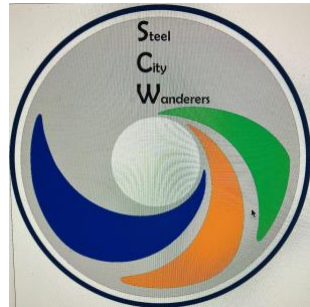
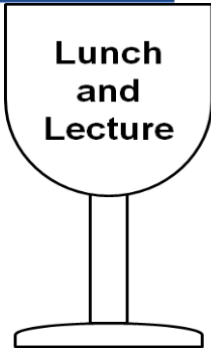
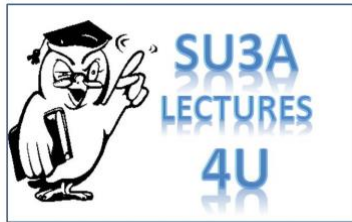


## Links Open Groups Supplement



February 2025

# Open Group Committee Members

## European Travel Group:

Samina Aslam (0114) 235 1489  
Brian Cave (0114) 230 5312

## UK Travel Group:

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Lynne Blake lynneblakenhs@gmail.com  
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Val Wiley georgewiley@btinternet.com

## Friday Lectures:

Mo Cave (0114) 230 5312  
Deborah Beetham (0114) 266 7744

## Lunch & Lecture:

Sue Connelly 01246 418251  
Martin Harvey (0114) 258 1698  
Barbara Hutton (0114) 438 4412

## Steel City Wanderers:

Brian Clark 07541 696008

This supplement is produced by the various Open Group Committees.  
Any comments should be directed to them and not to the Links Editors.

**Links 217: Apri; 2025**  
**Copy Deadline: 28 February 2025**



## The Open Groups

### The Open Groups are open to all members of Sheffield u3a

Most open group activities require you to send in a booking form with deposit and S.A.E. The booking forms will be found in Links, in the Open Groups Supplement and in the monthly e-newsletter and should be completed and returned to the person named by the due date.

If you are looking to learn more about our city, go on day trips, travel to Europe, listen to a lecture and meet new people, then one of the open group activities is for you.

### RIVIERA Travel

Riviera Travel offer a 10% payback on the cost of your holiday to your u3a. **Please mention at the time of booking that you are a member of Sheffield u3a.**

Payment is made on completion of your holiday. All money received from Riviera Travel is used for the benefit of all our members.



## Sheffield u3a Private Facebook group

Sheffield u3a now has a private, members only group on Facebook. The aims for this group are to share photographs of us in our group activities (please obtain everyone's permission first), share the benefits we gain, promote information about new groups, post updates about drop-ins and new members' meetings, plus links to our monthly e-newsletter and other useful information. This private group will help us all keep much more in touch and aware, and spread the buzz and love about Su3a.

Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sheffieldu3a/> and hit 'Join'. You will be asked to answer 2 questions including typing in your u3a membership number. See you in our new Facebook group.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**If you are unable to print out any application form, please write ALL of the requested information on a sheet of paper and return that, together with your payment, as directed.**

## **Sheffield u3a Travel**

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> January there are two travel groups open to all Sheffield u3a members - UK Travel & European Travel**

**Sheffield u3a UK Travel is the result of the merger of Sheffield u3a Travel and the Weekenders groups. We are hoping to run up to 10 day trips and 2 longer overnight trips each year.**

**For 2025, trips being advertised in this issue of the Links Open Groups Supplement include: Benningborough Hall & Knaresborough, JCB Factory Tour with VIP lunch, Southwell Minster & Recital, Richard III trip to Leicester and Port Sunlight & Mersey Bay Cruise.**

**Already organised and fully booked is a 5 day tour of the Historic Houses & Heritage of Northumbria.**

**Other trips in the planning stage include Open Air Theatre at Stamford showing one of Agatha Christies plays, Gt Yorkshire Show, 3 – Churches, 3 Fields and Newark and the NEC Xmas Food Festival.**

**The second travel group is the European Travel Group (ETG). We aim to take members on 2 tours each year. This year in April we are taking members on an 8 day tour of Sicily.**

**In September we are going on a 9 day tour of Northern Spain and Southern France on the Little Boats of the Mediterranean trip.**

**All ETG tours include B&B usually in 4\* accommodation, travel from and return to Sheffield, either lunch or dinner each day, entry and or guided tours of places of interest, Executive Coach travel overseas, audio headsets when necessary and all gratuities (except hotels).**



## Day Trip to Beningbrough Hall and Knaresborough Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025

We will leave Sheffield and travel first to Beningbrough Hall.

