

Whitby Whaler

September 2023



Message from the Chair

Hi all! I hope you had a good summer and are looking forward to the new u3a year. Enrolment is at the Spa Pavilion on 1st September. On the 16th to 24th September, we are having a display at the library. Please can anybody help to man it just an hour or so? Contact me on 810590. Also, can anybody help set up for enrolment at 4pm on Thursday 31st August? See you all soon. Anne

Message from Sandra Goodship – Business Secretary

As our financial year ends, the committee start to prepare for the Annual General Meeting, which this year will take place at the Rifle Club on Saturday 14th October from 10am-1pm. Formal notifications and requests for nominations will be issued next month, but we would ask you all to consider standing for one of the vacant committee positions we will have.

Most importantly, we need a Chairperson, as Anne Jackson is stepping down. Anne has done a wonderful job over the last year, but only agreed to act as an interim Chair for a year at most at the last AGM. Both the Third Age Trust and Charity Commission require us to have a Chairperson in place, and it is essential that this role is filled if the Whitby Whaler u3a is to continue.

We are also in need of a Publicity Officer. Our organisation has been described as the 'best kept secret in Whitby', and that's not what we want to be! If you have ideas on how we can raise our profile within the area, let people know what we offer and bring in new members, please consider standing to fill this role.

And finally, we always welcome people to sit in as ordinary committee members without filling a particular role.

If you think you could fill any of these roles, please let a member of the committee know. Thank you

Survey - Just a reminder that we would appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes on Enrolment Day to complete a short survey for us. This will give us the opportunity to find out more about what you want from your u3a. The survey is anonymous and all questions are optional. If you are not able to attend Enrolment Day, copies of the survey will also be available at the next coffee morning.

Message from the Committee

Volunteers are needed to man the u3a display in the library from 16th to 24th September. Also, could group leaders get in touch if they have anything to display.

Volunteers are also requested to be part of a Winter Social Organising Group. The Winter Social will take place on 2nd February 2024 (TBC) at the Spa Pavilion. Please let Anne know on 810590 if you can help.

The library staff has also asked if anyone would be able to speak on green issues at the library in October? No more information is available at the moment, but if this is an area of interest for you, please let a committee member know.

If groups have a paid speaker, class fees will be £3 from September.

A Leaders' Meeting is planned for 13th January 2024 in the Rifle Club. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

With the rise in pensions, more members may now be eligible to pay tax. There is a small gift aid declaration box on enrolment forms which needs to be ticked to ensure that the Treasurer can claim gift aid. This is an important part of Whitby Whaler income.

Easy Exercise

The Easy Exercise class taught by Kerrie Page, which takes place at The St John's Ambulance Hall on a Thursday morning between 10.00 and 11.00. will be moving to The Spa Pavilion after the summer holidays. The classes will start again on 7th September.

Kerrie teaches a programme of exercises which she adapts to the needs of the group. The session starts with warm up exercises stood up behind chairs. We then sit down and mobility throughout the body is developed. To finish there is a cool down period which brings the session to an end. Many thanks, Maureen.

Keep Fit Group

Thank you to all who attended this year and enjoyed the sessions. I look forward to seeing you again in September along with some new members. Kerrie continues to lead the group on Wednesday mornings at the Whitby Pavilion from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. with many members staying for coffee afterwards. Ann Roe

u3a Theatre Visits Group

This is a very popular group. We presently have 186 members. Our next four shows, detailed below, are mainly fully booked. We are presently taking names on a reserve list for each visit.

42nd STREET Musical Theatre Royal Newcastle

Thursday 12th October 2023 at 2pm £63

Leave Whitby from 8.55am 50 seats

THE DRIFTERS GIRL Musical Sunderland Empire

Thursday 28th March 2024 at 2.30pm

Leave Whitby from 8.55am 50 seats

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS (Matthew Bourne Ballet)

Theatre Royal Newcastle Thursday 4th April 2024 at 2pm

£63 payable on booking. Some seats still available.

Leave Whitby from 8.55am 50 seats

PRETTY WOMAN Musical Sunderland Empire

Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 2.30pm

(£40 deposit already paid, £15 balance later)

Leave Whitby from 8.55am 50 seats

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

Gardening Group

I will hopefully see many of you at the Enrolment Day, but for those who cannot make it, please note I have not yet finalised the start date for this Group as I am still trying to arrange a last minute holiday flight - it will be either Monday 2nd or the 9th October, so please check either the website or with me nearer the time which date it will be. We will again be meeting at the Coliseum and please note my mobile number is 07868 956919. Next year's programme includes four trips and six talks which I hope you will all enjoy.

