

Yorkshire & Humber NEWSLETTER

October 2022

<https://yahru3a.uk>



We are sure that we speak for all our u3as and their members as we wish to pay our respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II. Our thoughts are with her family and those close to her at this time.

Her integrity, strength, public spirit and belief in the unifying force of living and working together will be missed by us all. The period since her death has been a time of reflection for us all on a life which was dedicated to public service.

The Third Age Trust have opened an online book of condolences, which has already received many hundreds of entries **You can access the Book of Condolences by going to the home page at the top of the website**

u3a.org.uk

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It seems autumn has arrived and with it, a fresh list of things to do. As I write this the TAT AGM is imminent. We had an interesting Zoom discussion on the resolutions. I know some u3a officers appreciate the opportunity to discuss with other u3as issues concerning all of us. This is certainly something we can host if YAHR members feel it is useful. Just let me know and I'll circulate a topic.

As you will see in the newsletter we will be running our workshops soon and look forward to the opportunity to meet up with u3a representatives from around the region.

Nationally the first 'Ask The Trust' session took place on Zoom in September. This was not recorded but there is a document giving a roundup of the questions and answers which I will circulate. The second session is due to be held on 13th October and I will circulate the link for tickets to join that one. These are open to all u3a members, not just committee members, so please pass the information on. This ties in nicely with the questions raised in considering the AGM resolutions which were around what TAT does to benefit individual u3as. Tune in and find out more.

The YAHR Management Team meets regularly to consider how we can support the u3as in the region. If you have ideas or requests please pass them on to me and I'll certainly take them along. If you would like to be involved regionally you are very welcome and there are a variety of roles you could fill - a member of the Management Team or a support for YAHR activities such as the summer school or music festival or workshops. Drop me an email or give me a ring if you're interested. Planning for next year's summer learning break is about to begin and we need additional support from members for all sorts of linked requirements to ensure a successful event.

I wish you all well in your u3a activities. It's great to see the different ideas that pop up on the Facebook sites. We're an enterprising lot!

Pat

Pat Collard, YAHR Chair

chair@yahru3a.co.uk

Summer School - back by popular demand!

Yorkshire and Humber Region (YAHR) Summer Learning Break

July 2022.

After a two year delay due to Covid, u3a members once again gathered for the annual Summer Learning Break 2022 organised by the YAHR Management Team.

Over 110 members attended, not just from the region, but from as far afield as Lowestoft and Kent as day or residential delegates.

The staff at The Hawkhill Conference Centre, Easingwold, warmly welcomed everyone as delegates settled in and enjoyed their chosen course work: from an introduction to Spanish Conversation, the Air we Breathe, Four Philosophers from Four Centuries, Archaeology of Britain since the Normans, Greek mythology, Women Artists from the Renaissance to the Present Day, Introduction to Jewellery Making and Portrait Drawing and Painting.

Pat Collard, YAHR Chair and Vice Chair of Cottingham u3a, opened the proceedings urging everyone to “Live, Laugh and Learn” and the delegates certainly did.

Extracts from a member of the Spanish Conversation group: It was wonderful to meet other u3a members from beyond my own locality. Our tutor had made a really big effort to provide plenty of additional materials to decorate our room with colourful images of the Spanish Speaking world. There were plenty of books to provide additional stimulus, talking points and worksheets to practise our linguistic skills. The Spanish group was made up of nine delegates and it soon became obvious that we had quite a varied range of backgrounds and prior experience, but our tutor soon made us feel at ease with everything from the start.

Over the remaining two and a half days we covered a range of topics. We had quizzes and prepared a short presentation (in Spanish, of course), to share with other groups. But above all, we had a great deal of fun. It's fair to say that we learnt so much from each other and shared many happy experiences.

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.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

We are planning to hold a YAHR Music Festival on 13th June 2023. This 1-day event will be held in York, and all u3as in our region are invited to send at least one of their music groups. This will be an opportunity for the various music groups to perform, and to listen to and interact with music groups from other u3as across the region. Further details will be sent out in due course.

Workshops

A small team of four has been recruited to plan and organise future workshops. At their first meeting it was decided that the main TYPES of activities should be:

- 1) Role-based workshops;
- 2) Specific issue-based workshops;
- 3) Study Days;
- 4) Sharing Good Ideas workshops;
- 5) Group Leaders workshops; and
- 6) One-off events, possibly harnessing appropriate anniversaries/events etc

Role-based workshops – it was suggested that there are four main roles to cover and we could do two per year, on a roll-over basis in alternate years.

YEAR 1 (2021/2)	YEAR 2 (2022/3)
Chairs & Secs (Running your u3a)	Trustees
Treasurers	Groups Coordinators

The Trustees workshop could also include potential Trustees, Induction, challenges facing Trustees and Role Descriptors.

