

Whitby Whaler

February 2024



Message from the Chair

Well, it doesn't seem long since we were wishing each other "Happy New Year", and we are already in the second month! We had our usual dose of "surprise" snow in January – not sure why we are always surprised when it snows, after all we are in the middle of winter! Fortunately, it didn't last long, and although a few group meetings had to be cancelled there wasn't too much disruption to our u3a activities.

A good way to banish the winter blues would be to attend the **WINTER SOCIAL** on Friday 2nd February, as advertised elsewhere in this Newsletter. At the end of January our 3rd Age Stagers entertained us with their usual pantomime, a version of Aladdin, and my spies tell me that it was very enjoyable and very funny, so I am looking forward to attending their last performance on 3rd February. Also, during January, the Committee met with group leaders, to exchange information and answer their questions. This was attended by most group leaders and there was a good discussion and some useful suggestions. On 24th February, the Committee is looking forward to meeting with some of our new members – if you joined in September 2023 or later and don't know about this meeting please contact our secretary, Sandra Goodship, on 07840 509992.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter the National u3a runs a full programme of activities which can be reached online – Sandra has listed the ones available for the coming month; take a look, there are lots of interesting sessions to join.

Our plea for more new Committee members has been partially answered with one person who has volunteered to give it a try. However, we still have one vacancy, and in particular we are looking for someone to take on the role of publicity officer, to spread the good word about our u3a around the town and surroundings, and help recruit more new members. 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.

The Winter Social

Put your glad rags on and dig out your dancing shoes for the 1940s themed Winter Social event on Friday 2nd February 2024, with music, lots of dancing, a picture quiz, a new version of bingo, a supper and a raffle – all for the princely sum of £15! It will be held at the Spa Pavilion Whitby and runs from 6.30 until 10.30pm. Tickets are available from committee members, but if you haven't had opportunity to buy a ticket but would like to go, please contact Anne Jackson on 01947 810590, as we need to know the numbers for catering purposes.

Message from Sandra Goodship – Business Secretary

Just a quick reminder that if you change any of your contact details (phone, e-mail or home address), please let me know so that we can update your membership record in our Beacon system to ensure that you don't miss out on any communications from us.

From Sandra Goodship - (secretarywhitbywhaleru3a@gmail.com)

Health & Safety Here in the Whitby Whaler u3a we take the health and safety of our members very seriously and conduct a risk assessment at every new venue before we use it to ensure everything is safe. However, things can change over time - fire doors may get blocked, carpet gets frayed - and with so many different venues now in use we rely on you, our members, to be our eyes and ears.

If you spot anything that you feel might be a potential risk to you or others in a class, or if you have an accident while attending a group, please report it to your group convenor or to Cynthia Richardson, our committee member with a particular remit for Health and Safety. Cynthia can be contacted on 01947 606839

Music Appreciation Group

In the January session we enjoyed a programme devoted to the piano, solo and with other instruments, and listened to music by Fauré and Saint-Saëns. The next meeting will be on the last Friday in February, the 23rd, and will revert to our theme of travelling the world, with music from Eastern Europe, and in particular the Czech and Slovak republics. *Trevor Barrowcliffe*

u3a Singers

The u3a Singers will not be meeting on Wednesday, 13th February as it is half term. We are at the moment preparing for our annual Music Hall Song extravaganza which this year is on Saturday, 13th April. Everyone is invited to attend the show at the Whitby Pavilion and tickets will soon be on sale. The audience will be invited to sing and also to enjoy wearing the dress of the Victorian and of the Edwardian era. It will be an evening of nostalgia for many. Make it a date for your diary.

National u3a Festival, July 2024

As mentioned in the last Newsletter the National U3A Festival will 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 20th 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 on the University campus is fully booked, so you would have to arrange accommodation elsewhere in York. Registration is not yet open but two of our music groups are interested in going for the day on Friday the 19th to perform, in which case there will be a coach – there will be a list available at coffee mornings for anyone else who's interested in going to sign up.

u3a Theatre Visits Group

Dates for your 2024 calendar/diary

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)

Tickets to collect at next Coffee Mornings

GREASE! Theatre Royal Newcastle

Thursday 13th June 2024 (fully booked)

Tickets to collect at next Coffee Mornings

WICKED Musical Sunderland Empire

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 2.30pm £65 total payable now

NEW SHOW!!! ***LORD OF THE DANCE**  YORK BARBICAN

Saturday 24th August at 2.30pm. I have provisionally booked 50 tickets - these will

only be held for a short time. We are presently half full! *** Please contact me asap

*** Total £80 which includes return coach travel from Whitby. It is a brilliant show

(Irish music and dancing) so hopefully we can get the numbers! Thank you Rose

Corner ☎ 07790896062 rosiecorner@gmail.com

Please see me at the next Coffee Morning or when I see you at any u3a events. Full payment when booking. Cash only. First come first served! I am starting the list from early January.

