What's On u3a York November 2026

Welcome to the November edition of u3a York "What's On".

The clocks have changed, Halloween is behind us, but there is still time to join a group before Christmas. We have 142 groups of which 97 have spaces for new members and 10 have a waiting list. For a complete list of groups please go to our web site Groups - u3a York.

Please do read all the way through and respond where relevant as noted, or if you do not have access to email, please contact the Office on 01904 289293.

Contents

Contents 1
The u3a York Times 1
Groups News 2
Go 2
Folk and Fairy Tales 2
Open Mic (proposed new group) 3
Like a Rolling Stone 4
Historic York Tours 4
Notes from the Office 5
Office assistant 5
Freebies 5
Saturday Talks and Socials 5
Arthur Walker's Great War 5
Writing new Sherlock Holmes adventures 6
Travel News 7
Travel UK 7
Travel Abroad 7
Getting involved in your u3a 8
Group leaders 8

The u3a York Times

"The u3a York Times" is our newsletter, published quarterly and focused on reports about what has already taken place. For example, information from the groups about their activities, travel trips, and news in general.

Find the latest, and past editions of our quarterly new magazine on our website: The u3a York Times - u3a York

Groups News

Go

Where/When: u3a office from 2.00-4.00pm on the first and third Tuesdays

Group web page: Go

Go is a two-player 'war' boardgame that was being played in China at least 2,500 years ago, which makes it the oldest known boardgame continuously played to the present day. Go was subsequently refined in Japan and now has many millions of players across China, Japan and Korea, where the top players are full-time professionals. Player numbers in the West are much smaller, but growing.

The object of the game is to capture more territory than one's opponent by surrounding it with either the black or the white Go 'stones' on a board with a 19×19-line grid. While the basic rules of the game are relatively simple, the possibilities are infinitely complex. This is best evidenced by its having taken twenty years longer for a computer to beat the world's top Go player than was the case with chess. Go has a significant advantage over chess for learners in that it has a very effective handicap system that allows beginners to play on equal terms with much stronger players.

Wikipedia gives a full, if indigestible, account of Go for those who might like to read more about the game.

Our group meets in the u3a office from 2.00-4.00pm on the first and third Tuesdays every month. If you think you might be interested in joining, please contact David Maughan Brown via the link on the group web page.

Folk and Fairy Tales

When: 4th Monday of month PM

Group web page: Folk and Fairy Tales

At the recent recruitment session, few people stopped to chat. The trouble, I'm sure, lay in the fairytales in our group's title: The 'Folk and Fairy tale group'.

Now in its seventh year of lively talk and inquiry, it has just expanded its range to include folklore, of which the tales are but a part. But let's clear the air about fairies first: they have nothing to do with little girls in ballet dresses, silver wands, or tinsel! The tales were never intended for children, till the Victorians adopted and tamed them. Katherine Briggs counted over 180 eighty fairy types, including giants, dragons, and hobs. Hob Moor across the road from York Racecourse, is a relic of pre-scientific beliefs – they

linger in superstition from a time when magic, witches, and spells were credible explanations for sickness, bad luck, and disaster. A hob might help with farm or housework, but woe betide, if you weren't respectful. Why are horseshoes sometimes nailed to old front doors? Why are worn shoes attached to the car as newlyweds depart for their honeymoons? (It's not a bawdy joke). What are the stories behind apparently innocent nursery rhymes? Politics, religious persecution, corruption, and mocking satire lie behind many a rhyme for soothing infants. Folklore is ancient, alive, thriving, and all around us.

Welcome to our re-named **Folklore Group**.

Open Mic (proposed new group)

Amongst the best ways to improve as a musician is to perform in front of others and to record your performance. However, not everyone has recording facilities, and it can be daunting to perform in front of strangers. In addition, many open mic sessions at venues around York don't start until after 8pm which doesn't suit everyone.

A u3a York Open Mic group would give players of any standard a chance to meet up in the afternoon and to play their instrument, with or without singing, in front of a supportive, non-judgemental group of like-minded folk. Performance anxiety can be really off-putting, so honing your skill in a relaxed, supportive atmosphere can ease the anxiety, helping you to build confidence and develop as a musician.

