriting when he was in his 40s and now has 28 plays to his credit.	
Patti Gold	An Amusing Look Back at my life in Showbiz.	Patti has worked with many famous names in showbiz and in her talks she recalls many amusing anecdotes. She has worked with a wealth of stars starting her career at the famous Batley Variety Club with her sister and a friend	patatkins8@hotmail.com 0113 252 3867 or 07708 121533 She comes from Tingley.

		as 'The Deb Set', then later 'Cool Breeze'. She then moved on to a solo career as 'Patti Gold' working in several TV shows. She tells the tales of comical happenings and amusing stories whilst working in all major theatres in this country and Worldwide.	
	Tracks of my Years	In this talk Patti sings songs which she has performed throughout her career as a successful entertainer. She tells stories of where and when she sang them and recalls amusing anecdotes associated with each performance.	
	Tracks of my Years 2	This is a sequel to her second talk, "The Tracks of my Years". She sings more songs associated with her career as an artist and tells tales of where and when she sang them.	
	Film Tracks	You have your favourites and Patti has hers, so she has put together some of the great film songs which you are bound to know and can sing along with.	
Paul Whittaker Zoom talks available	Music to Your Ears	Paul is a profoundly deaf musician. He's funny, informative and very inspirational.	Contact by email at paul@paulwhittaker.org.uk He lives in Rishworth, Halifax and is happy to travel.

Eddie Lawler	Tracking the Brontes.	One-hour presentation with music.	eddie@eddie-lawler.co.uk 07948 244777
	What D'You MEAN, Yorkshire?	It explores the past, present and possible future of the county (with some music and poetry).	Eddie is based in Scarborough.
Kevin and Joy Siddall	We have created 5 different 60 minute presentations that involve telling stories and performing songs from a variety of genres.	Joy & Kevin have been performing their show. Talks to the majority of u3a groups in Lancashire and Cheshire for 3 years, to much acclaim.	ksiddall@ntlworld.com 0161 612 3519 or 07709 9522366 Kevin & Joy are willing to travel up to 90 minutes from the postcode M43.
Fool's Gold (Steve & Carol Robson)	Victorian - all the bits you never knew you didn't know! (Bang up to the Elephant). Coal Mining - life in the coalfields of the North (Old King Coal). Interactive mystery Solving - a true, and unsolved mystery for the audience to unravel (Dark Light). The Sea - Nautical Nonsense and tales of the briny deep (Siren Song). The Remembrance Show - through the experience of Private M. Heaviside VC. Beat the Drum. The Christmas Show!	We have a wide range of presentations, all including live acoustic music (with plenty to join in with), the stories behind the songs and the projected visuals.	info@foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk 0795 7948116 Full details can be found at: https://www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk/show-list We will travel anywhere, fees arranged per engagement, starting at £85 plus fuel to travel - we keep it as low as possible so that we can play and you can enjoy!

ENTERTAINMENT/ HISTORY

Leeds Waits Coffee House	The story of how coffee came to England, how the coffee house evolved and how the drink itself changed over the centuries from the covering historical subjects.	Often wearing appropriate historical costumes, all are told through words and music, costumed in the appropriate period and often involving audience participation.	parkin804@hotmail.co.uk http:// www.leedswaits.org.uk/ waits.htm
	Historical (e.g. Richard III, Henry Stuart Lord Darnley) or based on themed folk tales (e.g. the Devil in Yorkshire, Feisty Females).		We are based in North West Leeds and will travel within a 40-50 miles radius of our base.

HUMOUR

Alan Swann Zoom talks available	Laughter is the Best Medicine.		alan.swann03@gmail.com 07718542607 He is based in Barnsley and is happy to travel up to 50 miles.
Will Atkinson	The Modern Man	Will's kids are placing increasingly exorbitant demands on him. As a result he's offered his services as a speaker His talk is quite humorous and factual, with a quiz at the end.	will@saltrevive.com 07713 482885 Will is based in Hornsea and is happy to travel within Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.

