

# Whitby Whaler

## November 2023



## Message from the Chair

Hi All,

For those of you who don't know I was elected as your new Chairman at the AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> October, or perhaps I should say "new/old" chairman, having done the job before. A bit of background for those who don't know me. My wife Margaret and I joined Whitby Whaler u3a as soon as we moved to Whitby in 2008 and found it very helpful in giving us interesting things to do and helping us to meet people and make new friends. After a few years I felt I wanted to give something back, so I volunteered to set up and run the website, which took me on to the committee, this was under Barry Foster's Chairmanship. I was eventually nominated as Vice-chair, and so took over as Chairman when Barry retired from the Chair in 2016 and continued until October 2019. Although I wasn't expecting to return to the committee, especially as Chairman, I know that the committee has had great difficulty trying to recruit a chairman during the year, so I volunteered myself again in order to prevent the closure of Whitby Whaler u3a, which could have happened had no Chairman been forthcoming. I promise to work with the committee to ensure that you can all continue to enjoy all the activities of Whitby Whaler.

I hope to meet many of you at coffee mornings and other events, but if you have any concerns about any aspect of Whitby Whaler, or indeed any positive suggestions for improvement, please feel free to contact me on [twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk) or 01947 600963.

## Christmas Coffee Morning

16<sup>th</sup> December, 10 am to 12 noon. Please note that this will be held at **St John Ambulance Hall**, and not the Rifle Club. As well as the usual Christmas songs and carols from our u3a Singers, you will also be able to listen to the Whaler Band. With free coffee and mince pies as well as musical entertainment, what more could you ask?

## November Coffee Morning

Whitby WI will be bringing a variety of cakes and bakes to the November coffee morning. Please support our fundraiser.

## From Sandra Goodship (Business Secretary)

Following our recent AGM, I am pleased to say that Trevor Barrowcliffe kindly stepped forward and was duly voted in as our new Chairman.

Mike Hodgson and Rick Haywood were also nominated and voted onto the committee.

Our committee therefore now consists of the following members:

- Chairman - Trevor Barrowcliffe
- Business Secretary - Sandra Goodship
- Treasurer - Janice Shade
- Social Treasurer - Maureen Agar
- Health & Safety Officer / Accessibility - Cynthia Richardson
- Curriculum - Wendy Price
- Newsletter - Sheila Sloan
- Committee – Anne Jackson
- Committee - Mike Hodgson
- Committee - Rick Harwood

We also have

- Colin Rutland managing our Website
- and Jan Jennings running our Facebook page

For the time being, Janice will pick up the duties of membership secretary, and the committee will consider how this can be managed going forward.

Our many thanks go to our outgoing chair, Ann Jackson, and to our previous membership secretary, Mo Metcalfe, for all the work that they have done. Welcome to Trevor, Mike and Rick

## Remembrance Day

Adrian Jennings, who served in the Royal Navy from 1965-1973, has kindly offered to lay a wreath on behalf of the Whitby Whaler u3a at the Remembrance Sunday service at Dock End, Whitby. The secular service starts at 10:30am on Sunday 12th November with a parade of air cadets and veterans and will feature a number of readings prior to the last post and two minute silence at 11:00, followed by the formal wreath laying ceremony. All welcome.

## From Wendy Price (Curriculum)

We are pleased to announce a new group for cyclists has started on Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m. More details later

**TOAST group (The Out and About Socialising Together Group)** which meets on Saturday morning at 10 am. at The Penny Hedge to discuss activities planned for that month. Maureen Osborne has been the leader of this group for several years now but has decided that she will not be able to continue after the end of this year. This is a large and extremely active fun group and will be unable to continue without a replacement for Maureen. If you are a member of this group, I URGE you to consider - it can be one person, or several people, but we must have a new leader by the end of the year or we shall have to abandon this group. I'm sure that no-one wants this to happen, so PLEASE CONSIDER if you are willing to give it a go. For further information on what the job entails, please contact Maureen on 07368534403.

## York Coach Trip

There is a Christmas shopping coach trip to York on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Picking up from Eskdale Park at 9.15. then Harrison's Garage, Castle Park and Sleighs, and leaving York at 4.00. Tickets are £12.00. If you would like to go you can pay and put your name down at the next coffee morning or contact Ann Jackson telephone 01947 810590.

## The Winter Social

We are having a 1940s themed Winter Social event next year on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 coffee morning.