**Beningbrough Hall.** Entry to the Hall is by timed ticket which we will be informed of on arrival.

From the wealthy teenager who inherited it, to its time as an RAF billet, Beningbrough has been shaped for more than 300 years by the people who lived there. There are historic rooms on the ground floor with fine architecture and key collection items. At its heart, the Hall remains the showcase first created around 1716. On the first floor are the Reddihough Galleries with exhibitions.

The garden is enjoying a revival with designs by the award-winning leading landscape architect Andy Sturgeon. There is a ha-ha walk, a pergola, herbaceous borders, sweeping lawns, an American garden, a walled kitchen garden and parkland walks.

The Walled Garden Restaurant is open from 10am. Serving hot food from 11.30am. There is indoor and outdoor seating. The Brew House in the laundry courtyard offers an alternative place for light refreshments.

There is lift access in the hall. Accessible toilets and the garden is largely accessible

Following our visit to Beningbrough Hall, we will travel to Knaresborough and have free time in Knaresborough.

### **Knaresborough**

There are pretty side streets and old buildings around the market place. The town is full of quirky little shops, cafes and tea rooms. Sights in the town include the remains of [Knaresborough Castle](#), the Courthouse Museum in the castle grounds, [Mother Shipton's Cave](#), the House in the Rock, [St Robert's Cave](#) (dating from the [Middle Ages](#)), and the [railway viaduct](#) over the [River Nidd](#).



**Beningbrough Hall and  
Knaresborough  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Please complete the booking form in block capitals.

NAME 1 ..... Su3a No .....

NAME 2 ..... Su3a No .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

TELEPHONE ..... MOBILE .....

EMAIL .....

In case of an Emergency Contact details:

Name: ..... Tel No: .....

I/We enclose a cheque/s made payable to Sheffield u3a UK Travel for..... place(s) at £29 per person for National Trust Members and £42.30 per person for non-National Trust members. Please tick your preferred pick-up point below:

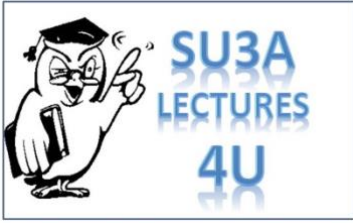
Sheffield Interchange E4/5 at 8.45am .....

Bus Stop Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Road South at 8.30.....

Please return this completed form together with your cheque to **Lynne Blake , 17 Oakworth Close, Halfway, Sheffield, S20 4SA.** Cheques should be payable to **Sheffield u3a UK Travel.**

**\*\*Deadline for bookings is 22<sup>nd</sup> February\*\***

**\*\* To save on postage, acknowledgement will be by e mail. If you wish for a postal acknowledgement, please send a sae envelope with your application and cheque\*\***



## Friday Lectures

The Friday Lectures take place usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month in Cinema 4 at The Showroom on Paternoster Row. They are open to all members. There's no need to book, just turn up. The cinema seats nearly 300 so there's plenty of room. We already have speakers booked until July. We have a break in August and then start again in September.

Full details of the talks are on our website under "Welcome to Sheffield u3a" then select "Events open to all members" and you'll see a tab which will take you to the Friday Lectures. However, here's what's in store over the next few months.

Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> – **Sheffield Artists in the General Cemetery**. This will be the second talk on who's who in the Cemetery following last years lecture about the Confectioners. Given by Helen Brown this talk will take a different path from the last one.

Friday March 21<sup>st</sup> – **The End of Roman Britain** . Regular tutor at the Yorks and Humberside Region's Summer School, Derek Barker will tell us how it all went awry for the Romans in Britain.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April– **Gaudi's Barcelona** . Our speaker Derek Bacon lived in the city as a student and fell in love with it. He will tell us about the "must see" architecture that put Barcelona on every ones bucket list.

If you've never been to a lecture before why not try it out? Many members meet in the Showroom café for a coffee before the lecture starts (11.00am). One of our "meeters & greeters" will be on the door so can show you the ropes.