Jeff Jacklin	Life in the NHS – It Only Hurts When I Laugh Retirement for Beginners The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Yorkshire	Jeff’s talks 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.	To book call 07968 171197 jefftheref2000@yahoo.co.uk Speaker fee is £75 which he donates to the Kirkwood Hospice in Huddersfield. No longer able to accept evening bookings. 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. Will travel a maximum of 80 miles from Huddersfield.
Tim Forman	An Amusing History of Sales and Marketing Through My Own Eyes Anecdotes from an Extraordinary Life (so Far!) Going it Alone - Losing the Corporate Safety Net My Wives and Other Stories	Tim has been on the Yorkshire and Humber Speaker circuit for over 25 years and has spoken to several u3a groups including Settle (re-booked for 2026), Stockton, South Lakes, Doncaster, Sherburn and Villages (rebooked for 2026), Mawdsley and Leeds and, I am booked next year with u3a’s including Todmorden, Keighley, Wakefield and District, Selby, Caves and Swanland. Based on his wide and varied career and personal life Tim offers a range of talks which are all laced with good humour and include totally original material.	tim@timforman.com 07734843303 Will travel anywhere.

HISTORY			
Michael Kowalski	The Shroud of Turin	This 60-minute presentation provides an overview of this evidence, focusing in particular on the astounding findings revealed by scientific examinations of the image markings visible on the Shroud, which undermine the claim that a medieval artist could have simply “faked it up and flogged it”.	outlook@bstsnewsletter.com 07904 008449 I'll be happy to travel up to 60 or so miles from Halifax
Tony Ferguson	Somme Story: Andy Symington: Tyrone's Most Wanted Man Trilogy.	Andy Symington volunteered to join the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1916. Over the next seven years, he participated in the Battle of the Somme, the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War, a trilogy of military service experienced by fewer than sixty men.	tonyferg32@gmail.com 07769 361 795 Will travel anywhere within the region.
	The Contrasting Roles of British & Irish Women in War 1916-23	Countess Markiewicz- first woman to win a seat in the House of Commons (1918). Lady Astor- first woman to sit in the House of Commons (1919). Both suffragettes providing leadership roles for women in Ireland and Britain respectively.	
	The Irish War of Independence in Tyrone & Fermanagh	Discover the untold story of Andy Symington and his comrades in the IRA's Second Northern Division during Ireland's War of Independence.	

Joanne Aston Zoom talks available	Shackleton's Stowaways.	Unintended guests on Shackleton's Endurance .	jpa246@clannet.co.uk 01845 523530 or 07843 605345 Joanne lives in Thirsk and will travel up to 50 miles away.
	Righteous Among the Nations.	Gentiles honoured by the State of Israel.	
	The Mitford Men.	The men in the lives of the six infamous "Mitford Girls".	
	Mad Woman Walking : A pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.	After nearly 40 years in the public sector, Joanne decided to walk the 500 mile pilgrimage route.	
	Shackleton's Expedition to the Antarctic 1914	The good and the bad.	
	Pre-Raphaelite Art : Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital and the Hallelujah Chorus.	A personal view.	
Godfrey Wilson	Ripon Cathedral	Godfrey comes from Ripon itself and gives an illustrated talk describing 1350 years of the cathedral's history.	godfreymwilson@talktalk.net 01765 608990 or 07867 574427
Philip J Ashe	Titles include: 'Alfred the Great: saviour of the English and their language'; '1066: national catastrophe or saving grace?'; 'Thomas Becket; an enduring lesson in what not to do'; The English Reformation: the first Brexit';	Talks on English history ranging from the 7th to the 20thCs encompassing both notable men and women as well as more general themes.	ashesatgarforth@aol.com 0113 2867412 or 07506 724577

	'Wellington and Waterloo': the making of a military genius; Britain and the Great War (part 1): accidental empire, the sense of a mission, and the bane of imperialism'; 'Wallis (Simpson) of all People: how not to let a good crisis go to waste'; HMS Hood and the Nature of Human Folly: 'If it looks like a duck ...'		
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	There is a general presentation on the CWGC (we recommend this talk if you have not had a presentation before), one on our horticulture, one on our built structures and conservation and one on research .	The CWGG is responsible for commemorating the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in both World Wars as well as civilian casualties from the Second World War.	public.engagement@cwgc.org As well as offering talks, groups can book in for a guided tour at several sites across the region including Stonefall Cemetery in Harrogate where over 1000 of our casualties are buried.
Denis Harry Fox	A distinguished military and landscape artist who lives in Durham City	Talk 1 is supported by a display of two paintings from his collection and a visual aid of the eight RAF squadrons who were involved in the great air battle on 15th August 1940. Talk 2 is <i>"Beyond the Call of Duty"</i> (Heroes and Heroines from the North of England).	harryf2@live.com 07506 559456 Denis is happy to travel up to 70 miles from Durham and possibly further afield subject to agreed expenses.
Sir Thomas Ingilby	Ripley Castle		sirthomas@ripleycastle.co.uk or thomasingilby@gmail.com.

