

# Whitby Whaler

## October 2023



### Message from the Chair

Hi all! As you will no doubt know, the AGM is this month. I hope to see you there. Please be aware we need a new chairman, membership secretary and a publicity officer. If you feel you can help, please let me know. We are busy sorting the winter social and in December there is a trip to York Christmas Fayre. See me or Maureen Agar for a seat. See you at the AGM.

### From Sandra Goodship (Business Secretary)

**AGM:** A reminder that it is our AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Rifle Club, commencing at 10am. Please arrive promptly so we can sign you all in. All paid up members for 2023-24 should now have received the relevant paperwork either via e-mail or letter, and it is also on our website. If you have not received anything, please let me know (e-mail [Secretarywhitbywhaleru3a@gmail.com](mailto:Secretarywhitbywhaleru3a@gmail.com) or phone 0784 050 9992).

**The Dementia Forward Group** are holding a free 'Dementia Discussion' event at the Coliseum on Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> between 1:30pm and 4pm. Aimed at anyone with an interest in dementia, it will give attendees a chance to pose questions to a panel of experts, improve understanding of dementia and find out what services are available in our area. The event is featuring a 'local support marketplace' and we intend having a stall there, so if anyone could help us to man it, please let me know (contact details above).

**Survey** Many thanks to those of you who completed our survey either at Enrolment Day or the coffee morning. I am now busy collating your responses and will share the findings with you as soon as I have them.

**Remembrance Sunday** The wreath laying ceremony for Remembrance Sunday will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Dock End starting at 10:30 a.m. If any members who are ex-service personnel would be interested in laying the wreath on behalf of Whitby Whalers, please let someone on the committee know.

### From Maureen Agar

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 Sleights, 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.

We are having a 1940's 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.

## Barbershop Mixed Singing Group

This takes place every Monday at 10.30 am. Come along to sing songs from the 1920s to the 2020s, songs with personality and panache, in the carefree and harmonious barbershop style. Phone 07958 193 079 for directions to the venue. Open to all u3a members.

## Easier Exercises, Latin in Line & Keep Fit

Unfortunately, due to family commitments, Kerry is currently unable to lead her Easier Exercises, Latin in Line & Keep Fit classes for us, and so we are temporarily having to close them. Our apologies for this -we will let you know the moment they are able to resume.

## u3a Theatre Visits Group

Since enrolment day we currently have well over 200 members. Thank you for your support! I am still chasing some people for money - we have deadlines to meet. In future all shows must be paid for in full when booking. Outstanding payments now overdue for last 3 shows. Please see me at October coffee mornings (or on next trip 12th October.)

Our next five shows are now almost fully booked. Please join any reserve list with your phone number for last minute cancellations. Do let me know asap if you are not able to go to a show. If we have your ticket back even the day before, we can find someone else to go and hopefully give you a refund. Is your U3A membership £12 up to date? Some still need to renew.

42nd STREET Musical Theatre Royal Newcastle Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 2pm £63 Leave Whitby from 8 55am 50 seats fully booked. Please be ready with your ticket!

THE DRIFTERS GIRL Musical Sunderland Empire. Thursday 28th March 2024 at 2 30pm £50. Leave Whitby from 8 55am 50 seats fully booked (1 to pay)

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS (Matthew Bourne Ballet). Theatre Royal Newcastle Thursday 4th April 2024 at 2pm

£63 Leave Whitby from 8 55am 50 seats fully booked (3 to pay)

PRETTY WOMAN Musical Sunderland Empire

Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 2 30pm

£40 deposit already paid, £15 balance (8 to pay)

Leave Whitby from 8 55am 50 seats fully booked

GREASE Musical Theatre Royal Newcastle

Thursday 13th June 2024 at 2pm £65 (6 to pay) Leave Whitby from 8 55am 50 seats 1 ticket left

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 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 last minute cancellations. New members welcome.

Please add suggestions for next year. Shows are mainly midweek matinee performances.

Return Coach travel is included in the cost. Rose Corner Theatre Group Organiser  
07790896062 01947 811363 [rosiecorner@gmail.com](mailto:rosiecorner@gmail.com)

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

There is a lot of magic in the air at our rehearsals as the cast get into character for our next show. Our Panto has a few twists on the classic story of ALADDIN AND THE

MAGIC LAMP so come along to see the larger-than-life characters, the humour, the colour and join in the magic.

Tickets available at Coffee mornings £3 for shows at the Rifle Club on Friday 26th January 7.30, Saturday 28th January 2.30 and Saturday 3rd February 2.30.

## Gardening Group

Our first meeting at The Coliseum Whitby will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 2.00pm when we will be welcoming Garden Historian Louise Wickham, a member of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust who has researched and written about “The History of the Parks and Gardens of Skelton Castle, North Yorks”. Please note there will be a £2.00 entry fee to this event. I also hope to follow this up at some point with a visit to the castle and may try to fit in an extra visit next year. I will also be taking names and money for the Christmas trip so please bring along your cheque books and an envelope.

**Note:** Venue: Col. - James Cook Theatre, The Coliseum Centre, 1B Victoria Place, Whitby YO21 1EZ. £1.00 entry fee unless otherwise stated.

