

Whitby Whaler

August 2023



Message from the Chair

Hi all! Here we are at the end of our year. The groups are about finished, and we are planning next year's events. Enrolment Day is on 1st September, but we would be grateful if you pay your subscription from 1st August (details below).

I know you may think this is a bit early, but I am looking for anyone willing to join a subcommittee to organise the winter social. We want to have the tickets for sale by November at the latest. Please contact me if you can help. Have a lovely summer and I will see you on Enrolment Day in the Spa from 10am.

WE NEED A NEW CHAIRMAN SO PLEASE STEP UP.

Ann Redfern I am sorry to inform you of the demise of Ann Redfern. She was a lovely lady and always ready to help when needed. She will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Derick and family at this difficult time.

John Theobald John Theobald passed away a few weeks ago. He was a lovely man and was a great committee member. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara and family.

From Mo Metcalfe (Membership Secretary)

Good News! On registration day on 1st September 2023 from 1000 to 1300, you will not have to queue to pay your annual membership of £12. If you are already a member, you can pay from 1st August by bank transfer: Whitby Whalers U3A Sort code: 40-46-24. Account number: 61389912. **Please do not pay by bank transfer before 1st August.** Or, if you don't want to pay by bank transfer then just bring your cheque in an envelope with your: name, address and telephone number on the back of the cheque, and your membership number too, if you know it. (Don't worry if you don't know it). We would prefer you not to bring cash as we are really trying to cut down on the amount of cash we have to handle and our bank in Whitby has closed! However, if you have no other way to pay then please do put cash for the right amount into the envelope and write your details on the envelope. There will be a box for you to place the envelope into and then you can get on with enrolling for the classes you want to attend. New members will be able to join but our existing members can avoid the queue! You will be able to leisurely enrol for all your favourite groups and more. If you have any queries, then just give me a call on 07966 005797.

From Sandra Goodship (Business Secretary)

On Enrolment Day we are planning to use the opportunity to get a clearer understanding of what our members want from their u3a by asking you all to complete a short paper-based survey. This will be anonymous, all questions will be optional, and it will

include space for you to say what you do and don't like about the organisation and to make suggestions for improvements. So please find time during your visit to participate and place your completed survey in the box provided.

As our financial year ends, the committee start to prepare for the Annual General Meeting, which this year will take place at the Rifle Club on Saturday 14th October from 10am-1pm. Formal notifications and requests for nominations will be issued next month, but we would ask you all to consider standing for one of the vacant committee positions we will have. Most importantly, we need a Chairperson, as Anne Jackson is stepping down. Anne has done a wonderful job over the last year, but only agreed to act as an interim Chair for a year at most at the last AGM. Both the Third Age Trust and Charity Commission require us to have a Chairperson in place, and it is essential that this role is filled if the Whitby Whaler u3a is to continue.

We are also in need of a Publicity Officer. Our organisation has been described as the 'best kept secret in Whitby', and that's not what we want to be! If you have ideas on how we can raise our profile within the area, let people know what we offer and bring in new members, please consider standing to fill this role. And finally, we always welcome people to sit in as ordinary committee members without filling a particular role. If you think you could fill any of these roles, please let a member of the committee know. Thank you.

Saint John Ambulance Hall - Statement from the Committee

Due to prolonged and ongoing issues we are experiencing with the invoicing for the hire of Saint John Ambulance Hall, the committee have reluctantly decided that the majority of the classes that used the hall last year will be moved to other venues for this coming year.

This was not a decision taken lightly, as we are aware that St Johns has been the spiritual home of the Whitby Whaler u3a, and it is an ideal venue in many ways. Members of the committee have worked hard in collaboration with the group convenors affected to find suitable alternative venues, and we are pleased to say that this has now been achieved for all the classes involved.

We will keep our membership informed of any major developments and provide an update on the situation at our AGM in October.

Line Dancing

Jean and the class are keen to carry on through the summer, so there will be classes as usual at The Met, through August, except for 22nd August as The Met ballroom is unavailable.

Easy Exercise

The Easy Exercise class taught by Kerrie Page, which takes place at The St John's Ambulance Hall on a Thursday morning between 10.00 and 11 00. will be moving to The Spa Pavilion after the summer holidays. The classes will start again on 7th September.

Kerrie teaches a programme of exercises which she adapts to the needs of the group. The session starts with warm up exercises stood up behind chairs. We then sit down and mobility throughout the body is developed. To finish there is a cool down period which brings the session to an end. Many thanks, Maureen.

Keep Fit Group

Thank you to all who attended this year and enjoyed the sessions. I look forward to seeing you again in September along with some new members. Kerrie continues to lead the group on Wednesday mornings at the Whitby Pavilion from 10 a.m. to 11a.m with many members staying for coffee afterwards. Ann Roe

u3a Theatre Visits Group

Enrolment for classes will be at the Spa on Friday 1st September from 10am. There will be forms there to ensure that current information is up-to-date so please alter your address if you have recently moved house. Also, it would be most helpful if you could also add your mobile number, especially if you are joining trips out with any group. There is no need to sign up again for the Theatre Visits Group. If you remain a paid up U3A member I will keep you on my list which is currently 183 people. Please let me know if you no longer wish to join us and I will remove your name.

