

Yorkshire & Humber u3a

NEWSLETTER

August 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 nationally 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 in July "Alternative ways of Meeting". Another workshop "Recruitment and Retention" took place on 20th May. See reports below.

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 YAHR Management Team meeting on 28TH May, Heather was co-opted and has now taken over from Janet Matthews. A big thank you to Janet for being our treasurer for many years, thank you.

Nick David, York u3a, has volunteered to join the YAHR Management Team and was subsequently co-opted at the MT meeting on 26th July. He will take over responsibility from Beryl Pemberton for the Speaker List and assist Angie Grain, workshops and events coordinator. We are in the process of planning our next series of workshops where the topics are likely to include Diversity and a workshop for New Trustees followed by a Q&A session, ideally in venue. We'll be planning for it to be hybrid to be held at St George's Centre, Leeds in September/October. 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 year's AGM. If anyone is remotely interested, please contact me in the first instance on chair@yahru3a.co.uk

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 at any u3a member in our Region. It highlighted the importance of retention of existing members and recruitment of new ones. Both of these are real challenges, particularly after the problems of this last year. 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 about 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. Liz Thackray, recently elected to TAT Chair, shared her ideas along with technical advice of how going forward we might manage our u3a activities. This presentation was followed by a Q&A session 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 workshop can be found on the YAHR website. A big thank you goes to all those who attended to make the workshops such a success. Thank you.