

# History & Archaeology – WORKSHOP

## 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019



### FEEDBACK

#### NOTES FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS

##### WHAT GIVES YOU A 'BUZZ'?

- Reaction from members; finding out for themselves
- Not 'teaching' = setting people on the road to learning
- Research work (Ripon)
- Sense of duty
- Sharing the excitement (metal detection)
- Good discussions
- Start with own interests and then learn from others
- 'Power and Status' !!! 😊

##### THINGS THAT WORKED WELL FOR YOUR GROUP

- 1 Reminisce – leading to group working well together
- 2 Good outings with speakers or members giving short talks
- 3 Tour of Barnsley Town Hall – good guide
- 4 Guest speakers – don't need to be 'experts' – those from different societies
- 5 Teachers have an advantage in confidence – how to encourage others? Help people who are not naturals
- 6 U3A members have wide range of knowledge and skills to draw on
- 7 'University' is a barrier
- 7 People drawn in by topics of interest then discover new areas of interest
- 8 **People like DOING, rather than LISTENING**
- 9 Site visits- encourage members to speak and organise
- 10 Mystery trips – leader done recce beforehand
- 11 Old objects, old photographs, kitchen implements – members bring and talk about them
- 12 Quizzes
- 13 Day you were born (or date of meeting) – what happened on that date through time
- 14 Stimulate discussion by making it local. Local site visits
- 15 Shared responsibility to contribute to discussions
- 16 How long to spend on a subject? React to members' feelings on a subject
- 17 Be flexible about the depth of coverage
- 18 Break times are important for socialising
- 19 **Group members learn from each other, not just the leader**
- 20 Started with a book on Archaeology – each member presented on one chapter
- 21 Group subscription to 'Current Archaeology' – shared with all members
- 22 Newsletter
- 23 Using a video from U3A resources
- 24 Join a group of other U3As in a network
- 25 Jon Kenny Community Archaeologist – lots of good ideas [www.jkcomarc.co.uk](http://www.jkcomarc.co.uk)
- 26 Ensure that members who cannot contribute don't feel excluded

- 27 Some groups research-based' others teaching-based (by leader or members)
- 28 Methodology depends on size and experience of group
- 29 Have planning sessions to agree what the group wants to do and how
- 30 Try a simple research topic for ALL members
- 31 **Different levels of input and knowledge; use the group as a resource**
- 32 **Mixing different approaches**

### ANY PROBLEMS?

- 1 Very opinionated people.....
- 2 Profound deafness of a member – all group need to comply with solutions
- 3 Paying for guest speakers – very mixed messages
- 4 Resistance to change
- 5 Deciding on topics to suit everyone; tried using a 'theme' that all can work on

### GROUP DISCUSSION #2

(✓ = comments made by more than one person/group)

#### Where do we go from here?

Sharing ideas of programmes, sharing ideas and resources  
 Contact details of others in the group and what they do ✓✓  
 Improved communication amongst us  
 Regional Networking for History/Archaeology Leaders  
 Networking with near neighbours  
 Organise more of these sessions/annually ✓✓✓  
 Joint events/Study Days for History or Archaeology  
 Disparities between groups makes close comparison difficult

#### How can YAHR help you?

Co-ordinate the above  
 Only one member of the discussion group receives information from YAHR (*all encouraged to sign up to both the YAHR & National newsletters – AG*)  
 One person found working with local group and YAHR conflicting and difficult  
 Provide a pool of information and resources ✓✓  
 Provide a forum for exchange of information/newsletter  
 Keep list of approved speakers  
 Advice on
 

- How to set up a group
- How to get speakers
- Pre-formatted letters (?)

 Start-up monetary fund to cover rents, stationery etc (*I think this is the role of your local U3A, rather than YAHR – AG*)

#### WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT TIME?

Study Days excellent  
 Feedback direct to Group Leaders (*this information and Allen's handout will be e-mailed to all those registered for this event and then posted on the YAHR website – AG*)  
 Move around to different tables in the afternoon  
 Doing a good job (☺ - cheers – AG)

## HOW CAN WE BE MORE EFFECTIVE?

The group felt they knew little about YAHR and its function. It needs more publicity to ordinary members.

Organise Study Days

## WHAT ABOUT A NEW SUBJECT NETWORK?

Yes - ✓✓✓✓

## OVERALL FEEDBACK ON THE WORKSHOP

- (✓ = comments made by more than one person)

### What did you find was the most useful part of the day?

- Sharing ideas with others/networking ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Meeting other Leaders, obtaining contacts, different approaches ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Opportunity to discuss our problems
- The talks on sharing experiences ✓✓✓
- Group discussion about how to promote group participation
- The wide variety of 'history' and approaches ✓✓✓✓
- Idea of exploring working with other groups
- All of it ✓
- Learning how other groups work and getting ideas ✓✓✓
- Inspirational/brilliant guest speaker ✓✓✓✓

### Will the day help you with your Group?

- Yes/certainly ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Help with involving group more ✓✓
- Hopefully ✓✓✓
- Thank you ✓
- Gave me wider ideas of things to do with my group ✓
- Keep it simple and non-threatening
- Will try site visits
- New ways of studying History
- Not really

### Did any aspect of the day cause you problems?

- No ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- No – well led, well organised and good venue ✓✓
- Lights were too bright
- Lack of time to speak with individuals
- We need to remember, we are not all teachers, members should not feel inferior
- Needed more formalised opportunity for circulation
- Not enough ladies' loos
- Finding the venue; request a map next time.
  
- What would you like to see happen next for Art group leaders?
- Subject Network ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Shared resources via website

- Request e-mails of attendees to exchange views ✓✓✓✓
- Regular/another/annual meeting ✓✓✓✓✓
- Not sure
- Multi-site topics
- More info/ideas on teaching
- Way to share successful ideas
- Receiving feedback notes
- Joint group day for Archaeology Leaders, organised by GLs

### **Any other comments?**

- For information – English Heritage has free admission for educational (U3A) groups
- Very useful/interesting/informative day – thanks ✓✓✓✓✓
- Nice/lovely lunch ✓✓✓✓
- Changing tables after lunch may have been useful
- Resolve to sign up for e-newsletters
- Good venue
- Use of Capital letters on handout caused problems as I have vision problems

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Just for information – you might like to check this out – I only discovered it this weekend

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/helmsley-castle/helmsley-archaeology-store/>

### **OTHER OBSERVATIONS – from me.**

Many thanks to you all for giving up your time and being such a lively and interested group. It was a delight to meet you all.

I hope that you found the day enjoyable and useful and that you returned home with some good ideas for your groups. I'm sure we will be in touch again.

At present I have three volunteers to work together to take this forward to establish a new Subject Network (Rosie, Susan and Ellen) – if anyone else would like to join us in this – you would be more than welcome – just e-mail me.

*Angie Grain*

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