

## What's on u3a York March 2026

Dear u3a York member,



Welcome to the March “What’s on” email. We do hope you are enjoying seeing the first signs of spring emerging.

Please do read the important message from our Chair, Karen Sawyer. As you know u3a York is run entirely by its members for its members and we do wish to encourage you to consider giving even a small amount of time to volunteering with us. To find out more about what we do and what volunteering opportunities are available, we would love to have you drop in at our “Meet the Team” event on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in the Penn Room.

Elsewhere in the email you will find news of an interesting Group seeking new members, a travel trip to the stunning Yorkshire Dales ready to be booked now, and details of our Saturday Talk and Saturday Social – with something of a theme emerging of talks about well-known York architecture.

Please do read the email all the way through and respond where relevant as noted in the email, or if you do not have access to email, please contact the Office on 01904289293. Please DO NOT respond to this email as responses will not be monitored.

If you need to alert the membership to a relevant opportunity or event please contact [eventsleadyorku3a@gmail.com](mailto:eventsleadyorku3a@gmail.com), or if it relates to a new or changing Group get in touch via [yorku3agroups@gmail.com](mailto:yorku3agroups@gmail.com). Any communication for the next month’s email must be received at least seven days before the end of the month. The “What’s on” team will contact you to let you know whether we are able to include your piece or to suggest a different method of communication

## **Message from our Chair and invitation to drop in at our “Meet the Team” event on 11 March at 2pm**

As many of you know, this is an exciting time for u3a York as we move to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and appear set to have our highest number of members since the start. However, we do depend entirely on member volunteers to run our organisation, and we do now have vacancies in many of our functions (see below). We have openings for people who might like to get deeply involved in our work and for those of you who may be willing to just give a couple of hours of your time each month.

We are currently looking for members to help out in the following functions:

Finance team

Groups Coordination

Membership and Office

Travel team

Equipment and IT

Events and Socials

To give you an opportunity to find out more about our Board of Trustees and Operational Teams and to discuss possible volunteering opportunities we would like to invite you to an informal drop in “Meet the Team” event where you can join us for a cup of tea or coffee and chat about what we do and perhaps how you could help. The event will be held in the Penn Room at Friargate from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. No need to book – just drop in, we would love to see you!

If you cannot make that date but are still interested in chatting to us, just drop a line to Beryl Oppenheim at [eventsleadYorku3a@gmail.com](mailto:eventsleadYorku3a@gmail.com) and we will arrange a chat with the most relevant person.

Karen Sawyer

Chair, u3a York

## **Groups News**

### **Listening to Literature**

Do you enjoy 'listening' to your 'reading, maybe while driving, relaxing, or doing household jobs? If so, you would be welcome to join us. We meet to discuss literature that we've listened to. Members take it in turns to choose the books.

We meet at my home on Badger Hill, to the east of York off the Hull Road generally on the third Friday each month, 1.45pm-3.15pm.

There will be no charge.

17<sup>th</sup> April – Wives and Daughters by Mrs Gaskell

19<sup>th</sup> June – Yet to be chosen

If you'd like to join us, but prefer reading a physical copy that will be fine, though we don't guarantee that what we listen to will always be available in print.

Elisa Main

[elisamain@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elisamain@yahoo.co.uk)

01904 438976

### **Croquet season starting**

The croquet season begins in April, just after Easter. There will be sessions on Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, at York Croquet Club in Scarcroft Road. There is a charge of £6 a session.

New players are welcome. Please email [aileen@amhinja.net](mailto:aileen@amhinja.net) or ring 07939 090036.

## Travel monthly news

All our UK trips can be seen listed on this page on the York u3a website:

[https://york.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/travel-uk/](https://york.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/travel-uk/)



The next trip that is taking bookings is a day in The Yorkshire Dales Tuesday 12th May. The cost will be £21. Coffee at Brymor ice cream parlour at Jervaulx, time in Hawes and a tour of The Wensleydale Creamery, with a scenic return trip.

Paper copies of the details and booking forms are also in the office.

For any queries contact [travelukyorku3a@gmail.com](mailto:travelukyorku3a@gmail.com)

**Saturday Talk 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Central Methodist Hall 1030 -1130am  
(Tea/coffee available from 945am)**



**Talk: Retrofitting the Central Methodists and other listed buildings**

**Speaker: Angie Creswick**

Angie Creswick works for York Methodist Circuit advising churches on buildings and resource management. She originally trained as a civil engineer and has project management experience with employers such as London Docklands Development Corporation and Yorkon, a York based design-build fast-track building contractor.

Angie has lived in the Middle East and the USA and whilst living in Virginia was the Facilities Manager for Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. Returning to England in 2013 she obtained a Masters in Conservation Studies (Historic Buildings) from the University of York. Angie's talk will be on how Methodist churches are working in partnership with other organisations to lower the carbon footprint of their buildings, and the challenges this presents particularly in historic buildings such as Central Methodist Church. It's not often that the audience for a talk is actually sitting inside the thing that is being talked about!

This promises to be a most interesting and engaging talk and we do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

The talk will be available live via zoom and the recording will be made available following the talk. Watch out for zoom details in forthcoming emails

**Cost: £3 plus £1 for refreshments    NO need to reserve spaces to attend in person**

**Saturday Social Talk 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026 10am Penn Room, Friends Meeting House**

**Talk: 1225 and All That – a History of York Minster**

**Speaker: Rob Stay**



There has been a minster in York for about fourteen centuries. In his talk Rob Stay will briefly give an account of that long history and describe various features of the

building. His qualifications for doing this rest primarily on what he has learned since becoming a Minster Guide in 2013.

At a personal level, Rob grew up in Bristol and Somerset and came to York in 1972 to study philosophy at the university. He has a deep love for medieval churches, be they big or small and according to him, they don't come any bigger than York Minster and only rarely much better. This has encouraged him to study the Minster beyond the strict needs of giving a guided tour.

This is bound to be an extremely popular talk so do keep an eye out for the email and follow the instructions to reserve a place.

**Cost £3 to include tea/coffee and refreshments**

## **u3a Nationally**

For a wide range of free online talks and events just sign up and book at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events#Events>. Highlights for March include a number of interesting talks on 12<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate u3a British Women's History Day and a talk entitled Deafness and beyond: the tribulation and triumph of Ludwig van Beethoven by Professor Christopher Dowrick. These do tend to fill up quickly so do take a look at what is on offer and book early.

Best wishes

Beryl

Beryl Oppenheim

Events and Communications Lead

u3a York