Our next trip is to see The Bodyguard at Newcastle on Thursday 17th August. Pick up at the usual places/ times. You have already been given your ticket. Please remember to bring it with you on the day! There are still 8 tickets to collect for 42nd Street on Thursday 12th October at Newcastle. Hopefully I will see you very soon. There are still 6 people I need to see for their Drifters Girl ticket money £50. I would like to pay this in very soon. Most classes have now finished for the summer holidays as well as the coffee mornings during August. Enjoy the break. Hopefully we will have some sunshine.

Best wishes. Rose Corner 07790896062

3rd Age Stagers

Although "resting" over the summer members of the Stagers Group are looking forward, in September, to starting our next production of 'Aladdin'. Yes, a classic pantomime full of all the usual fun, colourful big characters, jokes and frivolity to brighten up the winter days of January.

There is always room for new members, no experience necessary as we help and support each other and all laugh together when we make mistakes. Our main aim is to enjoy ourselves during rehearsals and have fun 'staging' our shows at the Rifle Club. Come and meet us at Registration, we meet on Tuesdays 10 -12 at The Rifle Club. Here are a few snaps from our last show. Jan Jennings.

07949264022 jan.jenn@hotmail.com





Gardening Group

The final trip for this year are as follows:

Mon 7th/Tues 8th (STBC) August: Tour of Whitby's Walled Garden & Cream Tea £10.00. Check with Joyce either on the Kiplin Hall trip or at July's Coffee Mornings. Any queries please contact Joyce Stangoe.

Ramblers Group

The Ramblers walking group went to Richmond recently for their annual walk and lunch. The coach dropped us in Richmond Market Place where we were able to look round the town and have coffee before setting off on our walk.

One group of walkers used the bus to reach Easby Abbey alongside the River Swale, a Cistercian construction used to house canons and which has substantial stonework remaining, though nothing has a roof. The stonework is very interesting and reflects a multiplicity of uses for living as well as worship. There is a lovely church which is intact and still used by the local parishioners.

The second group left the Market Place on foot and descended to the river near some attractive waterfalls and walked to Easby Abbey. Both groups made their way to Richmond old station which has been developed into workshops, shops and a restaurant, where we enjoyed a very nice lunch.

The weather was kind and the rain held off until we were indoors.



The Ukelele Orchestra

The Ukelele Orchestra ended our summer season on a high this month with two public performances. On Wednesday 5th July, seven of our members played for an extremely appreciative audience at the Dementia Forward meeting at the Coliseum. The event was greatly enjoyed by both players and listeners, and we look forward to a return

performance at some point, possibly with some new numbers added to our repertoire to satisfy at least some of the numerous requests that were made!

The following Tuesday afternoon, seventeen members (nearly the whole Orchestra) entertained the Revival North Yorkshire community group at Sleights Church House with an hour of sing-a-long songs, putting in another well-received performance.

We've now finished for the summer, but I'm sure we will all be diligently practising individually, ready to return in the autumn raring to go.

Concert Outing

The next concert outing will be to the Sage Gateshead on Friday September 22nd. The programme is as follows:

Bernstein; Symphonic Dances from West Side Story

Copland: Piano Concerto

Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue

Rachmaninov; Symphonic Dances.

The cost will be £50 - £55 depending on numbers, and a deposit of £30 is required to secure a ticket. As there is no coffee morning this month I will be available on Saturday 20th August at home to take bookings and deposit payments, from 10.30 to 12 noon; the address is 3 White Point Court, YO21 3UR, and coffee and tea will be available. If you can't come on that date but would like to go to the concert, please let me know by email or on 01947 600963. Those of you who have paid your deposit already don't have to come on the 20th; you can pay for the coach at the coffee morning on September 16th.

History Group

St. John Ambulance Hall Thursdays (weekly). 2 – 4 pm

Thank you to everyone who has supported us thus far this year – do come along and sign up at the start-up session at the beginning of September. New members are also encouraged to join us.

The first two meetings for the Autumn term are as follows:

Sept. 28 th	Mysteries and miracles	Dave Bradley
Oct. 5 th	A history of Westerdale	Carol Wilson

Of special interest is that we plan to launch the book based on Marjorie Thomson's lectures at one of these early meetings – a special memoir of her immense contribution to the group over many past years, and of her authoritative style and presentation skills. We are just liaising with her sons as to the exact date of this; the proceeds will be given to the Save the Children fund (which Marjorie supported for so many years).

Lecture Group

St. John Ambulance Hall Tuesdays (3rd monthly). 10 – 12 noon

As for the History group, a big thank you to everyone who has supported us thus far this year – do come along and sign up at the start-up session at the beginning of September. New members are also particularly encouraged to join us.