Specific issue-based workshops – we would like to arrange one on Communications, to include internal comms (newsletters, magazine, e-news etc), external (press releases etc), websites and social media. It is a lot to cover in one day, but this could be a starter, with possible follow-ups in more detail later.

Study Days - these would aim to break even financially, with payments by participants. A number of ideas were discussed:

ROMANS Study Day - aimed to coincide with Hadrian's Wall anniversary. A number of venues and contributors were considered.

Sharing Good Ideas workshops – these have worked well in the past, but it is suggested we don't have them as a whole-day workshop, but as the follow-on from the annual AGM.

Group Leaders' workshops – in the past these have been run for Local History and Art (separately) and were very popular. We will explore subject-based GLs' workshops – focussing on subjects that are common across many u3as.

The group also discussed a general GLs' workshop – not subject specific – advice and good practice about leading and inspiring groups, including moving away from the 'lecturing' style, encouraging participation and resources.

Also considered were possible outcomes from these workshops and harnessing the potential of the website.

One-off events – in addition to anniversaries etc, we considered planning something for Bradford's Year of Culture in 2025 as a special event.

Other issues –

- We would like to encourage u3as to invite members from beyond their own membership when they are organising unusual events like Study Days etc (providing there is capacity) – this might help them to fill (and pay for) seats in halls and/or coaches.

Stop Press – Next workshop Wednesday 16 November at St George's Centre, Leeds, for Trustees and potential Trustees. Further details from Angie Grain (chair@ilkleyu3a.org) and registration on YAHR website, or email secretary@yahr.uk for a form.

Angie Grain

Regional News

Kevin Siddall and his wife Joy, from Greater Manchester, have created a variety of 50 minute presentations that involve telling stories and performing songs from a variety of genres. They recently performed a Jubilee Themed show/talk for Oldham U3A and it was very well received. They would like an opportunity to offer their presentations to other u3as and are willing to travel up to 60 minutes from the M60 so would be able to visit u3as in West Yorkshire if any are interested.

They have designed 5 different presentations for 2023: '9 Royal decades through song'; 'a Musical meander round Britain'; 'a Swing-thing': 'Sinatra'; 'a Crooning Christmas'.

Contact Kevin at ksidall@ntlworld.com, or on 07709 952366

A similar duo, Fools Gold, offer presentations in words, music and visuals, based on local history and traditional themes. They are based in Newcastle but are willing to travel, and have entertained us at Whitby Whaler u3a several times; highly recommended.

Website <https://www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk/home>

Helen Leech, Public Relations

Award

Mac MacKechnie of Barnsley U3A recently receiving an award from BBC Radio Leeds in the 'Make a difference' category

Highly Commended at the BBC Radio Leeds 'Make a difference' awards this afternoon in the volunteer category.



News from National u3a

Training and Regional Support Update Online Workshops

National Workshops continue to be held regularly; they are a great way to learn and to meet other members from across the u3a movement. For further details, timings, and links to book please visit: www.u3a.org.uk/advice/workshops

Comms and Policy

- Southport u3a featured on North West ITV News recently as a result of their show garden at Southport Flower Show. You can watch their segment here:
- <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2022-08-19/uks-largest-independent-flower-show-returns-for-91st-year>)
- Our latest Do Something Brilliant Today films (featuring Trust u3a member and Dawlish u3a member David) are running as Facebook ads signposting to the Join Us page. The original videos can be seen on our YouTube channel - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsB2t41TNozHm60lwOWK2POwT-VQ_kx8O - and members can use these to promote their own u3as.

There are also quite a lot of other educational events nationally that we can all take part in if we want to. The link is: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Hadrian's Wall Project

Hadrian's Wall – Did you know that the Romans started building Hadrian's Wall 1900 years ago, and that for over 300 years, it's numerous forts brought together soldiers, families, and traders from all over the Empire. It would be great if the u3a movement could somehow play a role in the history of the Wall by bringing together u3a interest groups from around the UK for a series of connected events. A special day on and around the Wall could feature activities from history and social history groups, geography, geology, art, amateur dramatics, climate change, archaeology, and research groups, and many more, with walking groups linking the activity areas. The event may be of particular interest to local u3as reasonably close to the Wall, but it may also be an attractive visit for other u3as groups and individuals to spend a few days in the area.

Groups and u3as in our region are already beginning to express an interest – If you are interested in finding out more or registering your interest please email me – Margaret.fiddes@u3a.org.uk

And finally.....

U3a week

This year u3a week ran from Monday 19th September; obviously because of the Queen's funeral and subsequent mourning period we understand that many u3as will have changed their plans during the week, out of respect for the late Queen Elizabeth.

However, we would really very much like to hear from our u3as about any events that took place, and especially if you have any photos. Please send to Margaret.fiddes@u3a.org.uk

Margaret Fiddes, Regional Trustee