



Yorkshire and the Humber Region

Newsletter

February 2012

In this edition:

Reports from the Chairman and Regional Trustee

AGM alert!

Proposal for a Shared Learning Project on Northern Writers

Reports from our Chair and new Regional Trustee!

Askham Bryan revisited

Contributions from around the Region

Please send copy (preferably unformatted in Word) for May 2012 Newsletter to

shelagh@woolliscroft.com by 31 April 2012

Urgent items for YAHR website should be sent to Chris Leak at leak32@msn.com

YAHR Management Committee as at 1 11 2012

Post	Name	E-mail Address	Tel No
Chairman:	Derrick Franks	derrick@franks1356.freerve.co.uk	01977 620192
Vice-Chairman:	David Wright	jdwright@hotmail.com	01653 691642
Secretary:	Vacancy – duties being covered by Derrick Franks		
Treasurer:	Vacancy - duties being covered by Derrick Franks		
Regional Trustee:	David Morton	dm014b2439@blueyonder.co.uk	01943 607826
Newsletter:	Shelagh Woolliscroft	shelagh@woolliscroft.com	01246 416139
Members:	Hilary Baker	hilary@hilarybaker.plus.com	01729 840609
	Anne Firth	firthafirth@aol.com	01302 722465 /07940 024009
	Roger Watkins	roger-watkins@uwclub.net	01430 432052

The New YAHR Website

Webmaster: Chris Leak leak32@msn.com 01482 214311

The YAHR website is the place to find out the latest information on future events, e.g. regional meetings, workshops and study days. It will also have newsletters plus news flashes and photos. If you would like to submit a photo for the front page, then contact Chris, preferably by e-mail (see above). Chris says the site is a 'work in progress' and he would welcome ideas on how to improve the content.

Our website is linked to the Third Age Trust website. There are two ways you can get into it:

Either

Go to the Third Age Trust website - <http://www.u3a.org.uk>

1. Click on Local U3A website list
2. Click on 5. Regional and Network websites
3. Click on Yorkshire and the Humber

Or you can get in via <http://u3asites.org.uk/yorkshire-humber>

Chairman/Secretary's Report

I have carried out routine duties in connection with both roles.

Askham Bryan

I have been disseminating information, collecting and collating information re our celebration event in August. So far 19 U3As intend to participate with over 50 groups 'doing their thing.' We are still awaiting details of the requirements of some U3As – we would like these by the end of February please so that each group can be given the appropriate amount of space.

Group Leaders' Workshop

The response from those members who attended the Group Leaders Workshop after the General Meeting on 3rd November was very positive. If any member has any ideas for a seminar/workshop which they think would have popular appeal please let a member of the Management Committee know.

Ripon U3A is up and Running

I have been involved, along with other members of the EDC team, in the initial stages to set up a U3A in Ripon and am pleased to say that this is now up and running. Thanks go to Roger Watkins who took on the role of team leader on this occasion.

AGM 2012

At the Annual General Meeting on 25th April we will be holding elections for membership of the Management Committee. Nomination forms will be available from me at the beginning of April. Nominations are invited for all the Officer posts, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, plus other committee members.

The speaker at the Annual General Meeting will be Francis Beckett, Editor of U3A News. Those of you who have read the latest issue will be aware that this was the last issue with this title. Along with the change there will also be an extra mailing to members.

U3A News—Direct Mailing option

Where any U3A in the region has not yet taken up the offer of direct mailing for this magazine I urge you to do so. This will then ensure that all your members receive a copy once they have been registered at the Third Age Trust. This also has the advantage of relieving your committee of the responsibility of distributing the magazine.

Derrick Franks

Chairman

17263

On a random day this January, the number of individual members of U3A was logged.

On this day in the Yorkshire and the Humber Region we had 17263 members.

This is 6.5 per cent of the total UK membership.

Ripon U3A has just been created, so our figure could be 100 or so more soon.

We have been reminded recently by Eric Midwinter that when the U3A movement was started 30 years ago, the founder members hoped that eventually no older person would live more than 5 miles from a U3A. The Regional Management Committee would support any group of older people who might wish to consider setting up a U3A in their area. It is probably a fact that there are older people in our region more than 5 miles from a U3A, especially in the villages of the Yorkshire Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors, maybe also on the Yorkshire side of the Pennines. It should be sensibly possible for any older person who wishes to be a member of a U3A to have the opportunity to join.