The first lectures of term are as follows:

Tuesday, September 19th

'A Pocketful of Tickets'

Marjorie Kirke

A solo five-week journey around Britain by bus and other public transport – the subject written about in her book of the same title.

Tuesday, October 17th

'The Maverick Amundsen Discovered both Poles'

Dag Kjelldahl

Discussion of Amundsen's expeditions and his place as one of the greatest Adventurers

u3a Philosophy Group

We meet at 2:30pm (to 4pm) on the 1st and 3rd (but *not* the 5th) Monday of each month.

Our up-coming dates for next term are: 18th Sept, 2nd Oct, 16th Oct, 6th Nov, 20th Nov, 4th Dec and 18th December. I am still confirming the venue so anyone who is considering coming along please drop me an email or give me a ring so that I can keep you updated.

Over the last year we have looked at a wide range of topics which, I hope, have been handled in an accessible and engaging manner. Many thanks for all the interesting contributions made to the group. They have included: Just War Theory. Human value and equality. Criminal justice policy. The rights and wrongs of "designer babies". Free will and determinism. The problem of evil/suffering. AI and ChatGPT. Mind and consciousness. Thought experiments. The "bundle theory" of mind. Cartesian dualism. Cartesian skepticism. Peter Singer. Consequentialism. Ethics of reproductive technologies. Anyone who is curious about the group please contact me at:

graham.c.robinson@gmail.com 07974 145779

Recorder Group

The recorder group will begin again on 13th September. The group plays a wide variety of part music for descant, treble, tenor and bass recorders, from the Middle Ages to the present day. We meet every Tuesday from 11.45 to 1.00 in the Rifle Club and usually have lunch afterwards. If you are a good sight reader and play any one of the recorders, dust them off, we would love to hear from you! I will be at the u3a Enrolment Day to answer questions and queries. Heather Relf

Photography Group

An update on the Photography class: This will now be held in the downstairs room at the Rifle Club, on the SECOND & LAST TUESDAY between 2 and 4pm. The first class will be on 26th September. The class is suitable for anybody interested in photography, from beginners upwards, all types of cameras will be catered for, including smartphones. You might be thinking of buying a camera, but not sure what will suit you, we will try & help you decide. New for this session, two of us are going to run it. Lance Garrard who is a very experienced photographer has put together an audio/video tutorial which goes back to basics and builds up from there. Looking forward to seeing you on the 26th September. Don Readman

Wine with friends

The group has had a successful year with well-attended tastings. We are having a break over the summer and will restart in September. We meet approximately every six weeks and taste a selection of around 7 wines sourced and presented by Liz & David Farmilo. We are looking forward to our next season and hope to find some more interesting and enjoyable wines for you!

TOAST

In July TOAST members enjoyed a delicious curry at Shepherds Hall in Lealholm. It was an evening entitled 'Carl & Curry' and Carl Robinson – a well known local singer – entertained us all for over an hour before taking his first break. A really nice evening where even the very heavy rain couldn't deter us.

TOAST meets each month at the Penny Hedge pub in Whitby at 10am. We normally meet on the first Saturday of each month but in September that is too close to the Enrolment Day and I will not have everyone's details in time to send out the invite. Instead, I intend to hold the September meeting at that pub on Saturday 9 September at 10am. We are hoping our first outing of the new U3A year will be a meal

later in the month at the Windmill Inn in Stainsacre. More details will be given on 9th September.

If you wish to continue as a member of the TOAST Group please sign up on Enrolment Day if at all possible. It would be very helpful if you could also add your mobile number to your contact details so that we can easily contact each other on the day of an event if any problem occurs. If you are unable to attend Enrolment Day and would like to remain in the Group, or join as a new member, please email me, or message me to my mobile, to advise me of that. I will assume you no longer wish to be part of the Group if I do not hear from you by 1st September.

Maureen Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 07368534403

Play Reading

We will continue to hold the Play Reading Group at the Whitby Cricket Club but **please note the change of day.** From September we will meet on **Tuesdays** between 2pm and 4pm. we already have 3 plays lined up for us to read through - The Crucible by Arthur Miller; The Real Inspector Hound by Tom Stoppard; Present Laughter by Noel Coward. So quite an eclectic mix to look forward to. And of course, we will continue to include listening to poetry chosen by our Group members, as this has become a firm favourite.

If you wish to continue as a member of the Play Reading Group please sign up on Enrolment Day on 1st September if at all possible. if you are unable to attend the Enrolment Day and would like to remain in the Group, or join as a new member, please email me, or message me to my mobile, to advise me of that.

George Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 07753609166

Dates for your Diary

Friday 1st September Enrolment Day

Saturday, 9th September at 10am TOAST coffee morning at the Penny Hedge

Coffee morning Saturday 16th September Rifle Club 10.0 0- 11.30

Saturday 14th October 2023 AGM Rifle Club. 10.00 - 13.00

The next newsletter will be produced on 28th August 2023.

Deadline for copy (which should be sent to: sheilasloan@btinternet.com) is 26th August 2023.