

Yorkshire & Humber NEWSLETTER

February 2023

<https://yahru3a.uk>

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

2023 seems to be flying through. At least spring is just around the corner and bulbs are popping up everywhere. We in the YAHR Management Team have all sorts in the pipeline and you can read about them in the newsletter or find more details on the YAHR website, [https://yahru3a.uk/](https://yahru3a.uk)

We send regular information to all u3a members registered on our mailing list. This is open to any u3a member in the region; you don't have to be a committee member. So if you want to join the mailing list, just complete the form on the website.

The YAHR AGM is in May. It's a good time to join the Management Team or to offer support in the planning of the regional events or workshops. If your tenure on your u3a committee has recently ended or is ending bring your skills and interests along to support regional activities. Send me an email to chair@yahru3a.uk for a chat. We would also like to see you on the YAHR u3a members Facebook page where we can share information and chat.

Sharing ideas benefits us all.

I look forward from hearing from members across the region and to meeting many of you at workshops, our first Music Fest and our Summer School.

Pat Collard

YAHR Summer School 2023

31st July - 3rd August

The summer school arrangements are moving forward at a pace now thanks to the members of the organising team who came forward at last year's event. Full details can be found on the YAHR website.

Residential places are now limited, please contact the applications administrator, Jean Blackburn, to check availability at j.blackburn21@hotmail.co.uk. Places are still available for day delegates.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Pat Collard

Public Relations Adviser

YAHR are seeking a new PR Adviser to take over from Helen Leech. The role involves supporting u3as across the region with promoting their work and engaging new members, as well as publicising the work of the u3a generally. In this role you will be a Trust volunteer and meet regularly with other regional PR advisers from across the country and link in with the Trust communications team. To find out more email: hcleech@aol.com

To express your interest contact Pat Collard, YAHR Chair, or Margaret Fiddes, Regional Trustee.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that we've added a new role to the Management Team at YAHR. Nick David is taking on the task of helping with Recruitment and Retention in the region. He'll be in touch with you all shortly to introduce himself but if you have any immediate issues you'd like to raise in this regard do contact him via randr@yahru3a.uk

Pat Collard, YAHR Chair

Workshops

In addition to the MusicFest and the annual Summer School, the following events are also in the process of being organised:

Friday 17th March – Communications Workshop. we have invited Professor Elaine Toms (Ilkley & District u3a) as keynote speaker; she is a Professor of Sheffield University, specialising in public perceptions of websites. We are hoping the programme will include Communications planning/integration, Websites, Press, Social Media, E-Newsletters + time for sharing ideas. All attendees are invited to bring along paper copies of their own publicity material for sharing and discussion.

Friday 5th May – AGM + workshop on ‘Recruitment and Retention: why it matters’. The 2023 YAHR AGM will be held at St Georges Centre on 5th May. As you all know with your own u3as, it is a requirement but it should not take long and it will be followed by a workshop on recruitment and retention. All u3a members are welcome. See the YAHR website for more details.

Please get in touch if you are interested in becoming part of the YAHR team in any way.

Paul Martinez (leader of the recent TAT project) has agreed to lead the workshop. He has gained lots of experience of good practice in this important area so there should be lots to learn on the day.

Wednesday 10th May – Groups workshop. For many of our members, our Interest Groups are the main reason they join the u3a so we need to develop and support them. The workshop will share ideas about setting up new, exciting groups and widening your range of learning opportunities. We will also discuss how we support our Group Leaders and help them to run engaging and popular groups.

All these events are aimed primarily at u3a Trustees but any other interested members and/or volunteers would be more than welcome. All will be at St George’s Centre, Leeds.

Further information on all these events can be found via the ‘Events’ tab on the YAHR website <https://yahru3a.uk>

Angie Grain

January 2023

MUSIC FESTIVAL

As announced in the last newsletter we are holding a YAHR Music Festival on 13th June 2023. This 1-day event will be held in York, at St John University, and all u3as in our region are invited to take part. This will be an opportunity for the various music groups in the region to perform, and to listen to and interact with music groups from other u3as across the region. So far we have around 20 music groups taking part, including singing groups, ukuleles, acoustic bands, recorders, guitar groups, and jazz/swing. So there will be a good variety of musical entertainment, and we hope it will attract significant numbers of non-performers as well as performers.

Refreshments will be provided, with tea and coffee available throughout the day, and a buffet lunch. Cost is £15, to cover the costs of venue hire and catering; for that you get food, drink, and a whole day of musical entertainment. So why not come along and listen to some of the wide variety of live music being played and sung in our u3as?

