

Whitby Whaler

January 2024



Message from the Chair

The Christmas coffee morning went with a swing, with carols and Christmas songs from the u3a singers, and a slightly un-Christmassy but very enjoyable performance from the Whaler Band. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere and the free mince pies and coffee, but just to remind you that this is a one-off in two respects – for the next coffee morning, on 20th January, we will be back in the Rifle Club and you will have to pay £1 for your coffee. But it's still a lot cheaper than Costa!

Looking forward there are a number of good things ahead. Don't forget the **WINTER SOCIAL** on Friday 2nd February advertised elsewhere in this Newsletter, and at the end of January and the beginning of February our 3rd Age Stagers will be entertaining us with their usual pantomime, a version of Aladdin presented in their own inimitable style. Also during January, the Committee have arranged to meet with group leaders, to exchange information and answer any of their questions.

Many of you may not realise that 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.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter we now have 10 members on the committee, including myself; the full allocation is 12, so we have room for two more 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.

A Christmas Poem ... to raise a smile!

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me:
I've bought a fresh turkey and a proper Christmas Tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard,
As we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas came the people from next door:
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

On the fourth day of Christmas, some wine and cheese we had:
We were bright and happy, though the turkey a little sad.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, we had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas the Christmas spirit died,
The children fought and bickered, we had the turkey fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince

When sitting at the table he was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter:
He'd seen the turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka-Seltzer!

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime Dad was blotto:
He knew the bird was back again, this time as rice risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew;
As if that wasn't enough we were eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas Tree was moulting;
With chilli, soy and caper sauce the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles upon our lips:
The guests had gone, the turkey too – we dined on fish and chips!

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

Message from Sandra Goodship – Business Secretary

Many thanks to all of you who completed our survey on registration day and elsewhere. We had 81 replies (around 14% of our membership) and have now finished collating the responses. We hope your replies and comments will help us understand a little more about what our members want and need from our u3a.

For example, around 40% of those who responded to our survey said that they weren't aware that the national u3a website offered a wide selection of free online courses and expressed an interest in finding out more about them.

Some of these upcoming sessions, which are presented via Zoom, feature everything from practical topics such as 'How to better insulate your home' and an 'introduction to the Air Fryer' to talks on subjects as varied as Toulouse-Lautrec, Secrets of the Brain, and the Baha'i faith (the latest in a series on World faiths), as well as online exercise sessions such as Chinese Wand exercises and Laughter Yoga.

To find out more and to sign up for any session, visit [u3a - Online Learning Events](https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events) ('<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>'). Note that at the top of the page is a link for you to subscribe to a monthly newsletter which will keep you informed about all the latest offerings. So even if bad weather or bad health temporarily stops you from coming along to our local classes, the u3a still gives you the opportunity to keep active and learning.

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 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 or at the coffee mornings and will also be distributed via your group leaders.

Music Appreciation Group

In the December session we had an enjoyable mix of seasonal music brought in by the members, who all appreciated the free coffee, tea and mince pies. The next meeting will be on the last Friday in January, the 26th, and will continue our theme of music for the piano, with and without other instruments, featuring the piano music of Fauré and Saint-Saens. *Trevor Barrowcliffe*

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 will be available on the University campus at a cost of £61.80 for bed and breakfast.

Registration is not yet open but if enough members are interested in going for the day on Friday 19th July it may be possible to arrange a coach – there will be a list available at coffee mornings for anyone who's interested 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

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.

Chris Colebrooke has offered Whitby u3a two rows, 30 tickets, for his show on Thursday 15th February at 7pm. This is generally a very popular event. They will be available from me at a discounted price of £7 each (normally £10).

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

3rd Age Stagers

Our pantomime 'Aladdin' is progressing well, only a few tickets left.

Meet some of our Baddies lead of course by Abanaza and our three evil witches.

January 26th 7.30, January 27th 2.30 and February 3rd 2.30.



Gardening Group

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

Concert Outing

Unfortunately, the concert at the Sage Gateshead on 5th April 2024 has proved very popular, and I have not been able to order sufficient tickets at the usual price of £27; the only available tickets are either £38 or £46, though these would come with 10% discount if we have 25 people or more.

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

Revised cost will be £55-60, or £65-70 depending on availability of the more expensive tickets, and a £35 deposit is required to secure a ticket. Reservations can be made, and deposits paid, at the coffee mornings in January and February. In the meantime, it would be helpful if those interested in going could 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 final two sessions in December covered a photographic history of Sandsend (Neil Williamson) and our now traditional ‘smorgasbord’ of shorter presentations given by a series of different people on historical topics of particular interest. Both sessions were well-attended, interesting and enjoyable.