If any existing member of a U3A in our Region would like to become a Regional Volunteer [with expenses paid by the Third Age Trust] please email me at davmort@blueyonder.co.uk.

The YAHR Management Committee is discussing a strategy for publicising the U3A movement in the more remote parts of the Region and would value help in putting up posters or getting articles in local papers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We also have our Annual General Meeting in April. There will be vacancies on the Management Committee at this time, are you interested in serving the wider interests of the Region? If so why not consider putting your name forward as a candidate for election to the Management Committee, for 2012-2013, at the AGM. Nomination forms will be available, along with cut off date for receipt of completed form from 28th March

David Morton
Regional Trustee

NORTHERN WRITERS

Between the Mersey and the Trent and as far North as the Border, there is a landscape and climate that both divides, yet links people on both sides of the hills. It is that landscape and those peoples that interest me, and in particular the writers amongst them.

I take an interest in the travel writers, poets and story writers who have told their tales during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They may be found living in other places, but their origins and inspirations remain essentially of the North.

Who are these writers?

We would name them and add their place of origin, also their date of birth. Their writings should have been accepted by a publishing house. In general self publishing was uncommon during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

If you are interested helping with this project please contact me preferably by email or failing that by phone.

With thanks, Peter Barclay, Sheffield U3A

email: barclay@greenbee.net

tel: 0114 230 4327

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER REGION
30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY
15 AUGUST 2012
ASKHAM BRYAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
.....

TWO PRACTICAL DRAMA WORKSHOPS

directed by

DAVID MORTON

U3A National Subject Adviser – Drama & Theatre

Workshop 1: 11 am to 1 pm: Naturalistic Theatre – 1956 to present day

Workshop 2: 2pm to 4pm: Women in Shakespeare

Both workshops will combine work on short text extracts and related improvisation. Both will be active but no previous experience of acting is required. There will be no performance or showing of work to an audience. It will be directed so that no participant will feel awkward or embarrassed. Both workshops are appropriate for men and women and will be limited to 16 U3A members per workshop. There will be opportunities for discussion and sharing ideas. The aim will be for fun and using possibly new ways of looking at modern and Shakespearian drama and its performance as theatre. There will be examples of professional performances shown on DVD.

To secure a place on one or both workshops:

Email David Morton at: davmort@blueyonder.co.uk

or phone him on: 01943 607826

The Family in British Art

A Sheffield U3A Study Day Tuesday 24 April 2012 10.30 a.m. -3.30 p.m.

The Arundel Room, Millennium Galleries Refreshments from 10 a.m.

'A family well disposed' – representations of relationship and status in painting, from the 18th century onwards

The Study Day will be led by Dr Barbara Morden and is being run in conjunction with the exhibition 'The Family in British Art' at the Millennium Galleries. The aim is to use some of the paintings in the exhibition to affirm the argument that in portraying the family there were and continue to be conventions determining both the pictorial representations of figures in a setting and the viewer's role in interpreting, affirming or perhaps challenging the assumptions implied there.

Barbara Morden is a cultural historian, lecturer and writer on the visual and literary arts. She led the successful regional study day in August 2011 on 'John Martin: Painter of Apocalypse' when her audience found her to be a knowledgeable and inspiring speaker.

Tickets (which include tea or coffee on arrival) cost £7.25, and are non-refundable. Members should make their own arrangements for lunch.

Shelagh Woolliscroft Tel 01246 416139

Study Day Tuesday 24 April 2012

The Arundel Room, Millennium Galleries , Sheffield

Please send metickets for the Study Day on 'The Family in British Art', 24 April 2012

I enclose a cheque, **payable to Sheffield U3A**, for and a **n A5 size** stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Name (s) of those applying.....
.....

Address.....

Contact telephone number..... U3A

Please send this form with your cheque and SAE to:

Shelagh Woolliscroft, 2 Leabrook Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8YS

Places will be allocated in order of receipt.

Wetherby U3A Goes to Print!