			07770 922632 Sir Thomas is based at Ripley, Harrogate & will travel 90-120 minutes from his base.
Mary Holmes	Elizabeth the Feisty Feminist Fulnek	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.	mary@woodhall28.co.uk 07956 121465 Mary is based in Leeds and is prepared to travel to most of Yorkshire.. All funds raised are for charity.
	The long journey...connecting Prague to Pudsey	The 2nd talk is a story that spans the centuries, covers thousands of miles and involves lots of chocolate cake. Plus, four World Heritage Sites along the way.	
Paul Schofield : Zoom talks available	Hull and Beverley History Talks		schopaul@hotmail.com 01482 878535 I can travel around Hull and East Yorkshire.
Joanna Bogle	Sue Ryder	I have recently published a book about this remarkable woman , whose name is familiar to many because of the charity shops she established. It is quite a story: a Yorkshire childhood, service in WWII with the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and SOE, then postwar work with refugees and, later, marriage to	07871362580 auntiejoanna@yahoo.co.uk I am not Yorkshire-based but am often in Hull so could travel from there. Travel is by rail.

		Leonard Cheshire and their joint work establishing care homes and other projects across Britain and overseas.	
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.	cdwinpenny@gmail.com 01765 608320 He has a wide range of other talks www.davidwinpenny.co.uk He lives in Ripon and is happy to travel anywhere by arrangement.
Graham Mitchell Zoom talks also available	Richard, the Northern King.	The Life of Richard III as Duke and King.	rgm@dockroyd.co.uk 01535 645454 Graham is based in Keighley and will travel within a 50 mile radius. Graham was formerly Town Mayor of Keighley and Chairman of Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.
	The King's Nephews - Life after Death?	What really happened to 'The Princes in the Tower'.	
	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.	
David Davies	David's talk, entitled 'Our Times', is illustrated.	Post-1945 UK History	davidwdavies@hotmail.com 01423 871673 He comes from Harrogate & will travel to North Yorks/North

			Leeds.
Eric Jackson Zoom talks available	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 a professional speaker and specialises in community groups.	amiducour@live.co.uk 07580 485285 Eric is based in Pontefract and will travel anywhere within the district. He currently travels as far north as Ripon and south as far as Lincoln. East to the coast and west to the Yorks/Lancs border.
Jenny Mallin Zoom only	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.	Her book A Grandmother's Legacy won the Best In World cookbook award for 2017 with the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Society. 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.	jennymallin@yahoo.com 07854 964886 Jenny is a Berkshire-based award-winning author and public speaker.
David Hardcastle	Talk 1 is police history in general and another in the same format but all about the history of horses used by the police. The mounted Section.		constable2147@live.co.uk 07426 101266 I am based in West Yorkshire but I will travel to surrounding counties in the north of England for an adjusted fee to cover additional travelling time, mileage and fuel. I already have talks booked in Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire

			and Lancashire.
Grant Cullen	Talk 1 The Great War of 1914-1918 – Over-view. Talk 2 The Opening Exchanges – Mons and Ypres 1914. Talk 3 Women Won the War. Talk 4 The Empire Strikes Back – India in The Great War. Talk 5 Steaming to the Front. Britain`s Railways in WW1.</b></p> <p><b>Talk 6 First Air War 1914-1918.</b></p> <p><b>Talk 7 The Munitions Crisis of 1915.</b></p> <p><b>Talk 8 Gallipoli !</b></p> <p><b>Talk 9 Verdun and Somme 1916.</b></p> <p><b>Talk 10 Quintinshill 22nd May 1915 –Britain`s Worst Railway Disaster. Talk 11 Naval Warfare in WW1. Talk 12 1918 Defeat into Victory. Talk 13 Armistice and Aftermath.		grantcullen@hotmail.com tgculen1952@gmail.com 07824 628638 I do not charge any fee, I just suggest payment for travel expenses, the rate being based upon the recommended mileage figure for private car's use by HMRC.