Look forward to seeing you in 2025

Deborah Beetham & Maureen Cave  
Coordinators of the Friday Lecture Program.



**Visit to Richard III Museum, his tomb and  
the historic Guildhall**  
**11<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

A visit is planned to the very popular Richard III Museum in Leicester. This will be followed by a visit to the nearby Leicester Cathedral, to see the tomb. The body of King Richard was discovered in a car park in 2012. This visit will take place on Wednesday 11 June 2025, and I am advertising early to gauge interest. The itinerary will be as follows:

Depart Sheffield by 8.15 am

Arrive in Leicester by approximately 10am where we will be served tea, coffee and biscuits in the Kings Suite which will be followed by a talk about the history surrounding the discovery and recovery of the remains of King Richard. The talk will be followed by a self-guided tour of the museum. At around 12.45 a sandwich platter lunch will be served with fresh fruit, tea and coffee.



At 1.45pm we will take a short stroll to the cathedral where there will be a brief talk giving information about the tomb. Members will then be free to explore the rest of the 900 year old cathedral. The final visit of the day will be to the nearby historic Guildhall. There is a café next door to the cathedral for further refreshment before departure at approximately 4.30 pm.



# King Richard III Museum and Leicester Cathedral

## 11 June 2025

Name..... SU3a number.....

Name..... SU3a number.....

Address: .....

.....Postcode.....

Tel..... Mobile.....

Email.....

Enclosed is my cheque for both venues for £59.50 pp made payable to **Sheffield u3a UK Travel Group.**

Please state any dietary requirements and food allergies:

.....

In case of an emergency contact details:

Name..... Tel.....

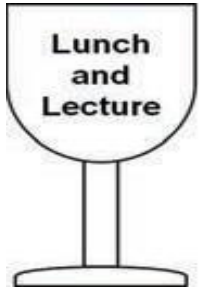
Please return this completed form together with your cheque and a stamped self-addressed envelope to **Dawn Hodgkinson, 58 Hastings Road, SHEFFIELD, S7 2GU.** Tel 07595232472. **To arrive by 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Please indicate your preferred pick-up point:

Old Mother Redcap, Bradway ( )

Knowle Lane Bus Stop ( )

Sheffield Interchange stand E5 ( )



## LUNCH AND LECTURE (LL) 9 May 2025

The Lunch and Lecture (LL) Team trust that you all stayed safe during the cold weather which came with the New Year and hope that the spring comes early this year to compensate.

Our speaker on 1 November 2024 was Mike Newbold. He had us all enthralled with tales of the 'Life of a Television Extra' - very amusing and informative talk after a delicious meal.

Please reserve **Friday, 9 May 2025**, for our next **Lunch and Lecture** at the Doubletree by Hilton Sheffield Park Hotel, Chesterfield Road South, Meadowhead, SHEFFIELD S8 8BW  
As usual, arrival 12 noon for a 1230 start.



Caroline Dewar, the chairperson for the charity 'Friends of Graves Park' has kindly consented to join us on 9 May 2025 to enlighten us about 'The Rose Garden Café' in Graves Park and from its rise from Tea Pavilion to a locally listed building.

Saved from demolition by strong public support, this much-loved building, built in 1927, was closed with 15 minutes notice in July

2022, when Sheffield Council announced that the roof was unsafe.



The charity group 'Friends of Graves Park' are working in partnership with the 'Save the Rose Garden Café Group' and Sheffield City Council to restore the building to its former glory.

*Photographs of the café in 1940 and more recently. given by Caroline Dewar for use within the LL publicity information.*

Unfortunately, the Doubletree Hilton Hotel Event's Team have not currently been able to furnish us with a menu and price therefore we are unable to include this information nor a booking form. **Hopefully we will be able to publish the booking form and further details in the February and/or March monthly e-newsletter and it will definitely be in the April Links.**



## Little Boats of the Mediterranean

27<sup>th</sup> September - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025

We travel by Luxuria coach to Roses in Spain for our 6 night stay. En-route we stop overnight south of Paris and complete our journey to Spain the following day.

