

Whitby Whaler
May 2023

u3a
learn, laugh, live



Message from the Chair

We would like to invite you to a celebration coffee morning at St John Ambulance Hall from 10 to 12 on Saturday 13th May. There will be tea and cake, a quiz and if you are crafty, you could make a crown. Otherwise, just meet up with friends and chat. Everyone welcome. If you could bring a cake or could help set up at 9.30, we would be most grateful. See you there! Anne

From Wendy Price (Curriculum Organiser)

All groups are scheduled to finish for the summer break at the end of July. If your group wishes to continue after this date, please let me know a.s.a.p. so that arrangements can be made with the relevant venue.

I am now beginning to put together the programme for 2023/24, so would appreciate your comments on your group in relation to venue, day, time, facilities, etc. If you are unhappy with any aspect of your group and wish to make changes, now is the time to do it! Please let me know by the end of June, otherwise I shall assume that you are happy to continue with the same arrangements for 2023/24. Also, we would appreciate any suggestions for new activities and groups for the next year.

u3a Theatre Visits Group

SISTER ACT Thursday 22nd June at 2pm, Newcastle. Fully booked. A few tickets still to be collected.

SIX Wednesday 5th July 5.30pm Newcastle. £52 Leave Whitby 11am. PLEASE NOTE LATER TIME (2 places available. Get in touch asap if you would like to go.) All Tickets ready to collect at coffee morning or when I see you.

THE BODYGUARD Thursday 17th August at 2pm, Newcastle. Fully booked. **Payment now due £63**

42nd STREET Thursday 12th October Newcastle £63. Fully booked. Payment when convenient.

We are receiving information for shows in 2024 and must arrange early to get good seats. 50 places booked for **PRETTY WOMAN** on Wednesday 5th June 2024, 2pm at Newcastle. I am taking a deposit of £40 each on signing up. This payment as soon as possible. Balance to pay next year. List already half full! 25 places still available. It is a very long way ahead, but all theatre seats get booked very quickly these days. Payment by Cash or cheque (Whitby Whaler u3a) in an envelope with your name on. Please contact me with any queries. Thank you.

Rose Corner Theatre Group Organiser

07790896062 01947811363 rosiecorner@gmail.com

Gardening Group

The final two trips for this year are as follows, please contact Joyce urgently if you have not paid, otherwise people on the waiting list will be contacted.

Mon. 15th May - Ushaw Historic House, Chapels & Gardens, near Durham City £32.00, includes coach, admission, tour & buffet lunch.

Mon. 3rd July - Kiplin Hall & Gardens Near Scorton, Richmond, £19.00, includes coach, admission and tour. There is a small cafe available, however members may wish to take a picnic.

Any queries please contact Joyce on 07868956919.

3rd Age Stagers

Tickets for The Summer Variety Show are selling fast so don't miss out in getting your seat. The show is packed with a huge variety of songs, sketches and surprises many having a link to our lovely Whitby - there is something for everyone in this bright colourful production.

18th and 19th May at 7.30 and 20th May at 2.30 at The Rifle Club tickets £2 from Jan 07949264022 or jan.jenn@hotmail.com or from the Rifle Club bar.

Concert Outings

The concert outing on Friday 14th April to the Sage Gateshead was very enjoyable. The next concert outing will be in the autumn - watch out for adverts in the newsletter and on the website. *Trevor Barrowcliffe*

Music Appreciation

The April meeting featured music relating to the sea and was kindly led by Peter Wallace in the absence of the organiser. The next meeting will be on Friday 26th May, 2pm at St John Ambulance Hall, and will feature piano music by Schumann; this will be the last meeting of the current season. For further details please contact me on 01947 600963 or twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk *Trevor Barrowcliffe*

Jazz Appreciation

There will be no meeting of the Jazz Appreciation group in May; this group has now been discontinued owing to low attendances.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

u3a Singers

The u3a singers are continuing rehearsals every Wednesday, at 2.30pm, St John Ambulance Hall. For further information please contact the Group Leader, Elizabeth Cheyne, on 604635.

