

WHITLEY BAY u3a NEWSLETTER November - December 2021

PLEASE NOTE All entries for the newsletter should be sent to wbu3anews@gmail.com please, and NOT to Ann's personal email address – thank you.

Monthly General Meeting – everyone welcome Linskill Centre, North Shields, 2pm
Wednesday 17th November Speaker: Anthony Atkinson – *Clementine Churchill*
Wednesday 15th December Christmas meeting

CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

Early in the year we were concerned that our membership was low but recent months have seen a boost in figures as previous members rejoined and new faces made their way in. This month we welcome Judith Holliday, John Liddle, Christine Liddle, Maureen Brown, Keith Pearson, Gaynor Chater, Aan Hayes, Daniel Gregory, June Gibbon, Yvonne Bedwell, Ian Bedwell, Paul Smith, Joanna Cavagin, John Cliffe and Judith Cliffe and hope to see them at our monthly meeting next Wednesday. A few more volunteers to help with meet and greet on the day would be appreciated as last month the group co-ordinators were overwhelmed with queries.

A revamp of our website is under way by Dorothy Chapman and Dave Haddock who have stepped up to the mark for this. Whitley Bay u3a website is well used with over 26,000 visits in the last year.

We know that not all are comfortable with social mixing under the present conditions but please put the word out that they will be welcome once they regain their confidence.

Thanks to Bill Oswald whose walkabout quiz at Seaton Sluice raised £30-00.

Derek Reynolds

Hello jigsaw addicts **Contact Jean 252 8169, Vicky 252 4525**

Some more for you to try! Bring along a puzzle and borrow another.

Android phone users

One to one instructions on Android phones to restart for those members who may need that extra bit of help and also for anyone thinking about buying a new phone and not quite sure which one to buy. This is by appointment only, and will take place at 1.00pm before the monthly meetings, starting November 2021. Please contact the group co-ordinators via the Contact page on our website or email annsoonawalla@yahoo.co.uk

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.

iPad/iPhone group **Contact Mike** u3asites.org.uk/whitley-bay

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.

Social groups **Contact Val 252 3972**

Meet at the Met. Still waiting for news from Shelley.

Wine Tasting Group **Contact Julie 252 2234**

Julie has taken over from Bill as Group Leader, but wishes to emphasize that she is not a wine expert! With effect from Wednesday 1st December, the Group is reverting to its previous meeting venue at St. Andrew's Church Hall, meeting on the first Wednesday of every month from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. We are now taking it in turns to provide 6 or 7 bottles of wine, and some nibbles, each month, and lead a discussion on what we think of them. 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.

WEEKLY / FORTNIGHTLY/ MONTHLY GROUPS
Bridge Group **Contact Ron and Trish 253 1695**

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 252 9390**

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

Carpet Bowls **Contact Pat 07983 479147**

Carpet Bowls weekly at Cullercoats social club, starting at 12 noon. We play every week except for Christmas and new year when the social club is closed for 2 weeks. Dates for the closure have not been announced yet.

Is there anybody out there wanting to give it a go? There are vacancies at the moment for any member wishing to join our happy bunch. Please call Pat for details.

Country walks **Contact Carolyn or John 252 6217**

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.

Italian Group **Contact Jan 07517 280456**

The Italian Group is meeting every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 for general conversation and some listening and translation from online sources. Anyone with some knowledge of Italian is welcome to join. We are meeting via Zoom until we're all happy to meet face to face. Contact Jan if you'd like to join.

Play reading **Contact Desmond 252 3078**

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 280 1318/07989 628701, Derek 07956 939696**

NEW TIME for Sports group: 2nd Monday of the month at St Andrews Church, Monkseaton, 1–2:30pm.

Tai Chi Group 1 Contact Dorothy 252 3726

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 07976 687973

Every Wednesday 9.30-10.30 at St Mary the Virgin, Claremont Gardens, Whitley Bay. If interested phone or text Dave or email landman2000uk@yahoo.co.uk. Please note there is a waiting list at present for members wishing to join Tai Chi.