During this tour we will cruise to Cadaques, a small fishing village which was a favourite haunt of Picasso, Matisse and Dali. Here we will enjoy a 3-course lunch followed by free time to wander the pretty cobbled streets at your leisure, before returning to our hotel.



This tour also includes a cruise on the Canal Du Midi where we can relax and take in the views of medieval bridges,

delightful villages and lovely countryside whilst enjoying a typical French lunch including wine and coffee. We also see the famous 'staircase' lock of Fonseranes and the 17<sup>th</sup> century Malpas tunnel.



We visit Figueres, birthplace of Dali, and visit the Dali museum. After some free time to explore the quirky streets and Catalan culture, we travel to Besalu in the volcanic region of Garrotxa. Besalu is a wonderfully preserved medieval gem with its churches, stone facades, narrow streets and the 12<sup>th</sup> century fortified bridges.



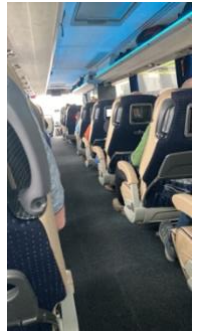


Barcelona is also included with a Harbour Cruise to see Barcelona's harbour and Olympic port, allowing you to enjoy the city from a different perspective. We also have a guided tour of the main Barcelona highlights and free time to explore this vibrant city. A city of unique character, rich in history, folklore and tradition and a city that boasts a distinctive architectural style, born from the extraordinary work of Gaudi.

### Luxuria Coach



The Luxuria coach is provided by Leger and seats 31. That means there is plenty of room for wide seats and to stretch out. Refreshments are served to your seat and each seat has its own entertainment and information centre. Airline style. This is Luxury at its best, making a comfortable easy drive to Roses.



The cost of this tour is £1560 per person sharing a double/twin room. A single person supplement is £359. The cost included all travel from/to Sheffield, hotel accommodation, 8 Breakfasts, 8 dinners, 2 lunches, all excursions and gratuities.

Su3a European Travel team and Leger reserve the right to make changes to maintain a good experience for our members.



# Little Boats of the Mediterranean

27<sup>th</sup> September - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Name: ..... Su3a No: .....

Name: ..... Su3a No: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Email address: .....

Mobile telephone number: .....

Emergency Contact Name: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Please reserve ..... Seats. I enclose a cheque for the required deposit of £..... (£150pp). Cheques must be made payable to LEGER HOLIDAYS. This is non-refundable unless a new person can be found to take your place in the event of your cancellation.

I/we require a double / single / twin room.

Pick up point: Knowle Lane: ..... or Sheffield Interchange E5: .....

Please send this completed form together with your deposit cheque and an A5 S.A.E to Brian Cave, 73 Highcliffe Road, Sheffield, S11 7LP. Closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025. A booking form and further details will be sent during March.

All acknowledgements and further notifications will be sent by email.





## **STEEL CITY WANDERERS**

### **From Brian Clark**

Happy New Year to all Steel City wanderers!

We had a couple of fascinating and educational walks in the early part of the summer; namely “Sheffield in 1925, Part 2” lead by local historian and author John Stocks and “Sheffield Pub Heritage, Walk #3” hosted by writer and archivist Dave Pickersgill. After a great start; unfortunately, a couple of issues interfered with the rest of the year’s schedule.

Firstly I was ‘let down’ at short notice and had to shelve plans for July. Secondly, personal health problems, mainly due to a worsening of my sciatica, brought me to a point where I was struggling to walk even relatively short distances.

However, I continue to enjoy my involvement with Steel City Wanderers and to meet people (hosts and walkers alike) who invariably have stories to tell. I am looking to find ways (exercising, losing weight) to improve my mobility. In a nutshell, my aim is to keep the group going and to plan a schedule of ‘walks’ for 2025. As usual, I will look to plan walks for the months when the weather is most likely to be kind to us. Please keep watching Links and the Sheffield u3a online Notice Board for information.

I continue to receive enquiries about the ‘next walk’ and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience. I am always on the lookout for ideas for ‘new’ walks. Whilst I am happy to administer and arrange walks on subjects that I know little about, ideally any suggestions you have should also look to provide an ‘expert speaker’ (it could be yourself or someone you know). Beyond that, I am always willing to listen to suggestions and help with setting walks up.

I hope to have more details soon and to see you on a ‘walk’ in the not too distant future.



