

## YAHR 2025 AGM

### Chair's report

We have had another full year since the last AGM in June 2024.

### Regional Developments

After many discussions the YAHR Constitution was agreed with the Trust and subsequently accepted at a Zoom SGM in November 2024, with 22 of our YAHR u3as voting in favour and one u3a voting against its adoption. It was included in an application for Charity Commission status which was granted by the CC within a few days. Members of the Management Team became Trustees and an Affiliation Agreement was signed between YAHR and the Third Age Trust.

The Trustees are Samina Aslam, Glenys Bailey, Brian Cave, Niall Clarke, Pat Collard, Angie Grain and Hazel Ward. Niall (Secretary) and Glenys (Communications Officer) joined us at the last AGM.

In April 2025 Margaret Fiddes was coopted to join the Trustees. The team also includes non voting Associates who provide support - Pat Ackland, Frank Bailey, Paul Dobbin, Mick Richings and Elaine Toms.

We were fortunate last year to have Paul Dobbin and Elaine Toms from Ilkley u3a redesign our website, which I hope you have found easier to use. We were even more fortunate to have Paul agree to become our webmaster and continue to maintain and update the website.

### [YAHR](#)

Thanks also go to Pat Ackland from Scunthorpe u3a for reorganising the Regional Speaker Directory and checking that each speaker's details are up to date. The Directory can be found on the website.

We are happy to hear from any member of any u3a in our region who would like to come along and meet us and discuss their ideas and proposed contributions. We are specifically keen to hear from anyone prepared to organise Study Days or a Study Day in the region.

### Meetings

We continued to hold our regular Regional Management Team meetings around the region and were joined at some of them by representatives from local u3as for a networking get together at the end of our meetings. We are hoping to continue this model during the coming year in order to meet representatives from as many u3as as possible.

### Workshops

Our Events Coordinator, Angie Grain, organised a workshop for Groups Coordinators and a workshop on the topic of Keeping It Legal, which had guest presenters from the Trust. Both were well attended and very well received. The AGM will be followed by a Forum.

## YAHR Summer School

Our annual summer school took place in July 2024, in its usual venue, Hawkhill Conference Centre, Easingwold. As in previous years, it was sold out and had a waiting list. It was organised by the Summer School planning team for the second year under the excellent guidance of Samina Aslam. As previously, it was enjoyed by the delegates and the tutors did a great job, for which we are grateful. Summer School 2025 is almost ready for this year and will run from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August. The residential places are full but there are a few day places still available

## National Developments

The 41<sup>st</sup> AGM of the Third Age Trust was held in October 2024 where the Fit for the Future proposals were accepted. This resulted in changes to the make up of the Board, which had its number of members reduced, and the introduction of a National Council. Each of the 9 regions and 3 nations were asked for two members to become Council Representatives. Our region, YAHR, was the only region to have 4 members standing for the two roles. This resulted in a regional election involving statements, videos and hustings. The result was the appointment of Brian Cave from Sheffield u3a and Pat Collard from Cottingham u3a as YAHR Council Representatives. The Council came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April and so far there has been an induction and introduction process, both online and face to face in London. Regional teams do not yet exist in all regions and nations. As the YAHR team has been operating for some years and is well established, we are very lucky. The team will support the work of the new Council Reps as it did when we had a Regional Trustee.

This will be my final Chair's report as I am standing down as Chair at this AGM. I will remain as a Trustee and a member of the team, as well as my new role as Council Representative. Someone asked me recently why I do this when, like all u3a volunteers, there's no financial reward. It's a question we could ask all u3a Trustees, committee members and volunteers who keep the u3a movement going and growing. Our Management Team is made up of people who have different skills they are willing to share; they care about what they do; they're generous with their time and expertise; and something very important, they're fun to work with. So I am taking this opportunity, as I stand down from the role of Chair, to thank them all on your behalf for what they do for the region and also thank them personally, for their support, their ideas and their company. They're an excellent bunch!

The members of the Management Team look forward to working with the u3as in our region to provide an interesting programme for the coming year.

Pat Collard

Chair of YAHR Management Team

May 2025