



## Chair's Report 2018-19

Despite the many distractions some of our team have experienced, YAHR team has worked hard on behalf of our membership during another busy and productive year.

With the anticipated inauguration of Tadcaster, we will have 53 U3As in our region, and well over 5000 members. We have achieved an increase in both applicant numbers attending and the number of our U3As being represented as evidenced by an 'Applicants Log'. A reviewed Constitution is to be presented to the 2019 AGM for ratification. The new draft accommodates both changes to Third Age Trust policies and procedures, and our wishes as a Team to enhance our operations on behalf of our member-U3As.

Regional Development Meetings (RDM) continue to provide a networking and learning space for reps from our member-U3A committees. The 'Have Your Say' (September 2017) exercise is to be repeated at this year's AGM to ensure our U3As learning needs and wants are fulfilled. We have standardised our event planning and publicity processes, so any of our team can organise an event with support as required. A science and technology event is proving popular, with more planned. We have reviewed the venues used for meetings and events across the 3 main centres of Doncaster, York, and Leeds, and have created a profile that provides cost and quality markers for future planning. Our 2019 Summer School is now secure due to steadily rising numbers of applications, despite 2 courses being challenged due to low numbers. A further U3A Hosted Event is being considered for summer 2019, with guidelines set to ensure clear lines of responsibility and planning progress.

Networks have been central to this year's development. Work is underway to encourage a Treasurers' network from the recent workshop, and plans for a Chair's workshop could launch another officers' group. An Art Appreciation network has been launched, a History groups workshop planned for June may create another subject network, and with the recent launching of an East Coast Network, we now boast 4 geographical networks across our region.

Beacon Users are aware of an increase to subscriptions to fund IT advancements to ensure the system is fit for purpose. YAHR's Frank Bailey (Ripon) is now national Beacon Advisor – he's due for a busy year!

Research is gaining a higher profile nationally; we are receiving increasing numbers of requests for our membership to contribute to projects on the health and welfare of older people. Several Shared Learning Projects are underway, or completed across the region, and Sheffield U3A are working cooperatively with a local university centre.

Our web site has become more central to our communication processes, enabling our membership and committee team to access documentation, including records of events. The YAHR Bulletin is proving popular; it provides news slots and web references to allow access to more information for local use.

Our Regional Trustee Sue Stokes has had another busy year on and with the Executive Committee, as well as helping to plan and execute several YAHR workshop events.

At the 2020 AGM, several of our trustees will be stepping down. Needless to say, we welcome nominations from the wider membership who would like to be involved in U3A at another level by offering their experience and expertise to our Team.

We have fulfilled our stated planning aims this year, and during 2019-20 period, we intend to:

- Explore possible actions to take to encourage contact from current non-engaging U3As.
- Create a 2019-21 planning document to include:
  - Create provision of an information archive
  - Increase the number of subject and officer networks
  - Place an increased focus on encouraging more Shared Learning, and cooperative research projects
  - Increase the range of science and technology events
- Produce a rationale for a Showcase event to be run in August 2020
- Ensure the team engages with succession planning to maintain trustee numbers

Please join me in thanking the whole YAHR team who work consistently with energy and time, to enhance the U3A experience of our increasing membership

Barbara Dransfield

April 2019