An amazing opportunity to venture behind the scenes of JCB's world famous diggers; this unique tour includes historical information, little-known facts, exciting insights and gets you up close to the JCB manufacturing process.

Your visit will begin with welcome refreshments, and a short presentation in the JCB Theatre showing our corporate brand video on the global manufacturing facilities and products.

You will then be invited by one of their Tour Guides to attend a personal tour of the "Story of JCB" exhibition with time to visit the JCB shop.

The tour will then take you to the assembly line of the world-famous Backhoe Loader machine; here you will see the process of how the machine is built from the delivery of the sheet steel, profiling, laser cutting, welding, paint shop, assembly and finally the finished product! The tour is approx. 2.5 hours long.

**Sensible walking shoes should be worn.**



*Picture courtesy of JCB*

The tour is followed by a fantastic lunch. you'll experience a unique dining experience in their VIP Hospitality Suite with seasonal dishes created by their Executive Head Chef, Alastair Rowe, using the organic produce sourced from their sister farm, 'Daylesford Organic'.

The cost is £76 including coach to/from Sheffield, the JCB tour, lunch, and gratuities.



**JCB Factory Tour**  
**5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Name.....SU3a number.....

Name.....SU3a number.....

Address:.....

..... Postcode.....

Tel..... Mobile.....

Email.....

Please reserve ..... places.

Enclosed is my cheque for £76 pp made payable to **Sheffield u3a UK Travel Group**.

Please state any dietary requirements and food allergies:

.....

**In case of an emergency contact details:**

Name.....

Tel.....

Please return this completed form together with your cheque and a stamped S.A.E. to Brian Cave, 73 Highcliffe Road, Sheffield, S11 7LP. Tel 07768121767. **To arrive by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Please indicate your preferred pick-up point:

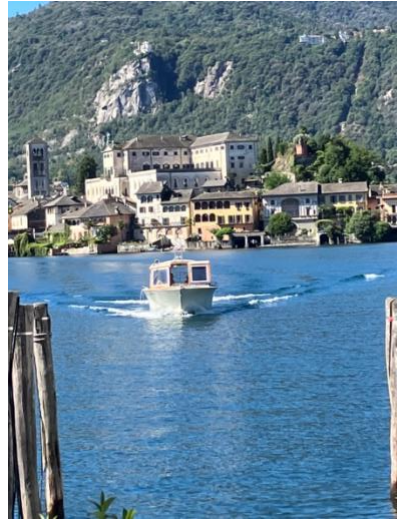
Knowle Lane Bus Stop ( ) Sheffield Interchange stand E5 ( )

## Photos from past trips

Christmas at Castle Howard



Lakes of Northern Italy



Meteora – Northern Greece



Umbria



## **Southwell Minster and Recital** **16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

For more than 1,000 years Southwell Minster has been opening its doors to welcome visitors, pilgrims and worshippers.

The late thirteenth century Chapter House of Southwell Minster is the architectural glory of the building, and the fluid carvings of plants, animals and green men known collectively as The Leaves of Southwell – are of quite exceptional quality and regarded as the finest example of naturalistic carving in the United Kingdom.



*Picture courtesy of Southwell Minster*

The Chapter House and its Leaves needed protection from leaking roofs and lacked appropriate heating and environmental controls. It was only due to National Lottery Heritage Fund awarding the Minster over £2 million along with other donations that allowed this project to be completed recently.

We now have the opportunity to visit and admire these unique carvings. Included in the cost:

- Return Travel by coach to Southwell (pickups at Knowle Lane and the Interchange )
- Guided tour of the Minster
- Light lunch with drinks (sandwiches and cakes)
- Musical recital in the Abbey (approx 90 minutes)

There will be time after the concert to take a look at the Bishop's Palace gardens or just stroll around the streets of Southwell taking in the many delightful small shops. Friday is also market day.

Cost of the trip will be £50



**Southwell Minster and Recital  
16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Name.....SU3a number.....

Name.....SU3a number.....

Address: .....

..... Postcode.....

Tel: ..... Mobile: .....

Email.....

Please reserve ..... places.

Enclosed is my cheque for £50 pp made payable to Sheffield u3a UK  
Travel Group.

Please state any dietary requirements and food allergies:

.....

