

**Draft Minutes of Virtual Yorkshire and Humber U3A Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday, September 17th 2020**

Before the meeting commenced Chris Woolven (Doncaster) queried as to whether the meeting would be quorate, the Chair replied as the meeting is postponed from April it could be deemed an SGM. However, with the numbers attending it is quorate.

The meeting commenced at 10.30am

Welcome: Acting Chair, welcomed everyone to the first YAHR AGM via Zoom. He explained that the business of the official meeting would be recorded and that attendees should blank their screens if they did not wish to be seen. Any questions should be made via the Chat Box. Voting would be via Polling and he reminded everyone attending that only one vote per U3A is allowed.

Present:

Mick Richings (Acting Chair); Samina Aslam (YAHR Events Administrator); Angie Grain (Networks Coordinator); Janet Matthews (Treasurer); Sue Stokes (YAHR Regional Trustee); Hazel Ward (Admin. Secretary); Pat Collard (Co-opted Committee member); Hugh Bevington (Co-opted Committee member); Margaret Fiddes (PR advisor); Jacqueline MacKinnon, John MacKinnon (Barnsley), Doreen Osuch (Beverley); Cathryn Iliffe (Bradford); Lesley Tempest, Sue Tong (Cottingham); Christine Curtis, Chris Woolven (Doncaster); Gerald Massey, Mary Wells, Stephen Wells (Driffield and Wolds); Eleanor Harris (Filey and District); Frances Walker (Howden and District); Chris Mills, David Stone (Pocklington and District); Pat Thompson (Sherburn and Villages); Christine Des-Forges (Tadcaster and Villages); Paul Scott (Wakefield and District); Mike Barnard (York).

Apologies:

Apologies have been received from Trevor Barrowcliffe (Whitby Whaler); Beryl Pemberton (Bedale); Neil Stevens (Ilkley and District), Phil Barker (Bradford); Ron Tinkler (Pocklington).

Minutes of AGM held on 29th April 2019.

These were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising.

There were none from the floor.

The revised Constitution approved at the 2019 AGM, required a minor change which was approved at the Regional Development Meeting, 22nd October 2019. Shown below.

4. Membership

iii. YAHR fully complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), see website for Privacy and GDPR policies.

The revised constitution was forwarded to National Office.

Acting Chair's Annual Report.

Our AGM is a bit like my local train to Leeds - it's 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 has not been possible instead we are holding a virtual AGM.

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 to decide what we should be concentrating on. Consequently, it was decided not to proceed with a Showcase Event in 2020 but to concentrate on the 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 provide Management Team updates followed by subject workshops have been phased out and replaced with 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 Aslam & Jean Stevenson put in to make the 2019 event such a success Pat Collard has joined the team helping to organise this year's event which was in advanced stages of planning, but which, due to Covid has been rescheduled to July 2021.

The 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 had 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, with a minor change approved at the October 2019 Regional Development Meeting. However, The Third Age Trust has produced a Network version. The Management Team has approved adopting this version in due course. It will give us access to funding, use of the U3A logo and YAHR being fully recognised by The Trust.

Despite the many distractions some of our team have experienced, the 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

- Sue Stokes the outgoing Regional Trustee
- Margaret Giddes the Publicity advisor and incoming Regional Trustee
- Frank Bailey National Lead on Beacon 2.

Our website and email have 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.

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

Finally, I would like to thank all the YAHR Team for their considerable input while still being active with their own U3As, in these difficult times. Thank you.

There were no further questions and the report was **approved**.

Treasurer's Report.

The balance at the bank at Year ended March 2020 was £10,466.

Income.

The income for the year totaled £39,136, most of which, £32,400, came for the Summer Break with Learning. We received £3,631 from the Third Age Trust to cover the costs of management team meetings and workshops. In addition, income was received from the Whitby Whaler's Captain Cook Experience (£2,355) and Harrogate U3A's Turner Study Day (£750).

Expenditure.

Total expenditure was £32,403, mainly from the Summer Break with Learning (£28,017) plus the management team and workshops (£3,631).

The surplus.

The surplus for the year was £6,733, mainly from the Summer Break with Learning, £4,383

The balance at the bank at 31st March was £10,466.

The accounts have been independently examined by Colonel John Goodsir CBE and no issues were raised.

Current position at September 2020.

COVID- 19 has resulted in

- No expenses for Management Team Meetings and workshops
- Purchase Pro Zoom £143.88
- Cancellation of the Captain Cook Experience event: £840 was refunded with some people allowing money to be kept for 2021.

The current bank balance is £9,982, which will be used to offset the expenditure of the Summer Break with Learning.

There were no questions and the report was **approved**.

Finance.