3rd Age Stagers

Although "resting" over the summer members of the Stagers Group are looking forward, in September, to starting our next production of 'Aladdin'. Yes, a classic pantomime full of all the usual fun, colourful big characters, jokes and frivolity to brighten up the winter days of January.

There is always room for new members, no experience necessary as we help and support each other, and all laugh together when we make mistakes. Our main aim is to enjoy ourselves during rehearsals and have fun 'staging' our shows at the Rifle Club. Come and meet us at Registration, we meet on Tuesdays 10 -12 at The Rifle Club.

Here are a few snaps from our last show. Jan Jennings.

07949264022 jan.jenn@hotmail.com



Ramblers Group

The Ramblers walking group went to Richmond recently for their annual walk and lunch. The coach dropped us in Richmond Market Place where we were able to look round the town and have coffee before setting off on our walk.

One group of walkers used the bus to reach Easby Abbey alongside the River Swale, a Cistercian construction used to house canons and which has substantial stonework remaining, though nothing has a roof. The stonework is very interesting and reflects a multiplicity of uses for living as well as worship. There is a lovely church which is intact and still used by the local parishioners.

The second group left the Market Place on foot and descended to the river near some attractive waterfalls and walked to Easby Abbey. Both groups made their way to

Richmond old station which has been developed into workshops, shops and a restaurant, where we enjoyed a very nice lunch.

The weather was kind and the rain held off until we were indoors.



Whaler Band

The Whaler Band offers an opportunity to bring out dusty and neglected musical instruments to play with others. Clean and well used instruments are also welcome. We do traditional dance tunes and songs ancient and modern, from the country, folk and rock & roll traditions. We can't offer tuition, but try to be supportive and welcoming to those who are less proficient. We play mainly for our own amusement, but occasionally go out into the wider world and try to amuse others.

The first Whaler Band session of the 2023/24 year will be at The Rifle Club on Thursday 7th September, 2:00 till 4:00pm.

Our first public performance will be for the Rifle Club Onion Show on Friday 8th September.

For further information on the Whaler Band, visit our desk at Enrolment Day, Friday 1st September.

The Ukelele Orchestra

The Ukelele Orchestra ended our summer season on a high this month with two public performances. On Wednesday 5th July seven of our members played for an extremely appreciative audience at the Dementia Forward meeting at the Coliseum. The event was greatly enjoyed by both players and listeners, and we look forward to a return performance at some point, possibly with some new numbers added to our repertoire to satisfy at least some of the numerous requests that were made!

The following Tuesday afternoon, seventeen members (nearly the whole Orchestra) entertained the Revival North Yorkshire community group at Sleights Church House with an hour of sing-along songs, putting in another well-received performance.

We've now finished for the summer, but I'm sure we will all be diligently practising individually, ready to return in the autumn raring to go.

Music Appreciation Group

The first meeting of the new session will take place on Friday 29th September, and will follow our theme of musical travels round the world. Please note the change of venue: **our new venue is Flowergate United Reformed Church**, at the top end of Flowergate, opposite the Resolution Hotel. New members welcome; please contact *Trevor Barrowcliffe* on 600963 for further details.

U3A Singers

Rehearsals will commence on Wednesday 13th September. Please note our new venue: **Whitby Christian Fellowship Church** (formerly Congregational Church), Albert Place (at the bottom of John Street). New members welcome; please contact *Elizabeth Cheyne* on 604365 for further details.

Concert Outing

The next outing, to the Sage Gateshead on 22nd September, is now fully booked, but there still a few places left on the coach and it may be possible to purchase additional tickets. If anyone is interested please contact *Trevor Barrowcliffe* on 600963; the programme consists of music by Berstein, Gershwin, Copland and Rachmaninov.