Full details, including how to register, are available on the website - just follow this link <https://yahru3a.uk/2022/10/22/yahr-musicfest-june-2023>

Stewarding We will need a number of people to act as Stewards on the day, directing people and answering questions, so we are looking for volunteers. Stewards would only be on duty for half the day, and will have their registration fee waived. If you are interested in helping, or want to know about what's involved please contact Angie Grain on angiegrain@aol.com

Performance Venues

Creative Centre Auditorium



Chapel



Regional and National u3a News - from Margaret Fiddes

Hi Everyone

There have been a lot of good things going on recently and so here is a round up to keep everyone up to date.

In January we had our first **Management Team on Tour** informal networking meeting and lunch in Harrogate. It was good to get people together from Harrogate, Ripon and Wetherby u3as to hear about their activities and ideas, and we will continue to take our meetings round the region in the coming months and look forward to seeing more folk as we move around. The second meeting at the end of February was on the **East Coast at Bridlington**, and involved members from u3as in the East Coast network and elsewhere: Whitby, Filey, Driffild and Bridlington. The next meeting is planned for **Doncaster** on 20th April.

Dates and times have been published for our **Communications Workshop** in Leeds on 17th March (*See separate section above*). If you or one of your members is responsible for comms please do join us. You'll see the flyer and all the other details on the website. All our workshops are great lively events and they are all free.

Plans are afoot for our Regional **Music Festival** in June (*see separate section above*). All the details are now available on the website, including how to register, and contact details for Trevor Barrowcliffe, who is co-ordinating the event for us. He's been very pleased with the response so far, and I must say I am very much looking forward to it. Such a wide variety of talented folk in the region! If you are interested in taking part please do get in touch with him but also check out the information on the website: <https://yahru3a.uk/2022/10/22/yahr-musicfest-june-2023>

In February we were able to hear from Alison May, Head of Member Services, who is responsible for a great deal of the support you can get from the Trust to help in the running of your u3a. It was a good session – if you missed it you can still see it on our website, please follow the link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/1XLGf0afTGbLQ8KMQP6UwuxcCGxT78Lp_OpVMcFbFwnse_DqEy-rlwmL31pUEaqd8YAw7W85qCuVnEk-.dFqovUFubJqsMT-u?continueMode=true

Finally from the region for now, Barnsley Sequence Dancing Group is interested in finding out about other groups in the region who they could make connections with. Does your u3a have a sequence dancing group? Please get in touch with Jo Kasperek by email at: anjkasparek@blueyonder.co.uk

Nationally there are events and updates too:

Recently the Board of the Third Age Trust agreed to share notes from its Board Meetings with members and u3as so that they are more informed about what's going on. Please check out the national website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> to read about the most recent meeting.

Please remember these are notes and not the signed off Minutes which have not been finalised as yet.

Hadrian's Wall Project - Off the Wall

Did you know that the Romans started building Hadrian's Wall 1900 years ago, and that for over 300 years, its numerous forts brought together soldiers, families, and traders from all over the Empire? The wall extends from coast to coast across Northumberland and Cumbria - from Wallsend on the Tyne to Bowness-on-Solway in the west, and once marked the borders of the Roman Empire.

To mark the 1900th anniversary the National u3a are organising a **special event on 10th May**. Participants will gather at The Sill, Hexham, in the morning for a programme of lectures, and in the afternoon will visit one of the forts at Vindolanda for a guided tour and a chance to explore the Museum and talk to some of the archaeologists. In addition there are Fringe events on the day, and a number of online talks and workshops in the week leading up to the event.

The event may be of particular interest to local u3as reasonably close to the Wall, but members of other u3as around the country are invited to attend, and some of the u3as in our region are already planning their visits

If you are interested in finding out more or registering your interest, please check the website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/off-the-wall-online>

The Council – The Board – Where Next?

And finally just a note about the plans for a Third Age Trust Council. I know there has been some concern that we are just creating another layer of admin. That's not how I see it. The long term plan is to reduce the size of the Board to cover solely governance and legal matters. Currently there are around 18 members made up of Regional Trustees plus officers. That will hopefully be halved at least and regional trustees will become members of a council rather than board members.

A pilot council sat for the first time at the end of February with a further pilot meeting planned for May. Membership of the council will focus more on operational matters and supporting u3as. A steering group is currently also sitting because we want the membership of the council to reflect the membership of the movement. How they are elected must be approved by u3as but I believe that with a council which is closer to the u3as and their members the work it does will be more relevant.

Watch out for an online meeting in April (date to follow) where you can ask questions and join me to discuss how we would like to shape the council in our region, and meantime if you have any concerns or questions please do email me: Margaret.fiddes@u3a.org.uk.

Margaret Fiddes, Regional Trustee

Thanks to all contributors. Trevor Barrowcliffe