# WHITLEY BAY u3a NEWSLETTER April – May 2022

We regret to report that Roger Chappell, a long-time member of WBu3a, died in March

Monthly General Meeting – everyone welcome Linskill Centre, North Shields, 2pm

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April Speaker: John Gibson - Edwardian Music Halls

Wednesday 18th May Annual General Meeting

#### **CHAIRMAN'S NEWS**

Our Annual General Meeting is next month, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm at the Linskill Centre, North Shields, the same venue we have for our monthly meetings. There are several committee positions that have be filled, due mainly to compulsory retirements under our constitution. They are: Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Business Secretary, all necessary roles which help to spread the load.

Nominations for these posts and any proposals must be submitted in writing (and seconded) to any committee member, 21 days prior to the AGM.

# **AGENDA**

- 1. Minutes of last AGM
- 2. Matters arising
- 3. Group Co-ordinators' report
- 4. Financial report and accounts
- 5. Election of committee

Derek Reynolds, Chairman

# WBu3a website: www.u3asites.org.uk/whitley-bay/home

As you know we are updating our website and we need your help. We need members and group leaders to add:

- Photographs and/or video of members in a group activity (ensure you ask all members to agree with their picture online). Look at our Gallery.
- Information and links to interesting places and items that may be of interest to groups and members.

Also we are looking for a team of volunteers with IT skills who are willing to help us develop our IT resources. This includes members with interests in photography, writing, spreadsheets, presentations, art Facebook management, staff training and design. Contact Website Help on the website.

#### WBu3a on Facebook

WBu3a now has a Facebook page. The group is for members and friends of Whitley Bay u3a, and aims to connect like-minded people to exchange ideas and information or simply just to connect with other members. Dave Haddock and Anne Hemy are administrators, and they will monitor and approve requests to join.

#### Northumbria Regional u3a

A reminder that WBu3a is also a part of Northumbria Regional u3a – follow the link from our website, or go to www.u3asites.org.uk/northumbria/home for information on events and groups, and the regional newsletter, *The Messenger*.

# Third Age Matters magazine – a message from National u3a office

Please note that your Spring edition of *Third Age Matters* magazine is expected to arrive on doorsteps early in May. This slight delay is due to the Trust moving to a new printer following the issues experienced with the winter edition. We hope this move will limit any further delays in delivery in the future. The Spring issue is another fantastic read, with tasty recipes to make your u3a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic in the Park go with a swing, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, members' inspiring stories, your favourite walks and much more . . . Thank you for your understanding and patience - it is very much appreciated.

# **GROUP NEWS**

**Please note** - if you would like to join a group, you must contact the group leader before attending for the first time. Members may visit any group they wish for a one-off trial with the prior consent of the group leader, but please tell the group leader If you don't want to attend any further meetings. It is after all only good manners. A full list of groups and contact details for all group leaders are also on your membership programme.

#### French group Contact Kath M

A group for members to improve their French language skills. French Group 1 is currently full but a second group has recently been initiated and has vacancies. It meets on Monday at 11am at the Newcastle Building Society, Whitley Bay. Contact Kath for details.

#### iPad/iPhone group Contact Mike

Old Low Light Heritage Centre, Fish Quay, North Shields. There are two groups organised and shared by Whitley Bay U3A and The Old Low Light Heritage centre. We have started Group 2 (the more advanced users) with restricted numbers and it is fully booked for now. If there is still interest in these two groups, please register your interest via the Contact page on our website.

#### Jigsaw Corner Piece Contact Jean, Vicky

If you've got the time – get a puzzle! Bring a jigsaw to the meeting, take another.

#### Reading group Contact Kath M

We have started a new reading group which is running successfully but at the moment is fully subscribed.

# WEEKLY / FORTNIGHTLY/ MONTHLY GROUPS

# Bridge Group Contact Ron and Trish

Every Wednesday at 1.30-4.00, except u3a meeting days, in the Kittiwake Pub, Claremont Road Whitley Lodge. There is ample parking and refreshments are available. I look forward to seeing present members again and would welcome new Bridge players to the group.

# Canasta Contact Marion

Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 2pm at Whitley Bay Library. Please contact Marion for further information.

#### Carpet Bowls Contact Pat

Carpet Bowls at Cullercoats community centre every week starting at 12 noon. For any more information, please call Pat for details.

# Country Walks Contact Carolyn or John

The Country walking group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Walks are varied and generally between 5-7 miles. We are a friendly bunch and walk at a gentle pace but as with all rural walks, the terrain can be muddy, uneven, and with inclines and stiles etc. to negotiate, so a moderate level of fitness is required. Generally, there is no public transport to the starting point of the walks so car transportation is necessary but car sharing is encouraged. We have a sit-down meeting in December to plan the programme for the following year.

# Play Reading Contact Desmond

Meeting regularly on Friday afternoons choosing plays English American European. Variety of comedy and serious drama, group members selecting from new long list. Contact Desmond for venue details.

# Sports group Contact Dorothy G

Sports group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 1pm-2:30pm at St Andrew's Church, Monkseaton.

# Table Tennis Contact Vicky

Every Thursday, 11am-1pm, at the Parks Leisure Centre, Howdon Rd North Shields NE29 6TL.