Amazingly, after just eighteen months from formation, Wetherby U3A already has a publication of note. The Creative Writing Group which meets out of Boston Spa has found a firm direction in producing their first compilation of short stories and poems. The genres are wide ranging, the quality outstanding and a 'must' for the beach next summer. The seven members have all contributed to the book: they publish under the group name of 'The Boston Stranglers (of the English Language) covering such varied subjects as heroism, life through the eyes of a mouse, war and worry, bed bugs and bears. The poems reflect every day events, emotions, laughter and the vagaries of life, something for everyone.

There is a new air in the Creative Writing Group, a feeling of purpose and direction and...how on earth did we find the time to work ten years ago?

'Brief Encounters' by The Boston Stranglers (of the English Language) is published by lulu.com at £8.00 and available from Richard Newman at havelock.newman@btinternet.com

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Sheffield U3A goes to Swaledale Museum in Reeth Yorkshire. The Curator read out the following 'Proposal of Marriage' letter written in 1866 and we have her permission to publish it here.

My Dere Miss,

I now take hup my pen tow rite yow open feelines will find yow well as it leaves me at present. Yow will praps be suprised that I should maik soa bolde as tow rite to yow who is sutch a ladi and I hop that yow will not bee vex at mee for it. I hardly dare say wat I want I ham so timid about ladis and mi and trimmels like a lespin lefe. I am a farmar in a small wai and mi age is rayther more than 40 year and mi mother lives with me and keeps mi ouse and shee as been very pourley laityly and cannot stur about mutch and I think I shud be comfortable with a wife. I have had mi I on yow a long time and I think that yow are a very nice young wumman and one that wud make me appi if only yow think soa. We ave a nice parlor down stares with a blu carpet and a huven on one side of the fire plaice and the old woman on the uther smoaking. The golden 'rules claimed up on the walls abuv the long settle and yow cud sit awl the day in the ezy chare and nit and mend my kirtles and leggins and yow cud maik the tee reddy again I cum in.

So I hop to hear from yow as I am in desprit and yurnist and will marrie yow at mai day or if my mother dees afore Ise want yow afore if only yow will except of mi. And mi dere we cud be vein appi to gedder and I oap you will let me now yowr mind by return of poast and iff yow are faverable I wil cum up to the scratch. Soa noa moor at preasant from your well wisher and tru luvve.

Pea hes. I hop yow will sai nothing about this if yow will not except of mi as I have anuther very nice wumman in mind and I think I shall marrie her if you do no except of mi but I thought you wud suite mi mother better — the same venerable specimen of the female biped (excuse me but this is our skule masters remark and hes a clever man) being very crusty at times, so I tell yow before yow cum She will be maister.

Todmorden Feels the Cold!

Fancy a cruise to the Antarctic? Many do, and according to Dr Geoffrey Carter, guest speaker at the January general meeting of Todmorden U3A, some pay £28,000 for the pleasure. This is at the luxury end, you understand. As described by Dr. Carter, it must need a considerable degree of luxury to make up for the experience of the voyage, traversing some of the roughest seas in the world with waves up to 13 metres high. Dining the conventional way, Dr Carter told his audience, was not always an option. Sometimes the condition of the sea necessitates passengers being fed while strapped in their bunks.

Antarctica is the highest, windiest, coldest and driest – despite all that snow and ice – of the continents. The mean elevation is 7,000 feet, due to the ice cap. The average wind speed is 44 mph and the katabatic winds at the edge of the continent average 150 mph and can reach as high as 200 mph. The coldest natural temperature on earth was recorded in Antarctica, minus 89.2°C. Antarctica is considered a desert, as it receives little precipitation, an average of 4 inches at the South Pole, less nearer the coast.

What draws visitors to such a hostile place, and compensates for the kinds of journeys described above? For Dr. Carter, it was the bird life, more varied than many may think – 7 species of penguins; 5 of albatrosses and 33 others besides. A number of species breed in Antarctica, three of them exclusively there. Mammals make their homes there also – 5 species of seals, and whales. Krill are found in the sea and are critical in the food chain as without them the other species couldn't exist there.

Above all these attractions though, one must cite the magnificent scenery, which, as well as the birds and the mammals, featured in the slides with which Dr Carter illustrated his fascinating and much appreciated talk, and which were prompts for his wit and humour.

