

Whitby Whaler December 2023



Message from the Chair

Well, it's December and Christmas will soon be upon us, it seems to come round more quickly each year! There's bad news and good news. The bad news is that the Committee have decided that in the New Year the price of coffee at coffee mornings will go up from 50p to £1. This is because the new membership fee of £20 does not come into play until September 2024, and in the meantime, we are continuing to lose money. Even though this is a 100% increase it's still a bargain at £1, much cheaper than the cafés in town, and unlimited refills and biscuits are included.

The good news is that coffee, biscuits and mince pies will be **FREE** at the Christmas coffee morning, so come along and get into the Christmas spirit with entertainment from the Whaler Band and the u3a singers. Please note that this special event will be held at **St John Ambulance Hall, 16th December, 10.00 – 12 noon**, but in the New Year, coffee mornings will revert to the Rifle Club.

Although we now have 10 members on the committee, including myself, the full allocation is 12, so we have room for two more members. In particular, we need a publicity officer, to spread the word about our u3a through the town and in the surrounding areas. Although we now have over 600 members, the number before the pandemic had reach over 750, so we still have a way to go. If anyone is interested in joining the committee but would like more details please contact me at twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk, or on 01947 600963 – you would be welcome to sit in on a committee meeting without any commitment.

Finally, from myself and all the Committee, we would like to wish you all a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Trees at St Mary's

There will be an Advent Carol Service at St Mary's to open the Christmas Tree Festival. It takes place on Sunday 3rd December at 3.00pm. The service is followed by refreshments and a chance to pre-view the Trees. As in previous years the u3a Christmas Tree has been prepared by Maureen Agar, and we would like to thank Maureen for her efforts.

Music Appreciation Group

In the November meeting a small select group listened to a selection of music from a variety of different composers from Germany and Austria, part of our "Travel the World" series. Please note that the meeting in December will be on **Friday 15th December** from 2 - 4pm, at our usual venue of Flowergate United Reformed Church. Members are encouraged to bring along CDs or vinyl LPs of seasonal music, and there will be free coffee, tea and mince pies. If anyone has not been to the venue before and is unsure about access, please contact me for details (contact details in Message from Chairman). *Trevor Barrowcliffe*

National u3a Festival, July 2024

Further details are emerging about the National U3A Festival, to be held at York University from Thursday 18th July to Saturday 20th July. There will be a wide variety of activities - talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops. Details of the schedule and costs are as follows:

- Day 1, Thursday 18th July (from lunchtime) - £25 including buffet supper
- Day 2, Friday 19th July - £10 for the full day
- Day 3, Saturday 20 July (morning) - £5 for a half day
- Full festival to include all 3 days and a buffet supper on Day 1 - £35

For those who would like to stay for the three days accommodation will be available on the University campus at a cost of £61.80 for bed and breakfast.

Registration is not yet open and further details will be posted in subsequent newsletters – watch this space!

The Winter Social

Don't forget that we are having a 1940s themed Winter Social event next year on Friday 2nd February 2024, with a supper, dancing and a raffle. It will be held at the Spa Pavilion Whitby and starts from 6.30. until 10.30. Tickets are £15.00 and are available from a committee member or at the coffee mornings.

u3a Theatre Visits Group

THE DRIFTERS GIRL Sunderland Empire. Thursday 28th March 2024 (fully booked)

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS Matthew Bourne Ballet. Theatre Royal Newcastle Thursday 4th April 2024 (fully booked)

PRETTY WOMAN Sunderland Empire. Wednesday 5th June 2024 (fully booked)

GREASE Theatre Royal Newcastle Thursday 13th June 2024 (fully booked)

WICKED Musical Sunderland Empire Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 2.30pm. £65 total payable now. Leave Whitby from 8 55am Some seats still available.

We leave Whitby from Eskdale School turning circle, picking up at Harrison's, Castle Park and The Salmon Leap. Dropping off in the same way on return.

Sign up / Payment /collect tickets at Coffee mornings or at u3a events. Cheque (Whitby Whaler u3a) or cash in an envelope with your name on. Join the reserve list as we often have cancellations. New members welcome.