Ukulele Contact John 296 5669, Dorothy 252 3726

Begin the weekend on a cheerful note at St Aidan's Community Hall Fridays weekly 10-11.00am. New members welcome, spare ukulele available for use, all abilities welcome, join us and have some fun.

DIARY DATES

**Sunday 14th November Sports group Contact Dorothy 280 1318/07989 628701
Derek 07956 939696**

Ice hockey. Warriors v Solihull Barons, Whitley Bay Ice Rink. Face off is 5:30pm. Meet at newsagents next to rink 4:15-4:30pm, or go straight in. £8 if paying cash or £12 using card. There are two kiosks, cash kiosk on the left. Wear plenty of clothing, it does feel very cold. There are refreshments and a bar.

Wednesday 17th November Monthly meeting

Linskill Centre, 2pm. Speaker: Anthony Atkinson – *Clementine Churchill*.

Thursday 18th November Scrabble Contact Janet 07842 575074, Liz 253 0288

2.30 at Park Lodge. (Please note: contact Janet by mobile only - no landline)

Saturday 20th November Social groups Contact Val 252 3972

Coffee morning. Meet at 10.30am Dill and Bear attached to Whitley Bay Metro Station {formerly called Olives}. Please add your name to the list on the back table as it helps the venue to be prepared for the influx that we are. However anyone is always welcome to just arrive on the day.

Monday 22nd November Social quiz Contact Jennifer 281 7930, Jean 252 8169

2pm at St Andrews. We advise masks to be worn on entry to the Hall; they are optional in the meeting room. To save on waste and washing-up, please remember to bring your own mug. Next meeting 20th December.

Tuesday 23rd November Bookworms (Group 1 only) Contact Pat 07817 506216

Meet at Shiremoor Library 2.30. We are reviewing a book of our own choosing this month, but should be back to the previous format soon!

Please note: If you have not been advised of the above Group 1 meeting, would you please contact Dot Garman (Group co-ordinator) regarding the formation of a second group. Group 1 is at capacity and the library are unable to accommodate more than are presently attending.

Friday 26th November Mah Jong Contact Pat 07983 479147

1-3pm. I try to have fortnightly sessions, anyone wishing to join us in the future please call me.

Saturday 27th November Art Appreciation Contact David david.alsmeyer@gmail.com

Meet at 10:30 in the café at the Biscuit Factory, followed by zoom meeting on the following Saturday.

Wednesday 1st December Discussion Group Contact Jean 252 8169

10.30am at the usual venue to discuss items in the *Third Age Matters* magazine. Please advise if you cannot attend.

Wednesday 1st December Wine Tasting Group Contact Julie 252 2234

7.00 pm at St Andrew's Church Hall – This meeting will be a "Christmas special" for existing members of the group.

Sunday 5th December Social groups Contact Val 252 3972

Sunday Lunch. Meet at 12.30 at The Delaval Arms, Old Hartley (past Whitley Bay Caravan Park and before Seaton Sluice). Please add your name to the list at the back of the hall - this is important as I have to confirm numbers [which I do on the Thursday before we go].

I realise sometimes that something crops up meaning you are unable to come but in that case please let me know. Last time only half attended and it makes things a bit awkward at the venue both for me and for the U3A.

Tuesday 7th December Scrabble Contact Janet 07842 575074, Liz 253 0288

2.30 at Park Lodge. Pre-Christmas meeting – please bring some food to share.

Wednesday 8th December Archaeology Contact Derek 07956 939696

Linskill Centre, 11.30-1.30. Our speaker is Les Turnbull on "The Railway Revolution". For members going on Low Lights visit, you will be sent information separately.

Friday 10th December Mah Jong Contact Pat 07983 479147

1-3pm – only one session in December. Anyone wishing to join us in the future please call Pat.

Wednesday 15th December Monthly Meeting

Linskill Centre, 2pm – Christmas meeting.

Thursday 16th December Scrabble Contact Janet 07842 575074, Liz 253 0288

2.30 at Jean's house.

Reminder

Entries for the next newsletter (13th December- 21st January) should be sent to Ann by email at **wbu3anews@gmail.com** by midday on **Friday 10th December**. 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 and social events programme on our website at **<http://u3asites.org.uk/whitley-bay>**