

Yorkshire & Humber NEWSLETTER

July 2021

<https://yahru3a.co.uk>



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

With the country steadily returning to some sort of normal (whatever that might be) our attention along with u3as is returning to holding face-to-face meetings, although we are minded that some members will be reluctant to mix which was the topic of our latest workshop "Alternative ways of meeting", another workshop was Recruitment and Retention held on 20th May.

A question has been raised about whether only members who are double jabbed should be admitted to indoor meetings, a tricky problem especially as the Government keeps changing its advice. I can only suggest u3as contact the National Office/u3a website for advice.

Our plea for a treasurer has been answered - Heather Turner, Beverley u3a has stepped up and following a Management Team meeting on 28th May Heather was co-opted and has now taken over from Janet. A big thank you to Janet for being our treasurer for many years, thank you.

Nick David, York u3a has volunteered to join the MT and was subsequently co-opted at the meeting on 26th July and will take on responsibility for the Speaker List taking over from Beryl Pemberton and assist Angie Grain on organising workshops.

We are planning our next workshop where the topic(s) are likely to be Diversity, New Trustees followed by a Q&A ideally in venue, but we'll be planning for it to be hybrid to be held at St George's Centre, Leeds in September. A massive thank you goes to those who helped make the recent workshops a success, thank you.

Finally, a number of the Management Team will be standing down at the next years AGM if anyone is remotely interested please contact me in the first instance on chair@yahru3a.co.uk

A few lines from our new Treasurer, Heather Turner

Hi, I'm Heather Turner, a retired chartered management accountant who's in the process of moving from West Sussex to the East Riding of Yorkshire. During the past 55 years I have lived in London, Edinburgh, Cambridge and Sussex. I'm hoping that this will be my last move.

Like many Southerners I had entirely the wrong idea about the Northern Counties. When I first visited the Malton area for work in the 1990's I was very pleasantly surprised at the beautiful scenery and the friendliness of the people

I've been volunteering with charities, large and small, struggling and well-funded, for about 20 years now, most recently with u3a and Community Minibus. My main interests are gardening, reading and speaking foreign languages.

Workshops

Recruitment and Retention Workshop, 20th May.

Recruitment and Retention is a national problem not just locally here in Yorkshire & Humber, with some u3as having a significant reduction in membership. The format was mainly aimed at trustees but also any member of the u3as in our Region. It highlighted the importance of retention of existing members and recruitment of new ones, both of which are real challenges, particularly after the problems of this last year, and as we come out of Covid restrictions we need to plan accordingly. A presentation from Paul Martinez, the national co-ordinator was followed by a session on sharing good ideas especially those that have worked well for our respective u3as.; this presentation had been previously given as part of the national programme. The workshop was attended by 22 members from 12 u3as.

Alternative Ways of Working, 22nd July

The relevance of this workshop was that as we slowly move out of Lockdown regulations, there is concern how we will manage our groups and meetings in the future. Some members may long for face-to-face meetings, whilst others are very reticent about leaving home and socialising. After a presentation from Liz Thackray, National Vice Chair, who shared her ideas along with technical advice of how going forward we'll manage our u3a activities. There was a Q&A along with constructive suggestions from those attending. The workshop was attended by 48 members from 21 u3as, which reflected the interest in the subject.

The materials from the workshops can be found on the YAHR website, A big thank you to all those who attended, and made the workshops a success, thank you.

The next workshop is planned for September, and it is hoped that it will be a "live" meeting at the St George's Centre in Leeds; the topic is "Diversity". Details will be posted on the website.

Captain Cook Event

This 2-day event, hosted by Whitby Whaler u3a, is still scheduled to go ahead on September 22nd and 23rd. It offers delegates a chance to learn all about the history of Captain James Cook and his association with Whitby. As well as lectures and films there are visits to the Captain Cook museum in Whitby, the birthplace museum in Marton, and to the village of Great Ayton, where the family's cottage was situated and where James went to school. There is also a social evening with dinner and musical entertainment, and the total cost is £60, not including accommodation.

We currently have over 50 delegates from all over the region, but there are a few places left if anyone is interested. To apply or for further details, please contact Trevor Barrowcliffe on 01947 600963, or email twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk

U3A DAY ACTIVITIES

from Public Relations Adviser Helen Leech

There was an enormous variety of activities taking place across the region on u3a day, June 2nd, some online, but many live events. The following gives a flavour of some of the things which were happening in different parts of the region.

Tadcaster - Open Day at The Barn with refreshments and displays

Scarborough - Open gardens with tea and cakes together with activity demonstrations. Tie in with library who have had a grant to transform their garden

Whitby - Performances by the Whaler Band and the Singing group in central spots across the town. Kite flying and walking cricket on the beach, and a paddle!.