The only feedback you'll get from other participants will be encouragement, unless you specifically ask for advice.

Any genre or music and any portable acoustic instrument will be suitable and even an electric guitar would be ok with the volume set low so nobody needs earplugs. A small practice amp can be made available if I know you need one.

Recording would be available for those who feel ready for it but will always be optional....no pressure.

To begin with we're offering a fortnightly meet at the group leader's home for a max of 6 people (who don't mind dogs saying hello) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month in the afternoon from 1.30pm-4pm (or when we've run out of things to play … or biscuits, whichever comes first!). The format is simple: we'll sit in a rough circle, and each person will play one tune before we move on to the next player. You can 'pass' on your turn if you're not ready or have run out of things to play (there's nothing stopping you playing the same tune more than once if you want). You're at liberty to leave when you're finished playing your last tune, but you'd be welcome to stick around and support others who have more tunes in their repertoire if you're able.

As and when the demand warrants it, we can look to move to a suitable venue in a pub, cafe or meeting room and we can consider whether to change the frequency, so regard this as a starting point.

If interested, please contact Paul Stead at paul_stead@mac.com or on 07917 554166 if you need to discuss anything. Once the numbers interested are known booking slots will be made available for each session on a first come first served basis if spaces are limited.

Like a Rolling Stone

Where/When: u3a Centre, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month PM

Group web page: Like a Rolling Stone

Why do the songs of Bob Dylan still resonate with us today? In this group we explore some of the classic albums and artists of the 60s and 70s, focusing on the lyrics of the songs and sharing our responses. Bob Dylan, Nick Drake, Joni Mitchell, Sandy Denny, Pink Floyd and many more artists feature in our sessions. Blues, folk, soul, progressive rock: no genre is excluded. We also like to discover more obscure artists who played their part in the evolution of popular music. These informal, relaxed sessions will be shaped by group discussion, members' interests, and shared enthusiasm. No specialist knowledge is needed – just an enjoyment of music and a willingness to listen, reflect and discover something new together.

To join or find out more please contact Martin Fletcher via the link on the group web page.

Historic York Tours

When: First Friday of the month (TBC)

Group web page: Historic York Tours

Colin Atkinson is putting out a call for all interested parties to join a walking group round specific locations in York to discuss their history. He would love to share his knowledge of multiple sites in York. He has been a member of the Association of Voluntary Guides to the City of York for over 40 years and regularly managed flood response in his career with the Environment Agency before retirement. He would like these to be discussions as opposed to lectures. Locations that come to mind:

- Kings Manor
- St Mary's Abbey and Museum Gardens
- The City Walls

- Clifford's Tower and the Eye of York
- Riverside York including the Bridges
- The history of flooding in York

The frequency would be once a month, possibly the first Friday and the duration 90 minutes please contact Colin via the link on the group web page, and he will get back to you with more definite plans.

Notes from the Office

Office assistant

We are looking for an Assistant to support the Office Coordinator. The role would involve aiding the Office Co-ordinator in all aspects of the role i.e. co-ordinating office activities: maintaining the office rota: updating records etc.

It is estimated that the role would involve 2-4 hours per week with a combination of remote and office-based work. If you would like to have a chat about the role in more detail, please contact Mo: office.coord@u3ayork.org.uk

Freebies

FREE to a good home:

- DVDs of Operas and Classical Music Compilations
- CDs and DVDs of Shakespeare plays
- 2 Books: Imperium Latin and Imperium Book 3
- Box set of the Sopranos.

If you are interested in any of these items, please call into the office to have a look and/or take away with you. They will be in the office until the end of the month and they will then be moved on.

We also have a collection of fiction and nonfiction books which you are welcome to take away or swop.