**Trips:** Must be paid for in full on booking, cheque to Whitby Whaler U3A. All trips with following pick-up points: Eskdale Road End, Harrison’s Garage, Castle Park & Salmon Leap unless confirmed otherwise.

### Whitby Whaler U3A Gardening Group 2023 – 2024

Leader: Joyce Stangoe, Mob: 07868 956919

[joyce.stangoe@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.stangoe@gmail.com)

Mon. 9th Oct	<b>The History of the Parks and Gardens of Skelton Castle, North Yorks</b> - Louise Wickham	Col. 2.00pm £2.00
Mon. 6th Nov	<b>Scarborough Flax Experiment</b> - David Stone, Totally Socially CAVCA, John Tavender, and Liz Smedley York and District Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers	Col. 2.00pm
Mon. 4th Dec	<b>Ormsby Hall</b> , Middlesbrough and lunch at Arcadia Garden Centre, Newby,	Trip
Mon. 8th Jan.	<b>My Favourite Gardens</b> - A wander around some of our favourite gardens. Sheila Johnson and Roger Burnett	Col. 2.00pm
Mon. 5th Feb.	<b>Wildflowers of the Cleveland Coast</b> - Martin Allen	Col. 2.00pm
Mon. 4th March	<b>A Journey - Apple Orchard Nurseries Skelton</b> - Sioned Price, and Roy Pearson	Col. 2.00pm
Mon 8th April	<b>Mount Grace Priory &amp; Gardens</b>	Trip
Mon. 13th May	TBC	Col. 2.00pm
Tues 4th June	<b>Temple Newsam Road</b> , Leeds,	Trip
Mon 1st July	<b>Sewerby Hall and Gardens</b> , Sewerby, Bridlington YO15 1ED	Trip

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## The Whaler Band

The band got off to an “interesting” start to the Autumn season, playing a concert gig to a room full of vegetables. We like to encourage a degree of audience participation at our public performances, but this lot were not having it. They sat in complete silence

through the entire performance. Only the sad songs were anything like a success – there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

On a lighter note – we do have two new members in the band and we are looking forward to dusting off our Goth Week / Halloween set of songs as the nights start to draw in.



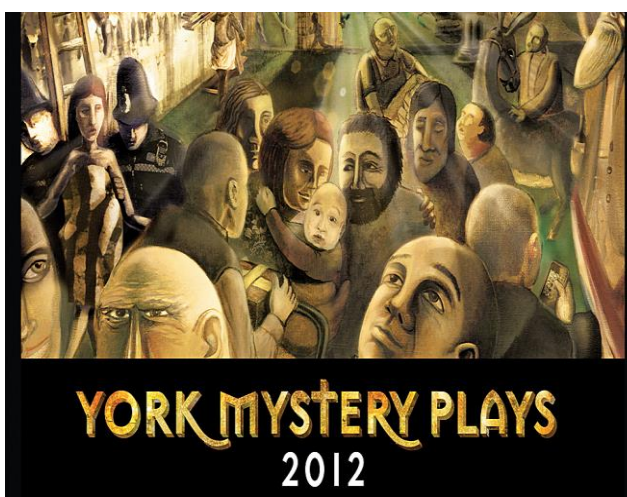
## Recorder Group

The group got off to a good start after the summer break. It was a delight to get together again, blow away the cobwebs and play some old favourites. We have also welcomed a new member. We continue to meet at 11.45 every Tuesday at the Rifle Club and go for lunch afterwards. Heather Relf

## Photography Group

This is now being held in the downstairs room at the Rifle Club, on the SECOND & LAST TUESDAY between 2 and 4pm. The class is suitable for anybody interested in photography, from beginners upwards, all types of cameras will be catered for, including smartphones. You might be thinking of buying a camera, but not sure what will suit you, we will try & help you decide. New for this session, two of us are going to run it. Lance Garrard who is a very experienced photographer has put together an audio/video tutorial which goes back to basics and builds up from there. Don Readman

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



Our series of talks for the new year got off to a tremendous start with an entertaining and enlightening presentation from Dave Bradley. He extended his earlier presentations on the history of theatre with an introduction to 'mystery plays'.

*A poster for the York Mystery Plays from 2012*

The first session of the series was also encouraging in terms of the very sizeable number of people who came along to hear the talk, and we do hope this trend will continue.

The topics covered up to Christmas are of a diverse range – from local history to deserted towns and how nature reclaims such land, and speculation as to how England may have developed if William had been beaten at Hastings!

Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	A history of Westerdale	Carol Wilson
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ghost Towns & nature's regeneration	Rick Harwood
Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>	1066: What if?	Richard Appleton
*Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup>	More Whitby Yards	Joyce Stangoe

Our meeting on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, also sees the launch of *If Whitby's Streets Could Speak* – the collection of Marjorie Thomson's lectures to the History Group which her sons have compiled and published.

The book gathers her lectures on the local history of Whitby. **All** proceeds from the book sale will go to Save the Children. The minimum price for the book will be £10 but people should feel free to give more to a cause that was dear to Marjorie's heart.