Easingwold - History Hunt, a hike and a flash mob line dance routine

Sherburn in Elmet - Yarn bombing, decorating outside of member houses with blue and yellow bunting , group leader activity displays in their gardens

Barnsley - Walking Cricket match and.....

Harrogate - Display in the Libraries at Harrogate and Knaresborough, and in Foyer of St Peter's Church, which fronts the pedestrianised shopping area in Harrogate Town Centre . The display consisted of individual contributions from the various interest groups, and was open to the public on Wednesday June 2 for 5 hours.



Barnsley u3a showing the Shield!



Behind the stumps



Opening of Harrogate u3a day display, with the Mayor and Mayoress in attendance



Settle u3a day



Stories from Yorkshire Members. Helen Leech writes:

There was a 4 page spread about the u3a in the May/ June edition of Yorkshire Life. The article included several case studies of Yorkshire members. Here are some extracts:

“Lesley and her husband taught Forces children abroad for many years, living in Hong Kong, the Falklands and Germany. They joined [Easingwold](#) u3a on returning to England in 2004, just two years after Lesley had retired at 53. All their friends were abroad and they wanted to meet new people. They were initially involved with the walking group. Sadly after 43 years of marriage Lesley’s husband died in 2015. She was adamant she was not going to sit at home and feel sorry for herself and was determined to keep busy. Whilst out with the walking group she was asked if she would like to be on the local committee and not that long afterwards she became the Chair ! One of the activities she has really enjoyed setting up is a tech support after school group, with the local secondary school. u3a members are given support with their devices from the students. During lockdown Lesley has started a number of new activities including “Desert Island Discs” and also “Gin on Zoom”, which was an opportunity to discuss favourite tipples. Not surprisingly one of the most popular groups was “Afternoon Tea on Zoom “. The teas were made by a local café and then picked up individually by members, who then ate them whilst enjoying conversation together from their own homes.....Lesley has now been on her own for 6 years and she believes that being part of the u3a, is the reason she has done so well following her husband’s death. Finding wonderful new u3a friends, who have supported her through this time, has made a huge difference to her life “

A member of [Whitby Whaler](#) u3a Zoom Family History Group: “ I have had such a wonderful time during the pandemic learning about my ancestors, from drowned sea captains to a famous 16th century Methodist preacher, and more recently found that in the early 20th century family emigrated to Australia and Tasmania , with a bridge outside Hobart named after one of them! I can’t wait to visit some of the areas in Yorkshire (and maybe Tasmania too!) where I have discovered my ancestors have lived. Our u3a tutor is brilliant and able to signpost us to whatever we are looking for, with her vast knowledge and research experience”.

A member from [Thirsk](#) writes: I worked for 27 years in Washington, D.C., USA, in The World Bank (WB). On my return to what seemed to be a sleepy semi-rural community in Sowerby, I joined things, as many as I could here, when the opportunities occurred, including the Thirsk Museum Society; Sowerby Church; Sowerby Church Choir; Sowerby Music Society; until - finally, the u3a.

The u3a has been really good - so many new people, as well as those I already knew - and lots of interesting talks on a variety of subjects, many of which I had known nothing whatever about until the talk. Then, came the opportunities to join the smaller spin-off groups from the main u3a - Walks (Hikes, sometimes) to Lunch, Visits to Stately Homes and Gardens, Latin (where we had a mixture of those who knew very little and others who had graduated), and also Philosophy. Earlier, for a while, I was a member of the Archaeology, Music, Local History and Hiking groups.

So, as you can see, joining u3a was something of a life-saver both mentally and physically. I enjoyed whatever subject matter the Speaker of the month came to talk to us about. There have been many different subjects, and I have been enlightened, listening to the Speakers. What good luck to still have the u3a and zoom, though I am sure it will get back in full swing when the pandemic has been controlled. It has also been great that zooming has almost become a way of life - for now.

Other news from round the region

Doncaster hosted a u3a walking cricket tournament as well as organising the buffet and inviting local press. The Mayor of Doncaster attended and presented the shield to the winners, Barnsley u3a (see picture on p3) . A double spread page in the local paper resulted in a number of new members.

The gardening group in Doncaster have also been busy, the council gave them space in a local park, which the group have turned into a flower beds with plants donated by members.

Settle has 6 new groups starting in September addition to established groups. New groups include Sports Appreciation (informal sporting chat, quizzes, reminiscences, talks and outings and leaping into action occasionally), Badminton, a new Ballroom group, Chair Based Exercise, Beginners French and Rusty French.

Regional Trustee Margaret Fiddes writes:

40th Anniversary

Next year is going to be a special year for us as we celebrate 40 years of u3a. Plans are afoot already and we hope to be able to enjoy a year of activities to mark the u3a's birthday. Already underway is a quilt competition and any u3a member, or member of a craft group is invited to take part. It would be great if one of the 40 squares making up the quilt were to come from one of our u3as. I know there are lots of talented people out there!