What classic folk song is said to have been written on Widnes railway station in 1965?



Our talks for the new year begin on the 11th January and our programme covers the usual range of local and wide-ranging historical topics given by some regular and some new speakers. Ruth Harwood begins with a talk

on ‘Serenissimus’. Venice is often referred to as Serenissima – but who was Serenissimus? (Nothing to do with Venice but there is a link to one of the dreadful wars currently happening.) Our second presentation departs somewhat from normal

and covers the links between popular folk music, cultural protest and poetic expression.

Jan. 11 th	Serenissimus	Ruth Harwood
Jan. 18 th	A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall	Rick Harwood
Jan. 25 th	Just a Village Kid & other Ramblings	June McCleave

Monthly Lecture Group

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

Our lecture in December, **'Is there life elsewhere in the Universe?'**, discussed our efforts to find life elsewhere in the solar system and discover 'Earth-like' exoplanets beyond. The talk was well-received and has proved timely; an article appeared in *The Times* this week (Christmas Day) on the background to this topic and *BBC Breakfast* ran an extended review of various planned missions (including the NASA/ESA JUICE mission – that's the *Jupiter Icy Moons* mission).



Replica of HMS Beagle, Nao Victoria Museum, Punta Arenas, Chile, 2018

Our first lecture of the year will be given by Michael Kirke and 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. Surveying the waters around Tierra del Fuego. Encounters with rebels and natives (brought back to England!), Cape Horn storms and deserters.

Tuesday, January 16th 'Life aboard HMS Beagle 1825-30' Michael Kirke

Discussion Group

The first meeting of the New Year will be on 8th January 2024 at the usual time of 2.30pm in the Hopkinson Room at the Coliseum. 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. 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

Recorder Group

The recorder group has had a great term! We have enjoyed playing a wide variety of music and tackled some new pieces. Christmas music featured in our last sessions along with a lovely Christmas celebration in Stoker's. We start again on 9th January, 11.45, Rifle Club

Heather Relf

Family History

The Family History Groups will resume on Wednesday 10th January 2024.



The u3a Singers

The u3a Singers have completed their tour of Carol Singing venues. Strengthened by newly enrolled members they were able to show their professional standard singing skills to all kinds of audiences who were suitably generous with their applause and everyone concerned went away with smiles on their faces.

The new term begins on Wednesday, 10th January at Flowergate United Reformed Church (2:30pm - 3:45pm) when we will be singing a variety of easy on the ear melodies from Music Hall, songs from the 40s to well-loved standards. You are welcome to come and take part.

Elizabeth Cheyne 01947 604365

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

TOAST

This month – probably the busiest month of the year for everyone – we did just the one outing. We had our Festive Meal at the Penny Hedge on Saturday 9th December, straight after our regular monthly meeting. The meal was superb and extremely well managed. They served all 30 of us efficiently, food piping hot and very tasty. A number of us had very pretty looking cocktails and mocktails. I had one with a half of passion fruit floating in it which rather reminded me of ‘bobbing for apples’ on bonfire nights – virtually impossible to catch!



This meeting was my last as Group Leader after doing it for 5 years. I was very surprised at the end of the monthly meeting to be presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a very generous gift. Many, many thanks to all who contributed, it was such a lovely thing to do. It has been my pleasure to get to know you all and to do that through all the many events that have been organised over these years.

It seems that TOAST will continue in some way. A few people are hoping it can go forward by having a small committee responsible for the overall organisation.

There will be a regular monthly meeting on Saturday 6th January 2024 at the Penny Hedge as usual. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend to give the new leader/leaders the support and input they will need. Prior to that meeting Sue Wessel has invited anyone interested in being part of this committee to meet at her house in Whitby at 2pm on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 so that preparations can be



made in advising everyone at the main meeting a few days later, on the Saturday. If anyone would like to attend that 2pm meeting, please email Sue direct on suewessel@btinternet.com

Wishing you a Happy New Year. See you in 2024.

Maureen Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 07368534403

Play Reading

One play was read completely during December to great hilarity. It was Hobson's Choice by Harry Brighouse. It is a favourite film of mine and I had always wanted to play the part of Hobson. Our Group kindly gave me that chance. It was written in 1916 and there were some unusual language formations (including some dialect) which reflected the period very much. Our next play will be Calendar Girls, a story I am sure many of you are familiar with and have probably seen the film and/or the musical. Now we are doing the play.

The Group resumes at the Cricket Club at 2pm on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Happy New Year everyone.

George Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 07753609166

Dates for your Diary

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

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