Thank you. Rose Corner Theatre Group Organiser

07790896062 01947 811363 rosiecorner@gmail.com

Gardening Group

Our next meeting is at The Coliseum Whitby on Monday 5th February at 2.00pm with Martin Allen telling us about the **Wildflowers of the Cleveland Coast**. We will also be taking payments for those interested in visiting Mount Grace Priory on Monday 8th April, please bring a cheque/cash (awaiting confirmation of price but max £33.00), plus an envelope with your name, contact number, pick-up point and menu choices when chosen. Our March meeting takes place on Monday 4th March with Sioned Price, and Roy Pearson telling us about “**A Journey - Apple Orchard Nurseries, Skelton**”

Whitby Neighbourhood Plan (WNP)

Producing the WNP that influences the future development of the Whitby parish is the most important thing a town or parish will ever do, so we are keen for all residents to take part. We are also asking if there is a member(s) of Whitby Whaler u3a who would like to be more closely involved, possibly as a member of WNP Steering Group, if yes please contact Joyce Stangoe joyce.stangoe@gmail.com for more information.

Whitby Neighbourhood Plan

Work is beginning on the Whitby Neighbourhood Plan and will continue for the next 18 months.

What is a neighbourhood plan?

The Whitby Neighbourhood Plan is a planning policy document written by the community to guide future development in the area over the next 15-20 years. It will set out planning policies for your area and can:

Protect local green spaces.

Encourage better designed places.

Bring forward housing that genuinely meets local needs.

Protect important heritage assets

Support businesses and employment

Improve infrastructure

The Plan will be written by the local community and will help get the right types of development, in the right place.

The Plan content will be based on feedback from the local community and the results of public consultations, but having regard to national and local policy and guidance.

If successful at referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for the area and will be used by North Yorkshire Council to determine future planning applications and by developers to shape and influence the design of their developments.

Who is involved?

A local Steering Group, involving a mix of Town Councillors and local residents. The group will be listening to feedback from the community to form the content of the Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan area

The Plan area covers the entire parish of Whitby.

Participation and consultation

In order to produce a plan that genuinely reflects the needs and opportunities of Whitby, it is important that residents make their views known. Please look out for and participate in our consultation and feedback events.

Concert Outing

I have been able to secure 25 tickets for the Sage Gateshead on Friday 5th April, at £38 each; however, if we sell all 25 tickets there will be a discount of approx.10%. At present there are a good number of tickets still available. The concert starts at 7.30pm and the coach will leave Whitby at 4.45pm.

Just to remind you of the programme: *Carl Nielsen: Helios Overture, Sergei Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 2, Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 5.*

Cost will be £55-60, depending on numbers, and a £35 deposit is required to secure a ticket. Reservations can be made, and deposits paid, at the coffee morning in February, but note that the coffee morning in March would be too late, as tickets have to be bought and paid for by the beginning of March. If anyone is interested in going but can't make the next coffee morning, could you please contact me, and I'll put your name on the list (contact details in Message from Chairman).

Trevor Barrowcliffe

History Group

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

Our sessions for the new year began with an excellent presentation on the remarkable life and abilities of 'Serenissimus' (Grigory Potemkin – Catherine the Great's military leader, adviser and favourite). Potemkin's contribution to Russian expansion was highly significant, with implications that extend to the present day.

Following that initial talk our programme was interrupted by Storm Isha and the presentation covering the links between popular folk music, cultural protest and poetic expression has now been re-scheduled to May. However, we were able to meet at the end of the month and June McLeave's recounting of her personal history and family situation, and their laudable efforts to raise funds for cancer research, met with a positive response from listeners.

Our programme for February begins with a special guest presentation from Joanne Aston on '**Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914**'.



This lecture will cover the remarkable story of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, including the loss of *Endurance* and the less well-known fate of the *Aurora*.

It is worth remembering the local connection to that expedition in that Eric Wild, Shackleton's second-in-command, was from Skelton (there is a plaque in his honour in the village). [Note that the class fee for this particular lecture will be £3.00].

Aurora in the Antarctic ice fields.

The remaining talks in February cover our usual range of interesting local and wider historical topics:

Feb. 1 st	Shackleton's 1914 expedition to the Antarctic: the Good and the Bad	Joanne Aston
Feb. 8 th	Hidden histories of 6 Cleveland Villages	Marjorie Kirke
Feb. 15 th	HALF TERM	
Feb. 22 nd .	Tit, Tat, Tit..... and finally??	Ruth Harwood
Feb. 29 th .	Four Special Ladies	Marian Brockway

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

Unfortunately, our speaker for January (Michael Kirke) was unable to visit because of ill health. As a stand in for his talk, Rick Harwood followed up his December presentation on our search for life in the universe with discussion and video on the origins of the planets in our solar system.



The largest planet in the Solar System, Jupiter, viewed in infrared light (taken by the James Webb Telescope).

Michael Kirke's presentation of the voyage of HMS Beagle has been re-scheduled to this February's lecture.