Here are the details if you would like to enter: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary/1147-40-anniversary-quilt-competition>

Some of you will know that the Quilters' Guild and Museum is housed in York. The Guild will be housing our u3a quilt when it is finished and organising the loan of it to u3as for events and meetings. It would be especially good to be represented on the quilt since it will be kept on our doorstep.

Facebook Group

We are going social! We have just set up a new Facebook group for YAHR. It's a private group intended for any current member of any u3a to join and exchange views and ideas. Hopefully it will become a place to swap things like speaker ideas, somewhere for members to chat across the region and where we can keep useful information in the files section. You may already know how successful the national Keeping in Touch Group has become so we decided to have our own Yorkshire and Humberside version. You can find the group here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/yahru3a>

We look forward to seeing you there!

PS It's already going strong and in less than a week over 100 members have joined!

Margaret Fiddes

Internal communications – from Margaret Fiddes

Your views sought – take part in the Internal Communications User Group

We have had a plea from one of the national groups. The Internal Communications User Group (ICUG) led by Barbara Cordina, Trustee East of England is looking for any member from our region to join them to feedback on the effectiveness, acceptability and accessibility of all internal communication channels between the Third Age Trust and its members.

Their first meeting took place this spring and its planned to have another meeting in the autumn – but new members are being sought. Reports will consist primarily of feedback from the regions and from networks. All comments made will be passed, unedited, to Sam Manger (CEO) and Elizabeth Drury (Head of Communications). Sam will subsequently indicate to the group any actions taken by u3a office. The ultimate aim being to tailor communications between the Trust and u3as in a way which is both helpful and useful to u3as.

We could really do with some representation from YAHR so if you have a view you would be very much welcomed by the group.

Anyone member interested should make contact with Barbara Cordina email: barbaracordina@btinternet.com in the first instance.

Relaunch, Reopen and Restart....

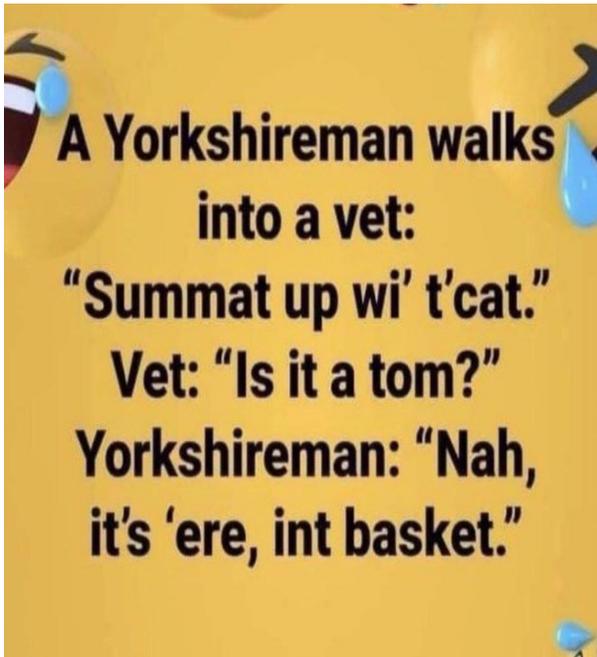
Its been a long time coming, but now seems to be the time to gear up our u3as to welcome members back. Some u3as are planning all kinds of relaunch meetings to let members know we are still here and still eager to get them involved. I've spotted plans for open days and members meetings in Tadcaster, Craven, Sherburn & Villages, York, Whitby, Leeds, Ryedale, Grimsby & Cleethorpes.....and I know I shall have missed many many events - there will be lots more! Committees and organisers have got their fingers firmly crossed and I know they are holding their breath but all being well their plans will all be able to go ahead and members will support them to bring our wonderful organization back to life.

There's a helping hand from the Third Age Trust if you are planning an event. You could very well be eligible for a £200 grant towards an open day to help with any costs you may incur and for those u3as who might find it difficult to relaunch because funds are low, please apply for a £100 grant towards your costs from the Barbara Lewis Fund. In the first instance please email me, Margaret Fiddes and we can start the ball rolling. Its Margaret.fiddes@u3a.org.uk

Still thinking about it? There is a host of information and ideas available as a toolkit on the u3a website. Take a look : <https://www.u3a.org.uk/component/edocman/recruitment-toolkit>
And good luck with all your plans.....we'd love to hear how they are going and to see photos too.

We would like to hear more from other u3as in the Region, especially about activities on u3a day and plans for opening up in the autumn.
Trevor Barrowcliffe.

And finally.....



Thanks to all contributors and to Clair Stones of Whitby Whaler U3A for the jokes.