Rose Corner Theatre Group Organiser

07790896062 01947 811363 rosiecorner@gmail.com

3rd Age Stagers

Aladdin, a pantomime by our 3rd Age Stagers on 26th January at 7.30, 27th at 2.30 and 3rd February at 2.30 at the Rifle Club. All tickets behind the bar at the Rifle Club with the first two shows almost sold out.

This version of the classic pantomime has plenty of surprises and the ever present larger than life characters. Here we introduce the beautiful Princess Jasmine and, of course, our hero Aladdin. Also are his brothers Bendover Twanky and Hank E Twanky who look a bit perplexed about something....but what? Get a ticket and find out.

Jan Jennings. 07949264022 jan.jenn@hotmail.com



Gardening Group

The Christmas trip on **Monday 4th December** to Ormsby Hall followed by a Christmas Lunch, at the Arcadia Garden Centre, Middlesbrough will be leaving Whitby via the following pick-up points: Eskdale Road End - 9.20am, Harrison's Garage - 9.30am, Castle Park - 9.35 am, Salmon Leap - 9.40am, and departing at 3.00pm.

Our next meeting is at The Coliseum Whitby on **Monday 8th January** when we are welcoming back Sheila Johnson & Roger Burnett to talk about "My Favourite Gardens," a wander around some of their favourite gardens.

Concert Outing

The next concert outing will be to the Sage Gateshead on 5th April 2024. The programme is: *Carl Nielsen: Helios Overture*, *Sergei Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 2*, *Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 5*. Cost will be £50-55 depending on numbers, and a £30 deposit is required to secure a ticket. However, as I will not be able to sell tickets at the December coffee morning because of all that's going on, I would welcome expressions of interest in the meantime – If you would like to go please contact me and I'll put your name on the list (contact details in Message from Chairman).

Trevor Barrowcliffe

Family History

The Family History Groups had their last meetings for 2023 on 29th November and will resume on Wednesday 10th January 2024

History Group

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

Our talks throughout November have continued to discuss diverse topics and have been warmly received by sizeable audiences. These interesting talks ranged from discussion of the Walmsley's of Robin Hood's Bay (Jane Ellis), through Yorkshire cricket (Mike Stones) and a history of the island of Rhodes (Lynn Walker), to a comparison of the early careers of Keir Hardy and Winston Churchill (Marian Brockway). We must always be appreciative of the considerable time and effort that our presenters put in to bring us such interesting material.



Sandsend railway viaduct, 1951

Our two sessions in December will cover the history of Sandsend (Neil Williamson, 7th December) and our now traditional ‘smorgasbord’ of shorter presentations given by a series of different people on short historical topics of particular interest (14th December).

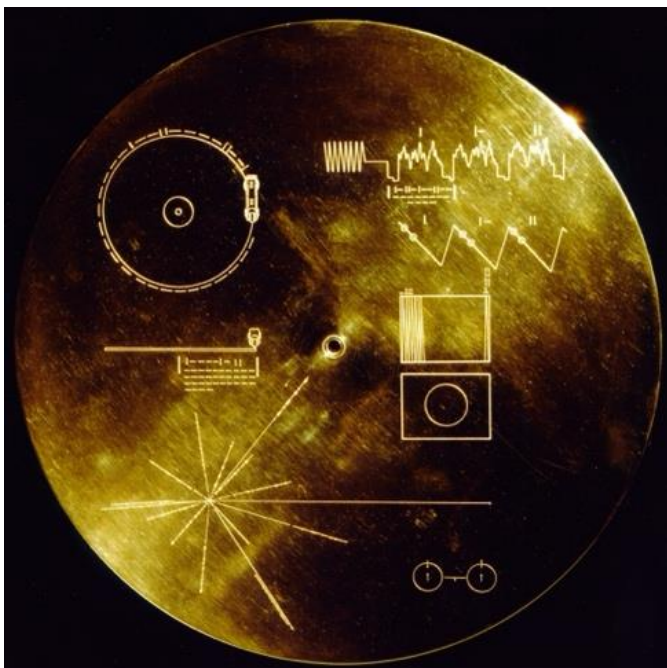
We would then wish all members of our group an excellent Christmas and New Year holiday, after which we commence again on 11th January 2024.

