

## 2021 YAHR/AGM.

### Chair's Report

Welcome to our AGM. 2020 was not a year that any of us would wish to live through again, but with the end of the restrictions we've had to endure in sight, the Management Team's attention is now on returning to physical activities. During lockdown, our focus has been to support u3as in whatever way we could, mainly by promoting the use of virtual platforms.

We said farewell to our Regional Trustee, Sue Stokes, who has taken up a role in the National Office. Margaret Fiddes, who was previously the Publicity Region's adviser, has succeeded Sue. We thanked Sue for all her tireless work on behalf of the region and nationally, as well as being active with her own Barnsley u3a. She will definitely be a hard act to follow. Helen Leech of Whitby Whaler u3a has replaced Margaret. She has placed a short introduction on the website.

The Management Team took the decision to return the AGM to its normal date of late April. When this was discussed and agreed, it was hoped we would be able to have a physical meeting. Unfortunately this is not to be, so once again it will be a virtual one.

The two major events planned for 2020, the Captain Cook Experience and Summer Break with Learning, had to be postponed until 2021. The good news is it is hoped that the Captain Cook Experience will go ahead this year in September. Unfortunately however, the Summer Break with Learning has had to be cancelled, due to the uncertainty at the time of planning.

This year we have provided two virtual workshops on Facebook and on u3a Day, plus a zoom meeting "Ask the Chair" where u3a Chair, Ian McCannah, gave an update on what the National Office is currently doing, followed by a question-and-answer session for the next hour.

We plan to use the newsletter to be published every two months to publicize not only YAHR activities but also those of u3as in our region. The editor is Trevor Barrowcliffe, assisted by Helen Leech, our Publicity Relations Adviser. Copies of the newsletter can be found on the YAHR website and will be circulated to the region's Chairs and Secretaries, as well as to all who have signed up to the newsletter.

The committee will concentrate on providing workshops, visits, events, and a platform to help u3as in our area.

u3a Day will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This has been extensively publicized. Any queries please contact Sue Stokes at [sue.stokes@u3a.org.uk](mailto:sue.stokes@u3a.org.uk)

The Third Age Trust has produced a model constitution. Although our present one was approved at the 2019 AGM, the Management Team will be adopting this version in due course as it will give us access to funding, use of the u3a logo and the YAHR being fully recognised by the Trust.

After the AGM official business there will be presentations by

- Margaret Fiddes - Regional Trustee
- Helen Leech - Publicity Advisor
- Frank Bailey - National Lead Frank Bailey on Beacon 2

Our website and email have become essential to our communication processes, enabling us to keep in touch with u3as in our area. The website provides access to documentation, including records of events, links to the National website and all u3as in our area.

We would welcome anyone to come and join our Management Team. For more information please contact me at [chair@yahru3a.co.uk](mailto:chair@yahru3a.co.uk).

We are especially looking for a Treasurer whose work would be minimal compared to that of the treasurer of an individual u3a.

The truism that you're never too old to learn new tricks has never been truer, in this case using virtual platforms. Who would ever have thought how experienced we would become in using virtual platforms?

Finally, I would like to thank all the YAHR Team for their considerable input in these difficult times whilst still being active with their own u3as. Thank you.

Mick Richings  
Chair