

# ***Stokesley & District***

## ***Websites***

U3A <http://www.u3a.org.uk>

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## ***Information Pack***

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a non-political, non-religious organisation dedicated to providing a social and self-help learning environment for retired/semi-retired people.

## ***The University of the Third Age (U3A)***

The U3A encourages and enables retired or semi-retired people to help each other and share their knowledge, skills and experience.

The pleasure of learning and socialising is a driving force in U3As and members see themselves as both learners and teachers.

Since we learn for the pleasure of it, no qualifications are required and none given.

The general format is a monthly meeting, at which we socialise, enjoy a speaker and take part in general discussion.

The strength of the U3A lies in its internal activity groups pursuing whatever subjects their members wish, meeting where, when and how often they decide.

**In the UK there are about 900 U3As with a new one forming every week and combined membership over 250,000**

## ***Stokesley & District U3A***

Stokesley & District U3A was formed in June 2004. Since then we have grown rapidly to a membership of over 400. We are a member of the Third Age Trust and a Registered Charity (No.1117650).

**Finance:** The annual subscription is £10/person, with a payment of £1 for attendance at each monthly meeting. Our subscription year runs from September to August.

**Monthly Meetings:** In Stokesley Town Hall or in Stokesley Methodist Church on the second Wednesday of each month. Doors open at 1.15pm for tea, coffee, a chat, to meet group leaders and, in the Town Hall, to collect a ticket for the lecture. The meeting starts at 2.00pm with a speaker for about one hour. This is followed by any pertinent business, reports from activity groups and Committee announcements.

**Activity Groups:** These can be formed to satisfy any subject or interest, with frequency, location and timing of meetings decided by the group. Someone acts as a leader/organiser/tutor and liaises with the Activity Group Coordinator to co-operate to avoid clashes between other groups on the timetable. The group decides on a meeting place, dependent on size. A list of current Activity Groups is shown on the inset page.

**Newsletter:** Our Newsletter is published quarterly and is sent to each member.

**Reading:** Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 11.00am in Stokesley Community Centre to read and discuss a book chosen in advance.

**Scrabble:** Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month at 1.00pm in Stokesley Community Centre to enjoy this fascinating word game.

**Scrabble(2):** Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month at 1.00pm in Stokesley Community Centre.

**Singing for pleasure:** Meet 1st & 3rd Tuesday at St Josephs Hall, Tanton Road, Stokesley. All are welcome - no previous singing experience needed.

**Spanish for Beginners:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 10.00am.

**Swimming:** Meet at Stokesley Sports Centre to learn to swim. For all stages from non- swimmers to improvers. Date to be decided.

**Theatre and Concert:** Group visits to plays and concerts at local theatres.

**Travel:** Day coach outings to places of interest in the North East or farther afield on longer trips.

#### **Walking:**

Short - Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 10.30am at the start of the walk for 2 to 3 mile walks in the local countryside.  
Intermediate - Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday for walks of 5 to 7 miles.  
Long - Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Friday for walks between 5 and 10 miles.

#### **Yoga**

Meet every Wednesday 11.00 – 12.15am in the Friends Meeting House, Great Ayton.

# Stokesley & District U3A

## Activity Groups

U3As throughout the country have activity groups covering almost every conceivable subject. At Stokesley U3A we are eager to expand our range of activities and are always looking for anyone with skills and knowledge amongst the membership who are willing to share it with others.

**Armchair Travel:** Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month at 10.30am in Stokesley Community Centre to listen to member's travel experiences and enjoy photographs of their journeys.

**Art History:** Meet on first Thursday of each month at 10.00am from Jan.- June and Sept - Nov in Stokesley Community Centre to explore different aspects of famous paintings.

**Art - Painting:** Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month 2.00pm - 4.00pm in Stokesley Community Centre for watercolour painting.

**Bridge:** Meet every Tuesday 1.30pm to 4.15pm in Swainby Village Hall. Hall where an average of 7 tables compete' A new beginners group started October 2011.

**Canasta:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month 1.15pm - 3.15pm in Stokesley Community Centre to enjoy the game. New players or experienced players are always welcome.

**Chess:** Meet every Monday 10.00 - 12.00am in Members' homes.

**Computer:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month 10.00 - 12.00am in Stokesley Community Centre to give instruction to beginners. Individual tuition is possible.

**Creative Writing:** Meet every Friday 10.30 - 12.00am in Stokesley Community Centre.

**Family History:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month 1.30 - 3.30pm in Stokesley Community Centre to discuss aspects of family history.

**French Conversation:** Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 1.30 - 3.30pm in Stokesley Community Centre to discuss a wide variety of topics in French and listen to news broadcasts in French.

**French Improvers:** Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month 1.30 - 3.30pm in Stokesley Community Centre to study the BBC "French Experience" Course. Topics covered should be useful on visits to France.

**Garden:** Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month 10.30am. Indoor sessions in Stokesley Community Centre (Oct-Apr) include talks and discussions on all aspects of gardening. Outdoor visits to north-east gardens (May-Sept.)

**German:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month 1.30 – 3.30 in Stokesley Community Centre.

**Latin for Fun:**

Improvers meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 2.00 -3.30pm and Beginners meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday mornings to have fun working through a user friendly course books.

**Music:** Meet 4th Thursday at 10.00am in the Friends Meeting House, Great Ayton.

**Natural History:**

Outdoor meetings - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month visiting nature reserves in North Yorkshire, Cleveland and County Durham.

Indoor meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Nov - Jan in Stokesley Community Centre at 10.30am.

**Needlecrafts:** Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month 1.30 - 3.30pm in members homes to work on a variety of projects, share ideas and learn new techniques.

**Play Reading:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month 10.00 - 12.00am to read a variety of plays ranging from gripping drama to farce.

**Play Reading (2 &3):** Due to high demand, we have two further groups under different leadership. Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month. Both 1.30 - 3.30 in Stokesley Community Centre.

**Poetry Reading:** Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00am to read some well-known and not so well known poems.

**Poetry Reading (2):** Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1.30pm in Stokesley Community Centre.