	Talk 14 Clearing the Dead. Talk 15 Commemoration & Remembrance of The Great War 1914-1918. Talk 16 Worksop`s WW1 VC....William Henry Johnson -this is shorter at 30 minutes –all others 50-60 minutes, although can adjust to suit. Talk 17 Casualty! Talk 18 The Industrial Battlefield.		
HISTORY/MUSIC			
Peter Barnard de Mowbray's Musicke	Life as a Medieval musician. Life as a Tudor musician.	They will sing, dance and play an amazing array of historical instruments and talk about their use, development and manufacture.	peter.barnard@me.com Our website is www.demowbray.info 01427 873937 and 07919 627270
	Music, songs and instruments from Medieval Spain.	They will bring many of their period instruments to use and talk about in a presentation about music, songs, and instruments from Medieval Spain.	

	Dances of the Yorkshire Dales.	Musicians and dance teachers, Peter Barnard and Mark Wallace, will talk about the over 50 dances (a mixture of folk dances and old time dances) collected in the 20th century in the Yorkshire Dales. There are dances for sets of couples as well as couple dances. These dances were danced in the villages throughout the Dales, and were a regular point of social contact for those who lived in these remote villages. They will teach you to dance these simple and enjoyable dances. No experience is needed, just comfortable footwear.	
SOCIAL HISTORY			
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.	callen@sandtoft.org 07968 481762 Chas is based in Settle but is prepared to travel across the region.

NATURAL HISTORY/TRAVEL

Jim Holmes	Jim is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a professional speaker and a documentary photographer who works on commercial and humanitarian projects around the globe.	Jim has spoken to over 200 groups, societies and clubs throughout the UK and all his talks are illustrated with an abundance of beautiful images and are both entertaining and informative. Covering fascinating locations around the world, such as Laos where Buddhism and Socialism meet, Cambodia and the Ancient Kingdom of Angkor, Japan, Bowing to Tradition and The story of Ceylon tea in Sri Lanka. Additional presentations feature Mongolia, Afghanistan, Finland and other locations.	jim@jhpix.com 07535 544307. Jim offers 15 talks. For a full lecture list visit his website: www.jimholmes.co.uk Jim is based in Chester but is happy to travel.
-------------------	---	--	---

TRAVEL/HISTORY

Pam Alexander	Lindisfarne and More	The talk is a tour of the Holy Island pointing out the many historic landmarks e.g. Gertrude Jekyll's garden.	pamalexander@outlook.com 01670 514276 Pam is based in Northumberland & would be prepared to travel as far as York but obviously would require a higher fee to take account of mileage costs. She would require the use of a projector.
----------------------	-----------------------------	---	---

Adrian Gray	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 and many more.	Adrian 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/ Lincs.	adriangray@pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk 07470 366689 Adrian lives near Lincoln and will travel within North Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire but will charge travel expenses.
TRAVEL			
Alison Mees Zoom only	Living the African Dream Travelling around Rajasthan, India *Waiting The Moment – Light, Interaction & Composition	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. *This wildlife photography talk takes audiences on a photographic journey through Africa, exploring how patience, observation and understanding animal behaviour can help create stronger and more compelling images.	07497 163391 Alisonmeesphotography@gmail.com For details visit: www.alisonmeesphotography.com Alison is based in Southend so can only offer Zoom talks at £60.
Kevin Lennox Zoom talks available	Travel talks including: the Wonders of New Zealand - North & South Island, Western Canada, Switzerland, California, the		kwlennox57@gmail.com 01302 851830 Kevin comes from Doncaster, is available during the day and

	Channel Islands, Greenwich and Germany's Lake Constance.		evening and is prepared to travel 45 mins. or up to an hour from Doncaster if close to a motorway.
Ken Dunn MBE Zoom talks available	Africa up close and personal!	I have facilitated u3a members coming to work up close on our projects in Africa - so I come with a warning! I may tempt some to come to Lesotho and / or Uganda where we have very impactful partnerships!	ken@africasgift.org 07528 529766 Ken is happy to come anywhere in the district.
Fran Sandham	A SOLO WALK ACROSS AFRICA	His solo walk across Africa was described in his critically-acclaimed book: <i>Traversa: A Solo Walk Across Africa</i> . Fran took on the challenge of a lifetime by walking coast-to-coast across Africa, from the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar. This was the first time on record anyone has crossed Africa solo entirely on foot by this route - or at least solo apart from a disastrous donkey. He undertook this 3,500-mile journey with no backup, no support team, no sponsors, no film crew, and no strings attached.	fsandham@yahoo.co.uk Will travel anywhere. A very experienced speaker at u3as across the country, author, journalist and lecturer, Fran has given well over 600 talks. For testimonials from u3a talks, please visit www.traversa.co.uk (under 'News' tab)
	DR LIVINGSTONE, I PRESUME?	The story behind the legendary meeting in Africa in 1871 between the missing explorer Dr David Livingstone and the ambitious news reporter, Henry Morton Stanley. How their	