Saturday Talks and Socials

Arthur Walker's Great War

Saturday **Talk** 14th November 2026 Central Methodist Hall 10.30 -11.30am (Tea/coffee available from 9.45am). Speaker: **Chris Cade**

Born in Hull, Chris Cade trained at York St John and Bretton Hall and was a co-founder of Platform 4 Theatre at the National Railway Museum. As a former teacher with over 30 years' experience in museum theatre, Chris offers quality heritage learning opportunities from KS1 to u3a! He regularly delivers educational theatre for museums, schools and community groups across Yorkshire and beyond, portraying costumed characters through the centuries from Viking and Victorian times through to the World Wars of modern times. He says:

"Arthur Walker (1898-1973) was an under-age recruit of the Wolds Wagoners in 1914 and subsequently joined the Leeds Pals. He was taken as a prisoner of war and returned home safely to North Yorkshire in 1918. I play Arthur as a veteran, looking back. I interviewed his widow, Dorothy (1919-2018) and daughter Elsie (born 1939) and was privileged to be given permission to tell his tale."

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.

There is no admission charge for members, but we ask for a voluntary donation from guests.

No need to reserve spaces to attend in person.

Writing new Sherlock Holmes adventures

Saturday **Social** 28th November; Penn Room, Friends Meeting House; 10:00 – noon.

Speaker: **Tim Major**

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most recognisable fictional characters in the world, and his casebook continues to fill. Author Tim Major discusses the hallmarks of Conan Doyle's original tales and the difficulties involved in writing faithful novels featuring the great detective.

Tim Major is an award-winning author and freelance editor living in York. His books include three Sherlock Holmes novels and two books in the Jekyll & Hyde: Consulting Detectives series. Under the pseudonym TJ Hext, he writes an ongoing series of mystery novels set in York, which begins with The Amateur Corpse.

Please remember to book (a booking email will be sent before the event) - space is limited!

Travel News

Travel UK

All our UK trips details can be seen listed on the u3a York website.

The next trip that is taking bookings is a morning Tour of York Minster on Wednesday 27th January. The focus of the tour will be the stained glass. This will be free for York residents or £15 on the day for anyone who may need to pay. Click HERE to see the full details.

Click HERE to complete the online booking form. Paper copies of the details and booking forms are also in the office.

For any queries contact travelukyorku3a@gmail.com

Travel Abroad

The newly formed Travel Abroad Team have arranged a trip for next year.

Grand Tour of Slovenia & Italy's Friuli Region

The full holiday details and hotels can be found at Riviera Travel's website. Allocation of a space is initially through the Travel Abroad Team.

Departing 21 September 2027 for 10 nights / 11 days, travelling with easyJet, out from Manchester to Venice (06:15-09:40) and back from Ljubljana to Manchester (17:10-18:45).

Based on 30 people minimum, on the above Manchester flights, the price would be £2319pp in a superior twin or superior double room. We can also get a maximum of 11 superior sole occupancy rooms, all at a supplement of £555pp.

If you would like the day-to-day itinerary, please contact the Travel Abroad Team and this can be sent to you.

If you are interested, please go to Travel Abroad - u3a York and contact the leader by email, giving your name and whether you want a single or double room/twin bedded room. The team will send booking forms to you which will require a deposit of £250pp payable directly to Riviera Travel. If the trip is oversubscribed there will be a random selection for places and single rooms as necessary.

The Team are also looking at other venues for the future so these will be sent out as soon as they are confirmed.

Looking forward to travelling with you!

Getting involved in your u3a

Have you ever thought about getting more involved with your u3a? Volunteering can offer new relationships and give you a chance to contribute in ways that suit your knowledge and experience. If you're unsure you can always "try before you buy". Why not try something out and see if it is suitable and fits in with your retirement?

We have numerous opportunities to get involved both in lead and supporting roles. Our website has all the details but here is a list of what is on offer:

- Events and Volunteering Lead and Assistant
- Assistant Equipment Manager
- Assistant Office Coordinator
- Groups Administrator
- Groups Coordinators
- Finance Assistant, Supervisor and Treasurer
- “What’s On” Editor
- Trustees

Our Chair would love to hear from you if you'd like to know a bit more about any of the roles. Please contact Karen Sawyer, chair@u3ayork.org.uk.

Group leaders

If you would like me to include something in the next “What’s On” please email whatsonu3ayork@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. Please keep submissions to 150 words or fewer.

If you need to alert the membership to a relevant opportunity or event, please contact eventsleadyorku3a@gmail.com.

If you would like to start a new group, or make changes to an existing group, please contact our group co-ordinator at groups.development@u3ayork.org.uk.