He recounts life on board HMS Beagle during Darwin's voyage through the diaries of the pilot, James Kirke, an historic family member of the speaker. The diaries detail surveying the waters around Tierra del Fuego, encounters with rebels/deserters and natives (brought back to England!), and survival in gigantic Cape Horn storms.

Tuesday, 20th February 'Life aboard HMS Beagle 1825-30' Michael Kirke
As the programme has required adjustment it is worth listing the remaining sessions until summer here:

Tuesday, 19 th March	1	The importance of fungi in biodiversity	D. Minter
Tuesday, 16 th April		Culture & Birds of Central Asia	J. McEachen
Tuesday, 21 st May		Revitalising Coastal Estuaries in the North East	H. Hornby

Discussion Group

I am delighted to report that our twice monthly Discussion Group is thriving. We usually attract 15-18 members for each session. Our meetings for the rest of the year are as follows: - 12th and 26th February; 11th and 25th March; 8th and 22nd April; 13th May. Meetings are held at the Coliseum in the Hopkinson Room and start at 2.30pm.

Eskdale Festival of the Arts 2024

The festival starts this year on 5th March and concludes on Saturday 16th March with the Gala Concert. The National Choir Day is being held on Saturday 20th April. All of the classes, competitions and performances are held at the Whitby Pavilion. I'm sure that many u3a members will have family members participating in this wonderful festival for all ages. **Would you like to help at some of these events by becoming a steward?** Perhaps you would like to sell tickets and programmes or assist the adjudicators or announce the classes? If you would, contact me on 07399902167 and I will put you in touch with the Festival Chairperson Ros Barningham.

Thank you,
David Bradley

Philosophy Group

We meet at 2:30pm (to 4pm) on the 1st and 3rd (but *not* the 5th) Monday of each month. 2024 dates begin on 15th January. Our venue is Flowergate URC Church on Flowergate opposite Skinner Street. Entrance is the large glass door on the right-hand side of the stone (not brick) building. We will start the year exploring the thinking of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau on the Social Contract.

I am looking forward to hearing your thoughtful and constructive contributions.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me on 07 974 145779 or graham.c.robinson@gmail.com

Cycling Club

As the days start to lengthen and temperatures start to rise it is a good time to think about getting your bike out again. Before starting any ride the bike, it is always worthwhile to do a quick M check. If the bike hasn't been used for several weeks then it is more important. As the members who expressed an interest in cycling have a range of expectations, availabilities and abilities, I am proposing that we vary the rides as follows, hopefully starting in March :- **Week 1**, meet at 9.30am on a Tuesday, usually at the Castle Park bus stop (above Lidl / Spar) and do a longer ride, probably back for a late lunch. **Week 2**, meet at 1.30pm on the Thursday, usually by Beevers, and do a shorter ride with a coffee / scones / ice cream break somewhere along the way. All rides may include a mixture of both on-road and off-road cycling but route details will be available beforehand.

Riding Tips When riding on the road, don't cycle too close to the kerb, you should be at least an arms- length away. When not pedalling, on a straight road, aim to keep the left side pedal at the bottom (this keeps the oily chain away from your right leg / ankle) When not pedalling around a bend or corner, put the pedal that is on the outside of the curve to the bottom and put more weight onto it. This stops the inside pedal catching on the road as the bike leans into the bend. When not pedalling on an off-road track, aim to keep the pedals level so as to avoid them hitting tree stumps or the edges of ruts. When riding off-road try to take your weight off the seat and transfer most of it to the pedals, use bent legs to absorb bumps and lightly grasp the seat between your thighs.

The M check. Starting at the front wheel, check that the tyre is correctly inflated then grasp the wheel firmly between your legs and try to wiggle the handlebars. If the bars move but the wheels don't then the steering head needs tightening. Whilst at the handlebars, apply the front brake and attempt to push the bike forward, it should not move. Now apply the rear brake and try to push the bike backwards, again the bike should not move. Now move down to the pedals and grasp each in turn and try to pull and push the crank away and towards the frame. No movement should be possible. Then rotate the crank backwards to see if the chain moves freely. At the seat, try pulling and pushing the seat sideways whilst holding the bike firmly. Now sit on the seat and the toes of both feet should be just able to touch the ground. Finally move to the back wheel and check that the tyre is correctly inflated.

TOAST

There will be the regular monthly TOAST meeting on Saturday 3rd February at the Penny Hedge starting at 10am. I hope many of you can make it as we move into 2024 with our new arrangements. There is now a small committee operational to ensure there are at least one or two events every month, with occasional help from others in the TOAST group who would be happy to assist. We hope you continue to be supportive and particularly appreciate your suggestions for outings which you think would be suitable. Also, if anyone would like to join the committee – on a regular footing or even just the occasional meeting – please make yourself known at the meeting, or email me direct. Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday.
Best wishes. Rose Corner

Dates for your Diary

Coffee Morning 16th March 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

<p>The next newsletter will be produced on 1st March 2024 Deadline for copy (which should be sent to: sheilasloan@btinternet.com) is 26th February 2024</p>