		meeting proved to be the newspaper scoop of the century, bringing Stanley world fame and notoriety; the widespread controversy, hostility and personal ridicule Stanley faced on his return to Europe and America after finding Livingstone; why their meeting was such a sensational news story – and why Stanley's four words became the most famous greeting in history.	
	AFRICAN ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS	Some alarming and amusing encounters of the non-human variety from the expeditions of the great African explorers in history (accompanied by a few of Fran's own experiences during his 3,500-mile solo walk across Africa, from Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar).	
	THE SEA ROUTE TO INDIA	The extraordinary story of how the fifteenth-century Portuguese explorers braved everything from natural obstacles to superstitious dread in order to discover a sea route around Africa to reach the rich spice markets of the East; how their journeys were originally inspired not so much by commerce, but by the quest to find the mythical Christian emperor Prester John.	

David Wadkin MBE	Various travel talks	For full talk descriptions- see this link https://speakernet.co.uk/speaker/1634/david-wadkin-mbe	dwadkin@blueyonder.co.uk 07846137178 Prepared to travel anywhere- may ask for travel expenses.
Ranjit Arora	“ Travels & Travails” “From Himalayan Foothills to Yorkshire Dales”	The talk is based on my self - Published, semi-biographical memoirs, entitled “ <i>Travels and Travails: Mona's Journey</i> ”. So far my talks have been delivered via zoom during Covid and some have been in person in and around Yorkshire. I should also mention that I am very widely travelled and also prepared to do talks about my travels.	rphoenix42@gmail.com 07794598596 I am prepared to travel if expenses are covered.
ASTRONOMY			
Martin Whillock ZOOM ONLY	The Solar System	Martin's talk is mostly about the Solar System and how it relates to the human scale. It lasts about 40 minutes.	https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/ / subjects/astronomy

NATURE / ANIMALS / CONSERVATION

Gaynor Ayres	Foraging	Foraging Gaynor offers informative talks, walks and demonstrations regarding foraging. She is an experienced and qualified forager	greengaynor1@gmail.com 07812 652606 She has been running foraging walks within a 20 mile radius from Danby and Whitby for many years but will travel elsewhere within the region.
Kathleen Barnett	Animal Rescue & Conservation	4 different talks available	katy@barnett.karoo.co.uk 01482 890050 Based in Hull, will travel up to 1 hour away.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Steve Midgley	1. A Year Looking for Kingfishers 2. Botswana 3. Wildlife, Street Life and Tigers 4 Lions and tigers and bears Oh My 5 Yorkshires Hidden Gems 6. Japan and Hong Kong	1. how I got into wildlife photography and the animals I met while trying to photograph kingfishers. Including owls, deer, eagles, seals, otters and foxes! I recommend this one first as an introduction to me and what I get up to 2. Birds and Beasties Into the Delta – my recent trip to Africa 3. a visit to India to photograph Bengal Tigers and everything else along the way 4. Botswana, India and Finland all in one 5. Wildlife off the beaten track 6. A trip East	wildlifepirate@gmail.com 07581 293605 www.wildlifepirate.co.uk I currently work on about an hour's drive from Halifax but open to offers if there's an add on for petrol
Sandra Barber	Me and My Camera; Me and My Camera Along The Yorkshire Coast.	Her talk consists of a slide show 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. She also includes some interesting information, anecdotes & facts about the area.	info@sandrabarberphotography.co.uk Sandra is a self employed photographer based in Filey and is happy to travel throughout the region.