**Payment will only be possible on the day by cheque made out to Save the Children.**

If people do not have cheque books or cannot be at our meeting the book will be on sale at the Save the Children shop in Flowergate from 27 October, where payment by cash or card will be possible.

## Lecture Group

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

Our lecture series got off to a very positive and well-supported start on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> with a delightful and amusing account of a solo five-week journey around the coast of Britain. In 'A Pocketful of Tickets' Marjorie Kirke gave a perceptive and entertaining account of her travels by bus and public transport, recounting the beautiful and historic places she visited as well as the people she met, some of whom were quite eccentric!



Our next lecture will be on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>:

### 'The Maverick Amundsen Discovered both Poles' Dag Kjeldahl

*A discussion of Amundsen's expeditions to both the Arctic and Antarctic, and his place as one of history's greatest adventurers.*

*Amundsen's ship 'Gjøa' in the Fram Museum, Oslo - the first ship to sail the North-West Passage.*

## 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December and 18<sup>th</sup> December. We have a new venue for this term: 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. Over the coming term we will be looking at a wide range of topics which, I hope, you will find accessible and engaging. 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](mailto:graham.c.robinson@gmail.com)

## Wine with friends

For our first meeting of the new season, we enjoyed a blind tasting of 6 different wines to explore some of the characteristics of each of the grape varieties shown. We went through the recommended wine tasting system thinking about the appearance, aromas and taste of the wines. Another convivial evening was had by all with the wines presented by Liz and David and the venue kindly provided by Clair and Mike.



## TOAST

Our first meeting for this new u3a term was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September at the Penny Hedge. It was well attended, and it was lovely to see returning members and to meet some of those who have newly signed up to our Group. We have started with a couple of events for September. Firstly, a few of the Group went to see the film 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' at Whitby Coliseum on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. We are booked in at the Winmill Inn at Stainsacre for an evening meal on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. This update must be submitted before this event, so I'll include an update of the visit in the next newsletter.

For October and onwards we are planning Sunday lunch at the Hare and Hounds in Hawsker on 15<sup>th</sup> October and then a visit to The Yorkshire Cycling Hub out in Great Fryupdale on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

We have even started to think about Christmas and the New Year with a Festive meal booked for the Penny Hedge on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, to follow on from the TOAST meeting that day. We are also considering having a Chinese meal out on New Year's Day 2024.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at the Penny Hedge at 10am. If you can make it to the meeting that would be great but if any of our plans take your fancy and you can't make the monthly meeting – please do get in touch.

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

## Play Reading

We have had some more members join our Group and it has been great to welcome existing and new Group members to our sessions this month. We have just finished the Noel Coward play 'Present Laughter' and next week we will start to read Arthur Miller's play 'the Crucible'. Towards the end of October, we expect to be starting to read Tom Stoppard's 'the Real Inspector Hound'. We are continuing to read some poetry after we reach a natural place to break in the current play. Both aspects are being enjoyed by all those attending. If anyone else would like to join this Group please get I touch.

George Osborne

[mandgosb@gmail.com](mailto:mandgosb@gmail.com)

07753609166

## From Helen Leech (part of an article from the Whitby Gazette)

u3a community activity is great for those who can get out and about easily but if you struggle with mobility or other health related issues, are without transport, a full-time carer or have limited time to travel, then attending a group outside the home may not work for you. Good news, the national u3a has over 75 Interest Groups Online (IGO), offering a variety of peer led, online learning opportunities for subscribers and is hosting an online fair where people can try taster sessions for free. Between **2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October**, a selection of group leaders will deliver taster sessions, from Laughter Yoga to British Cemeteries, giving prospective members a flavour of what they can enjoy if they decide to join. The taster sessions are open to everyone, including non-u3a members, so if you are interested make note of the date and share this with people you know who might be house bound or appreciate activities online. You can find out more and register for sessions by putting “u3a interest groups online” into your search engine. *Anyone who is no longer in full-time work can come along to get a taste of the many opportunities IGO offers. You do not have to be a u3a member to enjoy the Fair.* Visit the u3a interest groups online groups page to browse the 75 groups that run throughout the year, these include History, Language and Travel, Leisure, Literature, Music Science and Technology, The World Today and Visual Arts. As part of the u3a movement, members generously volunteer their time and share their knowledge, skills and experience with the members in their groups. Some groups are more interactive than others, with an expectation that all members take it in turns to present their knowledge. Learners can join IGO as a complementary service to their local in-person u3a membership or have a standalone membership of £12 a year.

## Dates for your Diary

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 TOAST meeting Penny Hedge 10.00 to 11.30

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 AGM Rifle Club. 10.00 - 13.00

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 1:30pm and 4pm. 'Dementia Discussion' event at the Coliseum

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Dock End starting at 10:30 a.m. Wreath Laying

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas shopping coach trip to York

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, Winter Social Spa Pavilion. 6.30 to 10.30

The next newsletter will be produced on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

Deadline for copy (which should be sent to: [sheilasloan@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilasloan@btinternet.com)) is 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.