## Easy Exercise/Keep Fit/Latin in Line

We are pleased to announce that the Keep Fit Class (10-11 Wednesday morning) Easier Exercise (10-11 Thursday morning) and Latin in Line (Wednesday 1.30-2.30) will commence on the 8/9<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## u3a Theatre Visits Group

**THE DRIFTERS GIRL** Musical Sunderland Empire  
Thursday 28th March 2024 at 2 30pm £50 total  
Leave Whitby from 8 55am 50 seats (fully booked)  
You should have your own ticket now

**EDWARD SCISSORHANDS** Matthew Bourne Ballet  
Theatre Royal Newcastle Thursday 4th April 2024 at 2pm  
£63 total 50 seats (fully booked) tickets ready to collect

**PRETTY WOMAN** Musical Sunderland Empire  
Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 2 30pm £65 total  
50 seats (fully booked) Tickets to collect soon

**GREASE** Musical Theatre Royal Newcastle  
Thursday 13th June 2024 at 2pm £65  
50 seats (fully booked) Tickets to collect soon

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

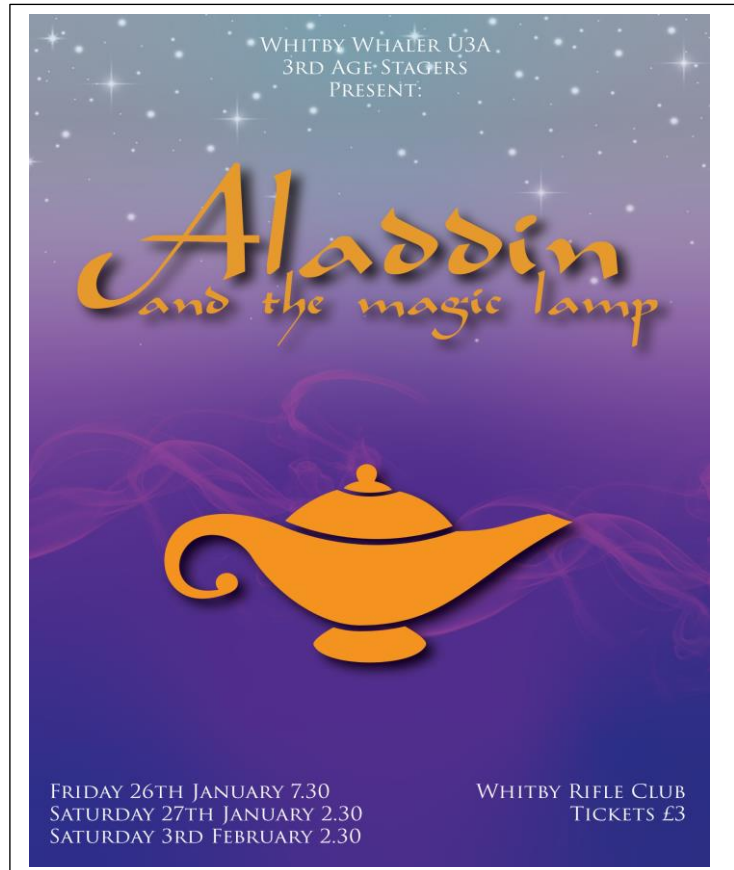
07790896062 01947 811363 [rosieccorner@gmail.com](mailto:rosieccorner@gmail.com)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Age Stagers

Aladdin: what would be your three wishes if you met a Genie? Why not come along to meet our Genie and see what Aladdin wishes for. We have all the elements of a classic pantomime with music, song, fun, jokes and a twist in the story.

Tickets are selling fast so get yours £3 at Coffee mornings, from behind the bar at the Rifle Club or from Jan 07949264022 for shows at the Rifle Club on:

Friday 26.01.24 at 7.30  
 Saturday 27.01.24 at 2.30  
 Saturday 03.02.24 at 2.30



## Gardening Group

Our next meeting at The Coliseum will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November: Scarborough Flax Experiment - David Stone, Totally Socially CAVCA, John Tavender, and Liz Smedley York and District Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. They will be telling us about the project, which was to see if they could grow and process enough of it to produce linen. Flax is a beautiful flower and was grown in Yorkshire for the purpose of linen production well into the 20th century. The knowledge and skills required to grow and process flax to turn it into textile are still around, but they are in danger of dying out. The Group wanted to see if they could revive them.

The Christmas trip is now full; however I will take a reserve list if anyone is interested: Ormsby Hall at Christmas and Christmas Lunch, Arcadia Garden Centre, Middlesbrough – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Cost: £27.00/£22.00 NT Members. Depart: pick-ups from Eskdale Road End - 9.20am, Harrison's Garage - 9.30am, Castle Park - 9.35 am, Salmon Leap - 9.40am, return 3.00pm

## Music Appreciation Group

The group has settled nicely into its new abode at Flowergate United Reformed Church. At our first meeting in September, we continued our travels round the world, and listened to music from Germany and Austria, including music by Zemlinsky, a composer unfamiliar to most members. For the October meeting we reverted to our other theme of piano music, with and without other

instruments, and heard music by Mendelssohn and Brahms. In November we will listen to more music from Germany and Austria (there's a lot of it!). Please note that in December the date of the meeting will be Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, not the last Friday.