Monthly Lecture Group

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

November’s lecture was a follow up presentation given by Graeme Aldous on the people and Land Rovers involved in the London – Singapore Overland Expedition that he talked to us about back in March. This was an informative and amusing talk that included the reconstruction of Oxford’s Land Rover after its retrieval from St. Helena and interesting opportunities to meet the people involved in different stages of the journey. The lecture on Thursday, 14th December (*note this is a week earlier than usual because of Christmas*) will discuss our efforts to find life elsewhere in the solar system and discover ‘Earth-like’ exoplanets beyond. We’ll also survey our attempts to communicate with any intelligent life-forms elsewhere in the Universe – from the Voyager missions to the SETI programme.

Voyager’s Golden Record



Saturn's moon Enceladus: Geysers spurting from an underground ocean.



**Thursday, 14th
December; 10.00 am**
**'Is there life
elsewhere in the
Universe?' Dr. Rick
Harwood**

Discussion Group

The final meeting for this term is on Monday 11th December in the Hopkinson Room at the Coliseum. Please note that the meeting has been re-arranged for a three o'clock start to enable members to attend after Christmas lunches. The meeting will close at 4.30pm. The first meeting of the New Year will be on 8th January 2024 at the usual time of 2.30pm in the same venue. Best wishes, David Bradley.

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 meetings are: 4th Dec and 18th December.

Recorder Group

The recorder group has had another enjoyable term playing a wide variety of music together. In addition to some old favourites spanning the centuries, we have tried some new music and challenged ourselves with pieces specifically written for the recorder ensemble. The last meetings will focus on Christmas music to ensure we get in the mood for our festive lunch!

Whitby WI would like to extend huge thanks to members of the u3a who supported our cakes and bakes fundraiser at the coffee morning so generously. We had our best ever fundraiser, thank you!

Cycling Club

The weather conditions continue to be unsuitable for u3a cycling activities and with Christmas fast approaching, I have decided to suspend the cycling group until next year. Hopefully we will get better conditions when the days start to lengthen.

Alan Holmes

Wine with friends

For our November meeting we were full to capacity. Liz and David presented wines which might be suitable for the festive period. These included a South African sparkling wine, a Châteuneuf-du-Pape, a Hungarian dessert wine and a port. Clair and Mike Stones kindly let us meet at their house again and provided us with Christmas flavoured nibbles to accompany the wines. Another enjoyable evening was had by all.



TOAST

We had one outing this month. Whitby Golf Club do Fish Friday and 13 of us took advantage of this great meal. Our next meeting is on Saturday 9th December at 10.30am at the Penny Hedge pub. This is a little later than our regular start time of 10am as it is timed so we can move straight from the meeting to the restaurant there for our Festive Meal. 29 of our Group are attending this meal. This will be my last meeting and coincides with it being our 5th anniversary since this Group started. If anyone is prepared to take over this Group, as an individual or as a committee, please let me know by email or at the meeting on the 9th. Or you could notify our u3a chairman (Trevor Barrowcliffe) direct if you would prefer to do that. Thank you for everyone's support, interest and attendance while I have been Group leader.

Maureen Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 07368 534403



Lunch at Whitby Golf Club

Play Reading

This month we have had good fun reading Peter Tinniswood's 'Village Fete', a very funny play, followed by some excellent choices of poetry. Next month we will start with Hobson's Choice and move on to Oscar Wilde's Lady Windermere's Fan. We continued to meet at 2pm every Tuesday at Whitby Cricket Club although there will not be a class this month on 5th December. We expect our final class to be on 19th December and resume on 2nd January 2024.

George Osborne

mandgosb@gmail.com

07753 609166

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Coffee Morning St John Ambulance Hall, 16th December, 10.00 – 12 noon

Coffee Morning 20th January 2024 10 to 11.30 Rifle Club

1940s themed Winter Social Friday 2nd February 2024, at the Spa Pavilion Whitby and starts from 6.30. until 10.30. Tickets £15.00

The next newsletter will be produced on 1st January 2024
Deadline for copy (which should be sent to: sheilasloan@btinternet.com) is 28th December 2023