In the footsteps of Barbara Hepworth

I recently tried to organise a Study Day on Barbara Hepworth. Both the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park at Bretton were keen to help, but they could only accommodate a group of 30 so I reluctantly abandoned the task.

However, if your U3A is interested then the contacts are as follows:

Hepworth Gallery: Becky Harlow, Learning Administrator

BeckyHarlow@hepworthwakefield.org Tel: 01924 247398

Yorkshire Sculpture Park: Sally Meyrick, Conference & Hospitality Manager

sally.meyrick@yosp.co.uk Tel: 01924 832508

Shelagh Woolliscroft

Summer Poem

The day was narcissistic,
All the woods were gay
With flourishes and furbelows
In riotous display.

The Dog rose pinks ran riot
And frogs were gaudy green,
Dark Adders glided, silky smooth,
Reluctant to be seen.

Dormice toffs dined hearty
As plenty could be found,
But days are willed to shorten
And open winter's wound.

Life's pendulum swings doom ward
Back from midsummer's high.
Though light still floods my glowing fields
I'll soon hear autumn sigh:

Of dying mid such beauty
As swallows say goodbye,
Before those umber months of gloom
Again claim you and I.

Summer Poem 2

I have no title to these fields, but own the view
Which, annually, rich endowments yields:
The sight of ripening wheat beneath a sun
Whose touch cool green to purest gold has spun.

August's harvest, where I have no claim
Except for satisfaction seeing rich grain won:
This sates those primal instincts and old fear
Of famine, through some failure in the year.

But now I revel in the sight
Of poppies flaming mid those swollen ears,
As promisings of plenty drink that light
Which soon must fade mid misty autumn tears.

These in turn give rise to wondrous sights
Down shadowed paths where varicoloured hues
Intoxicate my senses with delights:
Dying's gift, which life's sad dream renews.

Dave Etchell

Member of Doncaster and Sheffield U3As

At 1315hrs our Guest Speaker: Third Age Trust's Lin Jonas

Lin Jonas spoke of the Trust's duties and role within the U3A organisation.

There are to date some 837 U3As supporting 274000+ Members, with one U3A starting-up every week and U3As have from 17 to circa 3000 Members in each; all backed up by 6 f/t staff and 7p/t staff. LJ has been with the Trust 15+ years.

What does the Trust do?

Advises and assists new U3As. Gets insurance for all such as Public and Product Liability but not personal accident; there must be some negligence involved in a variety of scenarios except those with too high a danger factor, (e.g. scuba diving). The H&SAW act has NO relevance to U3A as that relevance is "AT WORK"! Please apply COMMON SENSE to activities. Charity Trustee protection.

Tour Operators protection (but no money cover; it's not as if we are travel agents).

Helpline for legal queries – open to all Members. All U3As are charities; want/need to register with Charity Commission; can apply for Gift Aid; can apply for grants. Do whatever fits with aims/objectives and constitution; SEE ADVICE SHEETS EX TRUST!

Bank accounts? – ensure trustees manage them; use own bank account? No, no, no! have them set up by main committee with a committee person on as signatory. How much £reserves? suggest 6 months worth. Thank you lunch for Group Leaders? – why not. Data Protection: keep details to limited number of committee (say 2 max). Charity donation to charity: out of fees? – no. Dual/triple m'ship – Trust requires only one capitation. Capitation 2012 – constant. Mailings – after info goes to all Business Secretaries, copies of everything is posted on national website. National U3A News = VFM = £1.60 for 5 copies and 3 'Sources' – get them sent as Direct Mailings!

Legal Help. Software at VFM. Merchandise. Competitions (next = photographic). Books ex Wiley. PR material. Educational support – 'resources' office is A1. National Subject Advisors – need more. Gp Leaders workshop days; on-line courses; summer schools – not cheap but A1. Shared Learning Projects. Packs of info for potential new U3As; EDCs still needed.

PR in wide world – getting better/more known/appreciated. Communications – internal and external = curate's eggish. Some Members still don't get that we are a "self-help" organisation. Deciding we don't want to grow = a danger for future; wait/list? – start a new U3A. Too WASPish – perhaps, but Trust has tried everything to be inclusive. "University = wrong title?" – tough, this is name of org.

New Constitution – done; soon on website + hard copies available.

Many thanks for invitation.

DW