New members welcome, for details contact me on [twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk) or 01947 600963.

*Trevor Barrowcliffe*

## u3a Singers

We are very, very happy in our new meeting place at Flowergate Church next to Church House. We have now reached the time when we sing sentimental songs from WW2 and favourite Scottish folk songs ready for Remembrance Day. On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November we have room for a small audience and an invitation to share our performance of the day's session. If you have been thinking of joining us and would like to know what we do please come along at 2.15pm. The session ends at 3.45pm. If you can, please wear something red along with your poppy.

Elizabeth Cheyne

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



It has been good to see encouraging history lectures in October, and this is greatly appreciated. On 5<sup>th</sup> October, Carol Wilson introduced us to the part played by the Knights Templar in the history of Westerdale - most intriguing and unexpected. Clearly a lot has changed in the intervening 800 years or so, and yet signs can still be found of the influence the Knights had in Westerdale.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October Rick Harwood picked up on the theme of his previous talk, *Shadowlands*, and “disappeared” communities in Britain, by expanding on it both geographically and ecologically. In a wide-ranging and thought-provoking talk, he took us from Eliot’s *The Waste Land*, through examples of ghost landscapes of his own experience and from Cal Flyn’s book, *Islands of Abandonment*. These included an abandoned gold mine in Namibia, the Five Sisters of West Lothian, the deserted French village of Oradour-sur-Glane left as a memorial to horrors perpetrated in World War Two and the more familiar memories of the abandoned town of Pripyat in Ukraine following the Chernobyl disaster. These “islands” were abandoned for different reasons but also subsequently changed in different and sometimes surprising ways. Current concerns caused by climate change were put in context too – was it a kind of global warming that caused the abandonment of Ur of the Chaldees in the 22<sup>nd</sup> century BC? Nature may find ways to recover from catastrophes if humans avoid getting in the way! Or can humans actually assist nature in avoiding catastrophe? Food for thought indeed....

More food for thought, in a different way, was provided by Richard Appleton on 19<sup>th</sup> October when he speculated on how differently things might have turned out in Britain if events had followed a different course in 1066. Thanks to Richard and to Joyce Stangoe for her fascinating further insights on “More



Whitby Yards” on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks also to Marjorie Thomson’s sons for the launch of *If Whitby's Streets Could Speak* at the conclusion of Joyce’s talk. This collection of Marjorie Thomson’s lectures on the local history of Whitby to the History Group is now available to purchase in the Save the Children charity shop on Flowergate. Its sales will benefit a cause that was dear to Marjorie's heart.

After the half term break, talks resume in November as follows:

Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup> The Walmsleys of Robin Hood’s Bay –	Jane Ellis
Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup> A History of Yorkshire Cricket –	Mike Stones
Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup> A History of Rhodes –	Lynn Walker
Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup> Two Sides of a Coin –	Marian Brockway

**Lecture Group** St. John Ambulance Hall Tuesdays (3<sup>rd</sup> monthly). 10 – 12 noon

For the second lecture of the session, Dag Kjelldahl gave a thorough exposition of the remarkable achievements of the maverick Roald Amundsen who not only was the first to locate both the North and South Poles but also the first to traverse the elusive North West Passage across the north of Canada/USA.



*The airship 'Norge' (1926) in which Amundsen flew over the North Pole.*

Speaking with the benefit of his own experience of Arctic conditions, Dag stressed that Amundsen learned from the Inuit how to cope with the extreme conditions encountered in trying to reach both Poles, and also was prepared to be

innovative in the use of new technologies such as airships. This was a fascinating and informative introduction to undoubtedly one of the greatest explorer/adventurers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, accompanied by many photographs illustrating both the achievements and the hardships involved.



The next lecture will be on November 21<sup>st</sup>, “The Return Overland Expedition – Singapore to UK” when Graeme Aldous will return to follow up on his much-appreciated presentation last March about the ‘First Overland Expedition to Singapore by Land Rover’

## 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: 6<sup>th</sup> November, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December and 18<sup>th</sup> December. 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](mailto:graham.c.robinson@gmail.com) 07974 145779

## Cycling Group

The cycling group was formed after an initial comment at the registration day at the Spa. To date, nine members have expressed an interest in doing some social cycling and the members have a range of bikes between them:- road, hybrid and mountain, some pedal only and some with electric assist.

