



Yorkshire and the Humber 2019-2020

Members across the 53 Yorkshire and Humber U3As continue to enjoy a range of activities provided via their local organisation, through some networks and regionally. Tadcaster and Villages U3A became the latest U3A to join YAHR. There has been an almost 3% growth in membership across the region, with now more than 27,500 members.

YAHR's Regional Management Team coordinate a range of developmental sessions for U3As, with Study days and a Summer School for local members. During 2019-20 there have been

- Workshops on Trustee Induction, Finance and Sharing Good Ideas. The Running Your U3A workshop for Chairs and Secretaries and the Marketing and Publicity workshop were cancelled due to the Coronavirus lockdown.
- Study days included Turner: the Artist – members used the visiting exhibition in Harrogate; Focus on the Environment – 2 visits to the Veolia Waste to Energy plant in Leeds and 3 visits to Drax Power Station. The planned Captain Cook event in Whitby was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- A successful Summer School in August 2019 where sessions included landscape painting, Literature between the wars, Art history, Philosophy, Jewellery Making and Climate Change.

A Special Learning Project was undertaken by Sheffield U3A with South Yorkshire Housing Association called Story Catcher, where U3A members interviewed tenants of the association for their memories. Sheffield U3A also followed on from their successful 60's project to work with history students from Sheffield University in an oral history project.

Additionally there have been several initiatives undertaken to raise the profile of U3A within the region and to develop external relationships:

- Presentations were made to health and community workers linked to Connect for Health and the Patient Empowerment Project in Leeds
- Presentation and dissemination of contacts with the Ex-Forces Support Project in North Yorkshire
- Attendance at the Mature and Senior Citizens Fair in Morley, Leeds to explore the potential for a new U3A

The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic within the region has been both negative and positive. There have been cancellations and postponements, as well as the cessation of face-to-face activities across all U3As. However, many committees and group leaders have strived to provide critical links for their members in the form of online lectures, quizzes and learning activities as well as increasing the frequency of communications. Many members have learned the skills of interactive online communication, investing in video-conferencing packages and telephone buddy schemes. Some members have continued to raise the profile of U3A through the press – eg, Ilkley and Rotherham – and in radio interviews, eg Barnsley and Sherburn, Once again, YAHR U3As have risen to challenges and continue to make every effort to learn, laugh and live.