The Whaler Band

The month of April has been a bit disjointed due to the Easter Holidays and the Rifle Club effectively closed for two weeks. So, we only have two weeks of classes in which to get up to speed before the start of our European tour. Our first venue, on 9th May, will be Church House, Sleights, entertaining some elderly people for the "Revival" organisation – we hope this won't involve any C.P.R. The next outing, on 12th May,

will be at Glaisdale, playing for “The Dalesfolk”, at the Robinson Institute. Later the same day, we have an evening booking at The Rifle Club, playing in a concert to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation, alongside several other bands / performers. Looking further ahead, the band will be performing at York as part of the u3a regional ‘Musicfest’ on 13th June.

We have also been asked to play at Peregrine House and at Whitby Court care homes, to entertain elderly people. Dates for these two events have yet to be confirmed. We should point out that at least half of these “elderly people” we entertain are younger than most of the Whaler Band members. The Whaler Band - the secret of eternal youth...

Recorder group

The first meeting after the Easter break went with a zing! It was great to have nearly the whole group back together again and have an enjoyable hour playing some tricky old and new favourites! About seven of us plan to go to the Yorkshire and Humber u3a music festival organised by Trevor, and we look forward to planning a programme showcasing what we do.

Music Festival

The management team of the Yorkshire and Humber Region are organising a music festival in June 2023.

All four of Whitby whaler’s music groups are planning to take part and non-performers will also be able to attend. This will be an opportunity for non-performers to listen to not only all our music groups, but also those of other u3as in the region, and it should be an enjoyable day out, so why not come along and support our music groups? Anne Jackson has organised a coach - see her at coffee mornings to book a place on the coach.

The event will be held on 13th June 2023 in York St John University, which is in the centre of York. Catering will be provided, comprising coffees, teas, and a buffet lunch. To cover the cost of catering and venue hire the overall cost is £15 per head. The cost is the same for performers and non-performers.

Further details, including how to register for the event, can be found on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/whitby; if you have any questions please contact Trevor Barrowcliffe on 01947 600963 or twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk

Travels from your Armchair

The next meeting will be at the Coliseum on Tuesday 2nd May, when John McEachen will give a presentation entitled "Culture and birds of Kazakhstan". Please note that the time of the meetings has been changed (in response to changes in the bus timetable) and is now **10.30** for a **10.45** start. All welcome.

The last meeting before the summer break will be on 6th June, when Peter Bolton will give his second presentation on Bulgaria, which should include photos taken in May this year.

History Group

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

Our sessions in April included a presentation that drew on Matthew Green’s highly-praised book ‘Shadowlands’ which outlines the plight of several lost communities in Britain. The reasons behind how these communities ‘disappeared’ and topicality of the causes were discussed.

The programme for May continues to cover diverse areas of history and is as follows:

May 4 th	Whitby Port in Queen Anne's War	Christiane Kroebel
May 11 th	Beverley trip – including the Minster	
May 18 th	Catherine the Great	Ruth Harwood
May 25 th	Leeds trip – the Royal Armouries	
July 9 th	Hartlepool Tall Ships trip	

Do you fancy a day out in May? The History Group outing to Beverley on Thursday 11th May is now fully subscribed and we are very much looking forward to the trip which will include a visit to the Minster (an impressive building which served as a stand-in for Westminster Abbey in the tv production of 'Victoria').

Places remain on the trip to Leeds on Thursday May 25th, including a visit to The Royal Armouries. Do join us if you are interested in visiting the city. Obviously, preference will be given to members of the history group, but we can fill the spare seats on the coach, (providing of course that you are a paid-up u3a member). The cost will be in the region of £12 for each trip. Contact Frances Hilson on 01947 606035 if you are interested.

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

April's lecture was given by Gervase Phinn based on his experience as a school inspector. His talk was highly entertaining and insightful combining as it did amusing anecdotes from, and the distilled wisdom of, many years' experience of schools and teaching. The lecture was thoroughly enjoyed by the sizeable audience.