In case of an emergency contact details:

Name.....Tel.....

Please return this completed form together with your cheque and a  
stamped self-addressed envelope to Mrs J Fox Dickfield Farm, Little  
Common Lane, Sheffield S11 9NE. Tel: 0114 236 0086. To arrive by 20<sup>th</sup>  
February 2025.

Please indicate your preferred pick-up point:

Knowle Lane Bus Stop ( ). Sheffield Interchange stand E5 ( )



## Photos from past trips

### Amsterdam



### Strasburg – European Parliament



## Su3a Executive Committee

Chair	Maureen Cave	07831 353243 <a href="mailto:chair@su3a.org.uk">chair@su3a.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Brian Barrett	07950 943738 <a href="mailto:secretary@su3a.org.uk">secretary@su3a.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Les Baker	07847 383636 <a href="mailto:treasurer@su3a.org.uk">treasurer@su3a.org.uk</a>
Membership	Clare Chiba	01433 659864 <a href="mailto:data@su3a.org.uk">data@su3a.org.uk</a>
Publicity	Shirley Taylor	07949 537807 <a href="mailto:shirley@shirleytaylor.com">shirley@shirleytaylor.com</a>
Web Coordinator	Elaine Burtoft	07803 130021 <a href="mailto:web@su3a.org.uk">web@su3a.org.uk</a>
Members	Jo Beadle	07889595313 <a href="mailto:jojbeadle@yahoo.co.uk">jojbeadle@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Member	Jonathan Powell-Wiffen	07502 165184 <a href="mailto:jwpw@su3a.org.uk">jwpw@su3a.org.uk</a>
Member	Dave Longson	<a href="mailto:homepages@su3a.org.uk">homepages@su3a.org.uk</a>
*****		
Minutes Secretary	Michael Clift	
Membership Team	Clare Chiba	01433 659864 <a href="mailto:wa-admin@su3a.org.uk">wa-admin@su3a.org.uk</a>
General Co'dinator	Fran Rodway	07774 142409 <a href="mailto:groups@su3a.org.uk">groups@su3a.org.uk</a>
Drop-in Organiser	Barbara Doyle	(0114) 698 9887 <a href="mailto:dropin@su3a.org.uk">dropin@su3a.org.uk</a>
IT Manager	Camilla Jordan	<a href="mailto:su3ait@su3a.org.uk">su3ait@su3a.org.uk</a>
Links Editors	Camilla Jordan David Jordan	(0114) 268 5355 <a href="mailto:links@su3a.org.uk">links@su3a.org.uk</a>
Home Pages Mngr	Dave Longson	<a href="mailto:homepages@su3a.org.uk">homepages@su3a.org.uk</a>
Asset Grant Mngr.	Brian Cave	<a href="mailto:bpcave@hotmail.com">bpcave@hotmail.com</a>

## Calendar 2024

Feb 4	Drop-in	10:00 – 12:00 at CURC*
Feb 21	Friday Lecture	Sheffield Artists in the General Cemetery - Helen Brown
Mar 4	Drop-in	10:00 – 12:00 at CURC*
Mar 21	Friday Lecture	The end of Roman Britain – Derek Barker
Apr 1 – 8	European Travel	Sicily
Apr 1	Drop-in	10:00 – 12:00 at CURC*
Apr 18	Friday Lecture	Gaudi's Barcelona – Derek Bacon
Apr 26	UK Travel	Beningborough Hall & Knaresborough
May 5	UK Travel	JCB Factory Tour
May 6	Drop-in	10:00 – 12:00 at CURC*
May 9	Lunch & Lecture	Friends of Graves Park – Caroline Dewer
May 16	UK Travel	Southwell Minster & Recital
May 19 – 25	UK Travel	Historic Houses & Heritage of Northumbria
June 3	Drop-in	10:00 – 12:00 at CURC*
June 11	UK Travel	Richard III trip to Leicester
Aug 18 – 21	YAHR	Summer School
Sep 27 – Oct 5	European Travel	Little Boats of the Mediterranean

\*CURC: Central United Reform Church, Norfolk Street

\*\* Friday Lectures are held in the Showroom at 11:00

**Sheffield u3a is a registered charity No: 703147**

<http://su3a.org.uk>