SPORTS JOURNALISM

Peter Slater	Don't You Know Who I Am?	Peter is a retired radio sports reporter who worked for both ILR and then the BBC Radio Network. His book (with the above title) recounts 45 years of being ignored by sports' rich and famous and he has stories to tell. He's been assaulted by a World Motor Racing Champion, had confrontations with a drunken Brian Clough and an angry Alex Ferguson, has interviewed the most famous man in the world and been thrown off the pitch at Wembley whilst live on air. Peter has been there, seen it, done it and spoken to the winners and losers - but they still don't know who he is! His talks are becoming increasingly popular with u3a groups and not just male dominated ones.	slaterpeter@aol.com 07860 641066 Peter will travel anywhere in Yorkshire and is especially interested in talks in the North-East. His fee is a flat £60 plus petrol money.
---------------------	---------------------------------	---	---

TV PERSONALITY

Jacqui Harris	Jacqui's talks are all around Antiques and Vintage.	Jacqui always adds an interactive element	andrewmuller098@gmail.com (preferably) or 07734101837 Based in Horncastle, Jacqui can cover Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, and would do further upon request.
----------------------	--	--	---

GENERAL

Kerry Holmes	My role involves raising awareness of the issue of illegal tobacco and vapes in West Yorkshire.	As well as explaining what constitutes illegal nicotine products, I can give in-depth information about the associated criminal activities going on behind the scenes in our local high street shops. I can share some shocking photos, video clips and stories from our officers as well as details of our successes and challenges, and how communities can help. I'm also happy to answer questions about smoking and vaping, and the new Tobacco and Vapes Act.	kerry.holmes@westyorksjointservices.gov.uk 0113 5353 101 My usual working hours are Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm West Yorkshire area
Mark Jessop	Weather Folklore.	Traditional forecasting sayings, Origins, What might work and what shouldn't.	mnjessop12@gmail.com 07792 853396 Area Covered: Hull and the East Riding, North and North East Lincolnshire.
	Extreme Weather.	Hurricanes, tornadoes and UK storms. What causes them and what are the effects.	
	Clouds.	Recognising the main cloud types and the weather associated with them.	
	Weather Forecasting.	A brief history of weather forecasting and current developments.	
	The Shipping Forecast.	Understanding the much loved National Treasure.	

Alan Hunton	Ice Age Trees	A History of how Trees moved to Britain after the Ice Sheets retreated.	alanhunton@gmail.com 07939 051499 I am a member of u3a in York. I am based just South of York and would be happy to travel about 1 hour from York.
	Ancient Trees and Ancient Woodland in Yorkshire.	With examples from around the county and an acknowledgement of the work of the Woodland Trust.	
	A History of Crude Oil - From Mesopotamian Origins to Colonel Drake.		
	Serendipity - A look at 9 or 10 fascinating discoveries that were made purely by chance.		
Sasha Hill	Rasputin Files or Rasputin the Mad Monk.	Often referred to as the 'Mad Monk', but this is wrong!	mybrightpath@hotmail.com 07779 359770 I live in Burley in Wharfedale so am happy to travel to the local area, Harrogate, Skipton, Knaresborough, Boroughbridge and Settle. Further afield on request. More details about each talk are available on request.
	Mary Ann Cotton - Mass Murderer or Misunderstood Matriarch?	Mary Anne Cotton was hanged in Durham jail in 1873 for the murder of one child. Did she murder more people?	

	The Eccentric Bronte's.	Most people know of the famous sisters Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte, but this talk encompasses all eight members of Patrick Bronte's family.	
Olivia Rylwinski	Olivia gives talks about her writing and her novels sharing her journey to becoming a published author.		llivvyrytwinski@gmail.com 07983 211894 Olivia is a published author of five psychological thriller novels set in Northern Britain. She lives in Yorkshire.
Yorkshire Air Ambulance Zoom talks available			info@yaa.org.uk 01422 237900 Alternatively, you can call or write to: Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Cayley House, 10 South Lane, Elland, HX5 0HQ. Or email Marion Gamble via marion@mariongamble.karoo.co.uk or call 01482 868199.
Dorothea Kazounis	1. Actions Speak Louder than Words 2. Introduction to non verbal communication		dmkaz@hotmail.co.uk 0114 230 6366 Dorothea comes from Sheffield and will be available from June-October 2025.

