



Acting Chair's Report 2019-20

The AGM is a bit like my local train to Leeds its delayed, in the AGMs case by 5-months.

I was elected as Deputy chair at the 2019 AGM and was looking forward to supporting our Chair Barbara Dransfield, but unfortunately, she resigned due to ill health. I accepted the request from the Management Team to be Acting Chair until the planned AGM on 29th April 2020. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic the AGM was cancelled and rescheduled to 17th September where it was hoped that we could have a face-to-face meeting, however this will not be possible instead we are holding a virtual AGM starting at 10.30am on Thursday 17th September.

The Management Team thanked Barbara most profusely for all the work she's put in on behalf of the Region and her support to myself and the wider membership, and we wished her well in the future.

Considerable discussion has taken place on what YAHR does well and from feedback helped the committee decided should be concentrating on. Consequently, it was decided not to proceed with a Showcase Event in 2020 but to concentrate Summer Break with Learning. Although the Showcase is popular it takes considerable organising with an element of preaching to the converted, the main point of contact with potential new members is through Open events.

The committee has decided to concentrate on providing training, visits, events, Summer Break with Learning, and a platform to provide assistance to U3As in our area. As a result of feedback, the Regional Development Meetings at which we provided Management Team provided updates followed by subject workshops have been phased out with and replaced with just subject workshops.

The feedback from the 2019 Summer Break with Learning was very positive, and I would like to publicly acknowledge the tremendous amount of hard work Samina Haslam & Jean Stevenson put in to make the 2019 event such a success, Pat Collard has joined the team helping to organise the this year's event which was in advanced stages of planning which was to have been held in July but due to Covid has been rescheduled to July 2021.

James Cook experience planned by Whitby Whaler U3A for June 2020 is another event that has regrettably been cancelled and rescheduled to June 2021, I would like to thank the organisers for all the work they'd put-in, to make what would have been a really successful event, they expressed great sadness at having to postpone as they were looking forward to welcoming members to Whitby.

A revised Constitution was approved at the 2019 AGM, and a minor change approved at the October 2019 Regional Development Meeting. However, The Third Age Trust has produced a Network version, if we adopt this version it will give us access to funding, and YAHR would be fully recognised by The Trust, YAHR is proposing to adopt this version and will be presented at the AGM.

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. What have we been up to since the 2019 AGM?

- History & Archeology workshop June 2019
- Summer School August 2019
- Trustee workshop October 2019

- Sharing good Idea November 2019
- Treasurers workshop February 2020
- JM Turner Study day, Mercer Gallery, Harrogate
- Veolia Waste to Energy Plant, Leeds four visits
- Drax Power Station, four visits

All the above have been well attended especially the Veolia & Drax with approx. 120 attending both, with waiting lists, which have put on hold due to Covid pandemic.

After the AGM official business there will be presentations by

- Frank Bailey National Lead Frank Bailey (Ripon) on Beacon 2
- Sue Stokes the outgoing Regional Trustee
- Margaret Giddes the Publicity & Recruitment advisor

Our website has become more central to our communication processes, enabling our membership and committee team to access documentation, including records of events, including links to the National website and all U3As in our area.

At the 2020 AGM, we welcome nominations from the wider membership who would like to be involved in the U3A at another level by offering their experience and expertise to our Team.

The truism that you're never too old to learn new tricks, has never been truer, in this case using virtual platforms.

All papers for the AGM are available to view on the YAHR website

Finally, would like to thank all the YAHR Team for their considerable input while still being active with their own U3As, thank you.

Mick Richings
August 2020