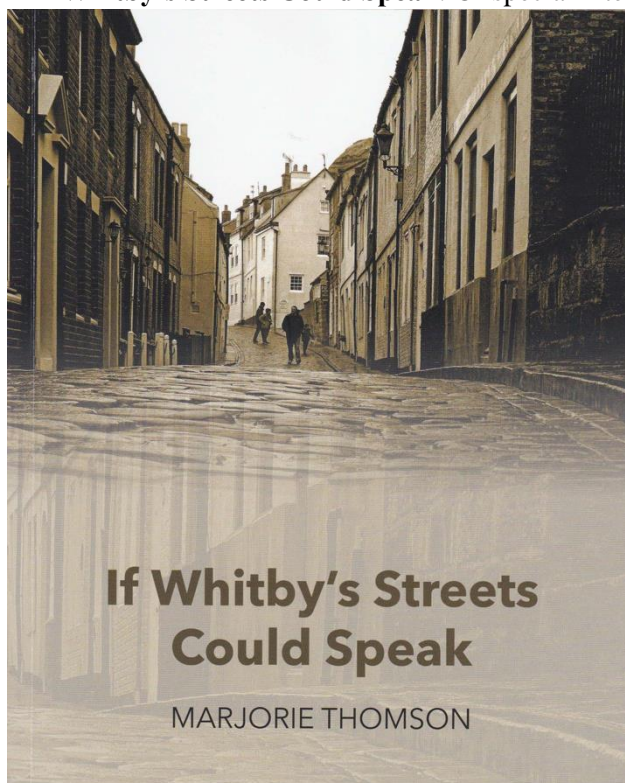
History Group **AUTUMN TERM 2023. VENUE: ST. JOHN AMBULANCE HALL THURSDAYS (WEEKLY) 2PM - 4PM**

Friday, September 1st: Please do come along and sign up for this new year and what we trust will be an interesting group of diverse presentations. Many of you already have the programme for this term, but it will be available at the sign-up session. New members are also encouraged to join us.

The first two meetings for the Autumn term are as follows:

Sept. 28 th	Mysteries and miracles	Dave Bradley
Oct. 5 th	A history of Westerdale	Carol Wilson

If Whitby's Streets Could Speak: Of special interest this Autumn is that, in



collaboration with her sons, the book they have produced based on Marjorie Thomson's lectures will be launched at our meeting on **Thursday, 26th October**.

This is particularly appropriate as the presentation that day will be by Joyce Stangoe on 'Whitby Yards'.

This is a special memoir of Marjorie's immense contribution to the group over many past years, and of her authoritative style and presentation skills. The proceeds from the book will be entirely given to the Save the Children fund (which Marjorie supported for so many years). More detail will be given in October's newsletter and at our meetings.

RNLI: During last year's programme Neil Williamson gave us a presentation on the history of Whitby lifeboats. There was a display at the end of that session and many members contributed to support of the work of the service. In recognition of that link and

support an opportunity will be provided at some point next year for the group to visit the lifeboat station, including the new boat that recently arrived in Whitby. Neil will also be back with us later this autumn to give a presentation on the history of Sandsend.

Discussion Group

The Discussion Group meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 2.30pm. This year we are meeting on the first floor of The Coliseum in the Hopkinson Room (there is a lift). We try to conclude our business by four o'clock, so that we do not exceed the two hours limit in car parks. Members are expected to pay £1 for each session and tea and coffee is provided for those who make a voluntary contribution of 20p. Last year was very successful with an average attendance of twelve. A range of local, national and international topics were explored, including: - global warming, secondary education in Whitby, the war in Ukraine, the NHS, the economic crisis, England's relationship with Europe, recycling and the need to develop local infrastructure. Sessions are usually divided into two or three sections with members putting their own topics forward, but this will be reviewed at the beginning of term.

The dates for the Autumn Term are: - 11th and 25th September; 9th and 23rd October; 13th and 27th November and 11th December

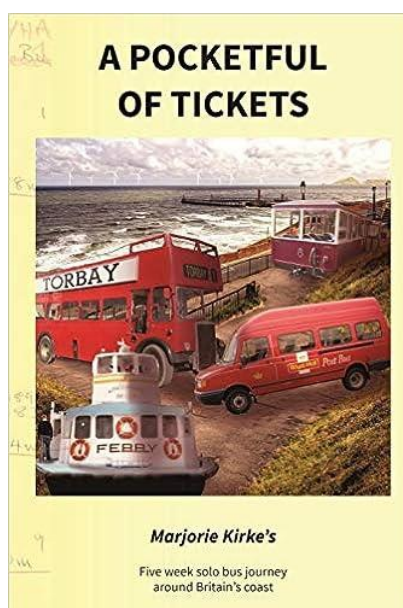
David Bradley

Lecture Group AUTUMN 2023 VENUE: ST. JOHN AMBULANCE HALL TUESDAYS (3RD MONTHLY) 10AM -12 NOON

As for the History group, a big thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout this past year – do come along and sign up at the start-up session on **Friday, September 1st**. The programme until Christmas has already been circulated but will be available at the sign-up session. New members are also particularly encouraged to join us.