Owing to a combination of factors, clashes with other groups, inclement weather etc., it has not been possible to have a proper group ride yet. However, I will persist in checking the weather forecasts (and my other commitments) and keep members updated as to when conditions look favourable to get out on our bikes.

Alan Holmes

## TOAST



During October TOAST members attended 2 events. The first one was to a Charity night being held at the Rifle Club with a variety of music performers providing an excellent evening's entertainment, which many from the Group wanted to support. Our second event of the month was for Sunday lunch at the Hare & Hounds in Hawsker. Seventeen of us had a beautiful meal there. Sunday lunch choices were available but also the full menu, so a variety of food was enjoyed. One of the photos shows just how large the Yorkshire Puddings were! We all reckoned the biggest we'd ever seen.

Our next planned event is for Christmas/Festive lunch at the Penny Hedge on Saturday 9 December. If anyone would like to join us who has not already put their name down please let me know. I think there is still room for a few others. At the moment there is a Group of 29 attending. I hope we will have at least one outing in November, perhaps 2, to be decided at our next meeting at the Penny Hedge on Saturday 4 November at 10am. Those coming to the Christmas Lunch, could you please bring the final balance payment to the November meeting if at all possible.

I have now informed the TOAST Group membership that I will be stepping down from my role as Group Leader/Co-ordinator with effect from the end of December. I have been doing it since its inception 5 years ago and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and making friends with so many people. We continued meeting either online (via Zoom) or in person throughout the difficulties of the pandemic and it felt even more special when we could meet up properly again. I do hope someone feels able to take over my role and I would be happy to help with any transition or to just have a chat if someone would like to know more about what it entails.

Maureen Osborne [mandgosb@gmail.com](mailto:mandgosb@gmail.com) 07368534403

## Play Reading

We spent October mainly reading Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'. It was quite a hard read and dealt with some upsetting issues, but which did then lead to much discussion. We continued to enjoy the poetry selections provided by those attending the Group. We have a selection of plays lined up that are somewhat lighter but in various genres. The Group meets at the Cricket Club every Tuesday 2-4pm.

George Osborne [mandgosb@gmail.com](mailto:mandgosb@gmail.com) 07753609166

## From Helen Leech

### If Whitby 's Streets Could Speak

Most Thursday afternoons around 40 members of the Whitby Whalers History group meet to hear talks given predominantly by the group's own members. Topics covered involve both local and more general areas of history. For more than 10 years, up until she died in 2020, Marjorie Thomson was the leader and organiser of this group. Aside from her authoritative presentations she was also responsible for encouraging people to present on topics they were interested in. *If Whitby's streets could speak, the title chosen by her three sons*, is a small selection of the lectures Marjorie delivered to the group over a period of two decades. Having been born in 1929 Marjorie was writing these talks in her seventies and eighties; the date of her lecture on Whitby in the Civil war – September 2019, was the month of her ninetieth birthday. As her sons state in the book's introduction its unsurprising, then, that she occasionally and perhaps without realising it speaks not only as a historian but as a witness. Her sons also comment that one theme, which particularly comes through the lectures in a way that may strike readers as very much of the present moment, is championing the women in the stories she recounts. She finishes *the Saint, the Soldier and the Sage (three Whitby men)* with none of the three men who form the ostensible subject of her talk but with Saint Hilda and defends this on the grounds that none of these men come anywhere near our greatest Whitby woman. Also commented on in the book's introduction is that in a curious way world events, which happened long after the talks were written, have lent them richer meaning. It is hard not to think of the controversy surrounding Brexit, undreamt of at the time of writing, in Marjorie's account of the equally passionately contested though now very distant debates of the Whitby Synod (*Our One and Only Venerable*). Besides her lectures, Marjorie's other principle public involvement in Whitby, during a long and very active retirement, was with the Save The Children charity shop, which she set up and ran until her death. In one way or another she worked for Save the Children for over sixty years. All the proceeds from *If Whitby's Streets could speak* will go to Save The Children. The book was launched at the History group on October 26<sup>th</sup> and is now on sale for a minimum price of £10 at The Save The Children shop on Flowergate. Upcoming Whitby u3a history talks include 'The Walmsley's of Robin Hoods Bay', 'A History of Yorkshire Cricket' 'Two sides of a coin' and 'A History of Sandsend'

## Dates for your Diary

Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> November at 10am TOAST coffee morning at the Penny Hedge



Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November Rifle Club 10.00- 11.30 u3a Coffee Morning

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December York Coach Trip

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December St John Ambulance Hall Christmas Coffee Morning

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30 and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 2.30pm Rifle Club. Aladdin.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 Winter Social

The next newsletter will be produced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.  
Deadline for copy (which should be sent to: [sheilasloan@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilasloan@btinternet.com)) is 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023.