Appointment of Colonel John Goodsir, formally Chairman of York U3A, as Independent Financial Examiner was **approved**. The Chair thanked Treasurer, Janet Matthews, for all her thorough work throughout the year and for producing her report.

Election of Officers and Committee Members.

All standing members were re-elected: Nominations: Samina Aslam (Sheffield); Angie Grain (Ilkley and District); Janet Matthews (Leeds); Beryl Pemberton (Bedale and District) and Hazel Ward (Swanland). There were no new nominations.

Change of role: Mick Richings Acting Chairman to Chairman.

Proposed: Doug McLellan (Craven U3A)

Seconded: Angie Grain (Ilkley and District).

Agreed.

Committee member: Hugh Bevington (Ilkley and District)

Proposed: Angie Grain (Ilkley and District)

Seconded: Anne Eady (Ilkley and District)

Agreed.

Committee member: Pat Collard (Cottingham)

Proposed: Hazel Ward (Swanland)

Seconded: Sue Stokes (Barnsley).

Agreed.

Committee member: Trevor Barrowcliffe (Whitby Whaler)

Proposed: Mick Richings (Craven)

Seconded: Samina Aslam (Sheffield)

Agreed.

Any Other Business sent to Secretary in advance.

None received.

The Chair pointed out that any supplementary questions will be taken after the meeting is closed.

The AGM official business finished at 11:05am. and the recording ended.

The 2021 AGM is scheduled for late April 2021, when it is hoped we can all safely meet. It will take place at St. George's Centre, Leeds.

The Chair thanked everyone for their support and attendance.

Non-Official Business

11:15 a.m. The meeting continued with reports from:

Regional Trustee's Annual Report 2019 -2020 – Sue Stokes (Barnsley)
Publicity and Marketing – Margaret Fiddes (Sherburn and Villages)
Beacon Update – Frank Bailey (Ripon).

Regional Trustee's Report

Sue began by thanking Mick for all his work over the past 18 months, much appreciated by everyone on the Management Team. She explained that all the items in her report would be available for the Third Age Trust AGM Annual Report.

Members enjoy a range of activities via their local U3A, networks, at regional and national events, although regional activity has been very limited over the last 6 months. She commended Chrissie Des Forges, secretary of Tadcaster and Villages U3A, for all her tremendous efforts and resolve in setting up this new U3A in spite of many drawbacks. She recognized that there are still many localities where there is no U3A. In spite of the 3% growth in membership across the YAHR with more than 27,500 members, several U3As have declining membership. She felt that the Summer Break with Learning had been a tremendous success.

Following the Third Age Trust election of directors, Margaret Fiddes will take over from Sue as YAHR Regional Trustee at the Third Age Trust AGM. Sue will continue to participate in the Communications and External Affairs Committee (CEAC) and will stand as Interim Chair until the end of December 2020.

Publicity and Marketing - Margaret Fiddes PR advisor.

Early in 2020 it was agreed nationally to appoint a PR advisor for each region. In June Margaret Fiddes took up the role in YAHR. So far, 36 U3As in the region have supplied Margaret with a publicity contact on their Committee, following which she organised in September a Regional Zoom PR Seminar at which there were 27 participants.

Margaret has offered to be a first point of contact for U3As volunteering to take part in the first phase of recruitment push to be known as Pathfinder U3As. As she will be taking on a new role as YAHR Regional Trustee from September, the PR role will now be vacant from the end of September.

Mick Richings asked Margaret if she would be able and willing to rerun parts of her presentation to the Craven U3A Committee and for it to be recorded.

Frank Bailey Beacon Support.

In December 2018 it was announced that work would begin on Beacon 2. GDPR issues had been a setback for development work, but it was now back on track. Terms and conditions had been re-written. There are now 60 people in the management group who are working towards a bigger and better Beacon. Beacon will have its own website and Frank showed us what it would look like and how it would work with a demonstration re- accessibility via Login and Password.

It is anticipated that Beacon 2 will be ready to spring into action by the end of December 2020. In January and February 2021, there will be tests involving U3As, who have already been identified, to find and rectify issues and problems. April 1st Beacon 2 will be launched. Frank was asked if he advised potential Beacon U3As to join now or wait until after the re-launch? Frank replied that he thought it would be better to join Beacon 1 now to make a start on organizing data. In answer to another query Frank thought that for current members, transfer to Beacon 2 should be automatic, although there may be some exceptions.

There was one final question from someone who had tried unsuccessfully to use the Zoom Chat Room and would like to know how to use it in the future.

Mick ended the meeting by thanking Samina Aslam of Sheffield U3A who had hosted the whole meeting so successfully and made it go according to plan and to everyone who had attended it and made it all worthwhile.

The meeting ended at 11:30am