The first two lectures of term are as follows:

Tuesday, September 19th ‘A Pocketful of Tickets’ **Marjorie Kirke**



A solo five-week journey around the coast of Britain by bus and other public transport (ninety-one ordinary public buses, six trains and two ferries). During her travels she stayed in Youth Hostels, often with amazing histories, and B & B's offering more comfortable facilities. Her journey took her through, and past, beautiful and historic places when she met and conversed with a medley of people.

A journey recorded in her book of the same title.

Tuesday, October 17th
‘The Maverick Amundsen Discovered both Poles’

Dag Kjell Dahl

Discussion of Amundsen's expeditions and his place as one of history's greatest adventurers.

Yorkshire Air Ambulance: Our final presentation before summer was given by Keiron Hardwick on the vitally important work of this service. Since that session we have received an appreciative letter thanking members for their generous donations in support of the work
Many thanks indeed for your generosity.

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: 18th Sept, 2nd Oct, 16th Oct, 6th Nov, 20th Nov, 4th Dec and 18th December. I am still confirming the venue so anyone who is considering coming along please drop me an email or give me a ring so that I can keep you updated.

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 07974 145779

Recorder Group

The recorder group will begin again on 13th September. The group plays a wide variety of part music for descant, treble, tenor and bass recorders, from the Middle Ages to the present day. We meet every Tuesday from 11.45 to 1.00 in the Rifle Club and usually have lunch afterwards. If you are a good sight reader and play any one of the recorders, dust them off, we would love to hear from you! I will be at the u3a Enrolment Day to answer questions and queries. Heather Relf

Photography Group.

An update on the Photography class: This will now be held in the downstairs room at the Rifle Club, on the SECOND & LAST TUESDAY between 2 and 4pm. The first class will be on 26th September. 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. Looking forward to seeing you on the 26th September. Don Readman

Wine with friends

The group has had a successful year with well-attended tastings. We are having a break over the summer and will restart in September. We meet approximately every six weeks and taste a selection of around 7 wines sourced and presented by Liz & David Farmilo. We are looking forward to our next season and hope to find some more interesting and enjoyable wines for you!

TOAST

Whilst most Groups end their activities during June we've managed to keep some events going through July and into August. My thanks go to those in our Group who have helped organise some of the extra outings.

This month we went to see the annual theatre offering at the Esk Valley Theatre in Glaisdale. It was a play called 'Deals and Deceptions' by Mark Stratton about a couple who come to Yorkshire to escape problems in London, their usual home. It was, as always, very well done and very amusing. We enjoyed a pre-theatre lunch at Shepherds Hall in Lealholm.

Just the following night a small group of us went for a meal at the Moorhen, Staithes for an Mexican themed meal. We all enjoyed the evening, Sheila was in character with her ginormous Mexican hat and poncho and it was all good fun. They do these themed nights regularly so we may well return for a different one next year.

On the Wednesday 30 August we are meeting up at the Goathland Tea Rooms at around 11.30am. If anyone would like to attend this who hasn't already put their name forward please contact Glen Charlesworth to check if there are still places available. Her email is g.j.charlesworth@gmail.com.

Looking forward to meeting many of you once again in the new U3A year after Registration Day on the 1st September. If you can't make Registration Day and want to be part of the Group please just email or text me and I will add you.

Maureen Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 07368534403

Play Reading

We will continue to hold the Play Reading Group at the Whitby Cricket Club but **please note the change of day**.

From September we will meet on Tuesdays between 2pm and 4pm. we already have 3 plays lined up for us to read through - The Crucible by Arthur Miller; The Real Inspector Hound by Tom Stoppard; Present Laughter by Noel Coward. So quite an eclectic mix to look forward to. And of course, we will continue to include listening to poetry chosen by our Group members, as this has become a firm favourite. If you wish to continue as a member of the Play Reading Group please sign up on Enrolment Day on 1st September if at all possible. if you are unable to attend the Enrolment Day and would like to remain in the Group, or join as a new member, please email me, or message me to my mobile, to advise me of that.

George Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com 0775360916

Dates for your Diary

Saturday, 9th September at 10am TOAST coffee morning at the Penny Hedge

Coffee morning Saturday 16th September Rifle Club 10.00- 11.30

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

Leaders' Meeting on 13th January 2024 in the Rifle Club

Winter Social 2nd February 2024 (TBC) at the Spa Pavilion

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