

HOLME VALLEY U3A DAYS OUT

2026 Programme

Our 2026 programme returns to the traditional format of four day and two overnight trips.

The first of our day trips will take place on **Wednesday 22 April** and first visits Rochdale Town Hall, once described as “one of the most ambitious High Victorian town halls of England ... of rare picturesque beauty and boasting splendid interior schemes”. Here there will be a full guided tour followed by an included soup and sandwich lunch before a second guided tour of Halifax’s Piece Hall and where there will also be free time to explore the historic town centre.

The second day trip will **on Thursday 18 June** again take us to our county town of York, where a coffee and bacon buttie will await our arrival before a guided walking tour of the lesser known areas of the city centre. After some free time the trip will head to Yorkshire’s Ryedale Vineyard where an included lunch will take the form of a full afternoon tea before a tour of the vineyard and, of course, wine tastings!

Many members have grown to appreciate (and indeed eagerly anticipate) our longer overnight trips and which have become mini-holidays in themselves. This year’s offering is an absolute gem, involving three nights away starting on **Sunday 5 July** and based around the delightful small city of Winchester. From the first day’s lunch aboard a horsedrawn narrowboat on the scenic Kennet and Avon Canal to an optional last day’s lunch courtesy of Rick Stein and with our hotel accommodation only yards from the impressive Winchester Cathedral this is a trip which will show you some quintessential English countryside of fast-flowing chalk streams and thatched cottages aplenty. With visits to Whitchurch Silk Mill, the New Forest, the highlights of Salisbury and the stunning rose gardens of the Mottisfont Estate this will be a trip not to miss!

Our third day trip will be a simple excursion to the seaside, in the guise of Whitby. The trip, probably on **Wednesday 9 September**, will feature time for morning coffee in Pickering before heading (either by coach or by steam train!) for an afternoon in the charming heart of Whitby.

Our second overnight trip will involve only one night away, departing on **Thursday 17 September**. Touring Leicestershire it will start with a guided tour of, and included lunch at, the Triumph Motorcycle Factory before an afternoon at the famous Belvoir Castle. On the second day the trip will visit Melton Mowbray to include a lesson in the making of its renowned pork pies, although lunch will be somewhat more magnificent in the guise of a full three courses on a steam-hauled train of the Great Central Railway. A visit to the last remaining church bell foundry in England will conclude this trip of just so many differing parts!

Our 2026 programme will then conclude in the usual manner with the Xmas day trip, probably on **Thursday 10 December**, and which this year is expected to feature a full day experiencing Christmas at Chatsworth House (including a full festive lunch).

All trips will be opened for booking, firstly by Days Out Group members, around three months prior to departure and you can request more information by writing to daysout@holmevalleyu3a.org.uk.

Your Days Out Team

Of Martin Shaw (Leader), John Sunter, Bev Blackham, Jackie Chatten, Lynn Shaw, and Jane Sunter