The final two lectures of the current programme cover a significant figure in the history of Whitby and a crucial contributor to the medical provision in the area:

Tuesday, May 16th 'Scoresby and Whitby Whaling' Clair Stones

Tuesday, June 20th 'The work of the Yorkshire Air ambulance team' Keiron Hardwick

Philosophy Group

Philosophy Group meetings are suspended for May. There will be no Philosophy Group meetings in May owing to the number bank holidays and member absence.

We will reconvene the first Monday 5th June.

We would welcome new members. Drop me an email.

graham.c.robinson@gmail.com

Many thanks Graham Robinson

Walking Cricket

Once again you are invited to join the intrepid group of u3a players of Walking Cricket which will be starting at Whitby Cricket Club on Wed. May 17th. at 11.30 a.m. Sessions last an hour and are lots of fun with games and short practices to improve your cricket skills led by coach, Mike Stones. No previous experience is necessary. No special kit is needed - everything is provided for you so why not come along and enjoy yourself? For further information please contact Mike Stones on 01947 604451

TOAST

Because of Easter, school half term and various holidays we settled on two events for this month. The first was a Sunday outing to Beamish Living Museum. This started as a TOAST idea and was then widened to the whole of our U3A. I did, however, have responsibility for the outing on the day. The weather forecast had not looked good but on the day the rain held off until 3pm. That became an opportune time to dive into one of the cafés there for some refreshments and to rest tired legs. The journey there and back was very easy – where were the queues? We arrived just after 11am and the sun stayed out long enough for a good look around and even time to sit outdoors having a paper carton of chips fried in traditional beef dripping, if that was your thing. There was a male voice choir in one of the Chapels and a brass band playing for a couple of hours in the bandstand. A lovely day out all round – at least until 3pm!

Our second outing is scheduled for Sunday lunch on 30th April at the Grainary restaurant, Harwood Dale. However, this report is being produced ahead of that date so more about that next month.

In May we will be visiting the Engine Shed restaurant at the Steam & Moorland Garden Centre near Pickering. Lunch is booked for 1pm on 23rd May but there will be time to look around beforehand or stay on afterwards. It was felt this was a great time to be checking out plants for summer planting. If anyone would like to join us on that visit please get in touch. That may be the only TOAST outing for May, given all the Coronation plans and events, but I am still working on that.

Please note THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY TOAST COFFEE MORNING at the Penny Hedge during May as our usual date clashes with the Coronation date. The next TOAST coffee morning will be back to the first Saturday of the month, 3rd June at 10am at the Penny Hedge. In place of the May meeting, I will be sending out a newsletter to everyone in the Group sometime during the first week in May.

Maureen Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 07368534403

Play Reading

We have just finished ‘Death of a Salesman’ by Arthur Miller. In a strange way we did enjoy it, but the play is not a happy story and quite a difficult read. We were grateful for the chance to lighten the mood with some excellent poetry chosen and read after the play reading had concluded.

We have now started on ‘Top Girls’ a play by Carol Churchill. This is about an employment agency for women. It highlights the clash between Thatcherite values and socialism with some unacceptable class background assumptions thrown in for good measure. We think this is going to provide much debate along the way. That will be followed by ‘Hand Over Fist’ by Richard Everett. This is about a man returning home after a heart attack caused by work stress. However, home life doesn’t prove any less stressful apparently.

If anyone would like to join our Group, please get in touch. We meet every Thursday at 2pm at Whitby Cricket Club. It would be best to check with me in advance if it would be your first visit as we do miss out the occasional week.

George Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 07753609166

Dates for your Diary

23rd May at 1pm TOAST outing to the Engine Shed, Pickering

3rd June at 10am TOAST coffee morning at the Penny Hedge

Committee Meeting 11th May Rifle Club 14.00 - 16.00

Leader’s Meeting 10th July St John Ambulance 11.00 - 14.00

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

The next newsletter will be produced on 1st June 2023.
Deadline for copy (which should be sent to: sheilasloan@btinternet.com) is 28th May 2022.