#### Tai Chi Group 1 Contact Dorothy C

Every Monday 10-11.00am at St. Aidan's Community Hall. At present the group is fully subscribed, numbers are limited because we are still mindful that COVID is still around.

# Tai Chi Group 2 Contact Dave

Every Wednesday 9:30-10:30 at St Mary the Virgin, Claremont Gardens, Whitley Bay.

#### Tai Chi Group 3

Every Wednesday 10:45-11:45 at St Mary the Virgin, Claremont Gardens, Whitley Bay.

#### Tai Chi Group 4

Every Friday 2:0-3:0pm at St Mary the Virgin, Claremont Gardens, Whitley Bay.

If interested phone, text or email Dave. Please note there is a short waiting list at present for members wishing to join tai chi.

# Ukulele Contact John, Dorothy C

We welcome new members of any ability. Come along and give it a try, we have a spare ukulele you can use until you decide whether or not to join the group. Please contact Dorothy or John to let us know you are interested.

# Wine Tasting Group Contact Julie

The Wine Tasting Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at St. Andrew's Church Hall. We are a friendly and sociable group who take it in turns to provide 6 or 7 bottles of wine and lead a discussion on what we think of them. We share the costs through an attendance fee of £7 per person. The group is currently at maximum capacity due to bottle size limitations, but prospective new members who contact Julie will be invited to attend as and when there are spaces available on individual meeting dates.

# **DIARY DATES**

# Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April Social groups Contact Val

Fish and Chips at 12.30pm at Fishermans Bay Whitley Bay sea front. As I have heard nothing from the college we will continue to meet for fish and chips. It was decided at our last gathering that 12.30 suited us best so will continue at that time. The staff are so pleasant and cheerful that we really enjoy the fellowship. List at back with me.

# Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April Monthly General Meeting – everyone welcome

Linskill Centre, 2pm. Speaker: John Gibson - Edwardian Music Halls

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April Scrabble Contact Janet, Liz

2.30 at Park Lodge.

# Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April Sports group Contact Dorothy G

Twelve sports group members are off to Kingston Park to watch Falcons v London Irish. Pick up 6:30pm at Beacon Pub. Return 9:45.

# Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Social groups Contact Val

Coffee Morning, Red Lion Earsdon at 10.30am. Do not be confused [not a lunch date this time], they have kindly agreed to host this as we have difficulty finding large enough places so I do hope you will support. The list will be at the back as usual.

# Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April Social guiz Contact Jennifer, Jean

2pm at St Andrew's Church Hall. Please remember to bring your mug. Next quiz 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

# Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April Dance/Fitness group Contact Anne

The first session will be at 12.30pm in Tynemouth Scouts Hut, Norfolk Street, North Shields. This will be a taster session and will cost £2.50 per person. There will be a register to sign in and another column to fill in at the end of the session to say whether or not you will be returning on a regular basis.

Since parking cannot be guaranteed it might be advisable to car-share wherever possible.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April Mah Jong Contact Pat

We have a slightly later start/end time of 1.30-3.30. I try to have fortnightly sessions (not always possible) and anyone wishing to join us in the future please call me for details.

# Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April Art Appreciation Contact David & Jan

The group will be visiting the Laing Art Gallery on the last Saturday of the month, at 10:30. We'll start with coffee in the café and then go upstairs for the picture of the month presentation, George Clausen's *The Stone Pickers*. After this, there will be a chance to see the new exhibition of water colours, *Liquid Light*, or to have another look at their permanent collections. We'll have a Zoom the following Saturday so we can talk about what we've seen.

# Sunday 1st May Social groups Contact Val

Sunday lunch at 12.30 at The Briardene, the Links Whitley Bay. Attendance has improved but not perfect. I confirm the number on the Thursday prior to our visit so would appreciate you letting me know of any change by then if possible. There is always the facility to leave a message on my landline. List in usual place at back.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May Discussion group Contact Jean

As there may be problems with the Spring issue of *Third Age Matters*, the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May is cancelled and will now be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 10.30. Hope to see you then.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May Wine Tasting group Contact Julie

7.00 pm at St Andrew's Church Hall – Kath will be providing the wines this month.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May Scrabble Contact Janet, Liz

Please note change of day this month. 2.30 at Park Lodge.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May Mah Jong Contact Pat

We have a slightly later start/end time of 1.30-3.30. I try to have fortnightly sessions (not always possible) and anyone wishing to join us in the future please call me for details.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May Art Appreciation Contact David & Jan

Zoom meeting, follow-up to the visit to the Laing on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May Theatre Group Contact Kath R

The next meeting of the Theatre Group will be at 12.30-2.30pm in St Edwards room in Whitley Bay library. **Please note the new starting time**. Please bring your diary and cash.

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Linskill Centre, 2pm. Annual General Meeting.

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2.30 at Park Lodge.

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# Reminder

Entries for the next newsletter (16<sup>th</sup> May – 17<sup>th</sup> June) should be sent to Ann by email at **wbu3anews@gmail.com** by midday on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May**. Group leaders can send in entries at any time during the month, as long as they arrive before the deadline.

You can also access the newsletter on our website at http://u3asites.org.uk/whitley-bay