Neil Hanson	In & Out at the top	Neil 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. The first talk 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.	ghostwriterneil@gmail.com 07940 917745
	The Ghost Writer	His 2nd talk gives us privileged glimpses into the hidden worlds of Neil's ghostwriting clients, including some very famous names and some 'ordinary people achieving extraordinary things', and also reveals the truth behind one of the most earth-shattering events of our times. His talk is revelatory and insightful, but also very, very funny.	
Peter Mathers	Theme of talks: Gardens (but note they are not talks about	Rather than list my talks please refer to my website petermathers.weebly.com	petermathers.speaker@gmail.com 07940 517442

	gardening)	for details.	Based in York but will travel any distance. No fixed fee, dependent on audience and miles from home.
Jason Brooks	Mary's Meals 1 A Simple Solution to World Hunger 2 A Mary's Meals Film Screening	1 Discover how a daily school meal is helping more than three million children access education and build a brighter future. This inspiring presentation explores the story of Mary's Meals, its work across 16 countries, and how communities across Yorkshire are supporting this global mission. 2 An inspiring film screening sharing the remarkable story of Lettie Saidi from Malawi and how access to school meals transformed her life. The screening includes an introduction to Mary's Meals, the opportunity for discussion afterwards, and a chance to learn more about the impact of the charity's work	jason.brooks@marysmeals.org 07593 447285 Based in York and happy to travel throughout Yorkshire.
Rowan Ackroyd	Canal & River Trust	For the rest of the country the Canal & River Trust may have speakers and contact should be made by calling on 0303 040 4040. Please note this phone line is only open 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.	<u>rowan.ackroyd@gmail.com</u> 07969362103. Will speak at the following; Keighley, Ilkley, Skipton, Bradford, Todmorden & Leeds. We will however be off cruising the canals from the end of April until the end of September 2026.
Emily O'Neill	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People		<u>emily.oneill@hearingdogs.org.uk</u>

			www.hearingdogs.org.uk 07436 832859
Helen and Keith Wilberforce	The Kirkwood Support Life – the joys of volunteering at our local hospice		ehwilberforce@gmail.com Free talk with Powerpoint slides suitable for u3as in the Kirklees area which The Kirkwood serves.
Sue Stokes : Zoom talks available	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.	ronsuestokes@btinternet.com 07931 865903 I'm happy to travel anywhere within the region
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.	travellingblind1@aol.com 07719 490803 I am prepared to travel up to 100 miles from Beeford, East Yorkshire. I charge 25p per mile. My fee for this year (2025) is £75

Jenny Allison	Limitless: Go from surviving in pain to thriving without!	<i>Are aches and pains a part of the ageing process?</i> <i>Can we actually improve our physical health, strength and fitness as we age or if we have pain?</i> <i>Is there any hope of recovering from pain when we have tried all the traditional treatments?</i> Yes, Yes and Yes! I will share how I have had 25 years as a physio, with the last 10 years specialising in helping clients and patients with persistent pain, who have failed to get the support and help they need to live life as they choose.	jenny@jennyallison.com 07786 518346 Jenny will travel anywhere within our region.
Clare Read-O'Donnell	The History of the Melton Mowbray Pork Pie.	With pie raising demos.	clare-odonnell@outlook.com 0778 3816025 Willing to travel. My base fee is £50 for an hour talk. However, for any venue over 1.5 hours, my charge is £70. All venues expenses are 26p per mile after the first ten miles.
	Barrels, Bottles & Bad decisions.	Gin, smuggling & London antics.	
	A break from War to Pick a Plum.	Wartime in the vale, British restaurants & feeding the nation.	
Jane Wright	Mary's Meals	A talk about a little known charity who feed the poorest children across the world providing 1 meal a day at school.	jane.wright@marysmeals.org 0739 5798196 There are regional volunteers. Jane will put you in touch with your area's representative.

Dave Pickersgill & John Stocks	A History of Worksop & Retford Brewery	The History of the brewery from Victorian England to post war takeover.	Dpickersgill1@gmail.com 07795 644 899 johnstocks1861@gmail.com 07958 462091 We are normally happy to travel up to 20 miles from Sheffield.
	Alcohol, Beer & the British Soldier in WW1	A broad-brush overview approach to the subject which includes an overview of the Great War before concentrating on the resilience of the British Expeditionary Force during WW1 and their access to alcohol.	
	Sheffield 1925: Gang wars & Wembley Glory	Explains how Sheffield briefly became the most turbulent city in Britain.	
	Little Chicago: Gang wars & Pub Heritage	This pub heritage talk concentrates on the Little Chicago area of Sheffield taking you back from the C19th up to the current day.	
Mark Gregory	Weddings and Funerals. 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.	Mark is an award-winning Family and Funeral Celebrant, Live Vocalist, Quizmaster, Master of Ceremonies, and general 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.	markyouroccasion@gmail.com 07928 829773 Would be happy to travel anywhere in the region you've specified, providing fuel costs are covered.

