

## WHITLEY BAY u3a NEWSLETTER

### October - November 2021

**PLEASE NOTE** All entries for the newsletter should be sent to [wbu3anews@gmail.com](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> October** Speaker: Ed Waugh – “Wor Bella”, munitions worker and footballer  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November** Speaker: Anthony Atkinson – Clementine Churchill

We regret to report that Michael Spicer MBE died 25<sup>th</sup> September. He was 98.

#### CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

If this month's newsletter reaches the majority of members, it will be due to the efforts of a few stalwarts who have better computer skills than I have. We are still in urgent need of WBU3a members to help out here, if you have this talent please contact any committee member, telephone numbers on your yellow programme card.

Thanks also to Bill Oswald who organised an extra event, an enjoyable walkabout quiz at Seaton Sluice with results given at a social evening at the Waterford pub on Wednesday evening. Great success.

Other groups are now restarting their activities as meeting rooms become available - contact group leaders and get involved with our wide range of activities

We welcome new members: Tony Mathews, Bridget Mathews, Linda Laidler, Marion Tootill, Patricia Saunders, Dorothy Milne, Louise Thomson, John Harries, Kathleen Harries, Barbara Jansz and Caroline Thompson. We hope to see them out and about in the groups and at the monthly meetings.

Despite all our efforts to broadcast the news that Whitley Bay u3a is open for business I had a call from an ex-member who was unaware of this until mentioned by a current member. Let us all get the message out there that all are welcome to join us, especially at the next monthly meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. See you there.

**Derek Reynolds**

#### **To all group leaders**

Would any group leaders at the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October please collect a risk assessment form.

**Kath Maceachen**

#### **Message to all members, from the Third Age Trust**

##### Draft Strategy – your views

The Trust is in the early stages of developing a strategy to guide the future work of the u3a movement and wants to hear from u3a members about what you see as the priorities going forward and the targets we should be setting ourselves.

This survey is part of a wider consultation process to ensure that a relevant and bold strategy is developed by u3a members for u3a members.

Your responses will be anonymous and the findings of the consultation process will be reviewed by the end of the year with firm proposals being developed early next year.

To take part in the survey, go to [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/u3aStrategySurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/u3aStrategySurvey)

**Meeting room available** Newcastle Building Society in the centre of Whitley Bay have a room available, free of charge to community groups. Suitable for small groups (max. 12 people). Contact Sean Foster on 0191 252 0642 for details.

**Hello jigsaw addicts****Contact Jean, Vicky**

We will have a selection (have you tried Wasgijs?) at the meeting. Just borrow one and then return it later. This is a trial for the next few months to check on interest.

**GROUP NEWS**

[As more groups are re-starting, the newsletter is going back to its earlier format with separate sections for Group News and Diary Dates]

**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.

**Bookworms****Contact Pat A**

It is possible that we may fully resume on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021. Would those interested please email me confirming (or reconfirming) contact details **before 26<sup>th</sup> October**. This is vital as at present we are unaware of the numbers allowed in the meeting room and may need to form a second group. The meetings are held in Shiremoor Library on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2.30 pm. The library provide our books and a small fee is payable to cover room hire.

**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.

**Social groups****Contact Val**

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

**WEEKLY / FORTNIGHTLY GROUPS****Bridge Group****Contact Ron and Trish**

I am pleased to announce that we have a new venue for the Bridge Group meetings. We have the use of a private room in the Kittiwake Pub, Claremont Road Whitley Lodge. There is ample parking. The meeting will be as before, every Wednesday at 1.30-4.00, except U3A meeting days, and refreshments are available. First meeting dates, 6th Oct, 13th Oct, 27th Oct. I look forward to seeing present members again and would welcome new Bridge players to the group.

**Carpet Bowls****Contact Pat C**

Every Tuesday at Cullercoats social club. We start at noon. For any wishing to join us in the future 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.

**Italian Group****Contact Jan**

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.

**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. If interested phone, text or email Dave. Please note there is a waiting list at present for members wishing to join Tai Chi.

**Ukulele****Contact John, Dorothy C**

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.

<b>DIARY DATES</b>
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**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October****Scrabble****Contact Janet, Liz**

2.30 at Park Lodge Hotel.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October****Social groups****Contact Val**

Monthly coffee morning, 10.30am. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE** now at The Comrades Club on The Links Whitley Bay **NOT** Chloe Maes in Cullercoats. Due to our exciting increased numbers we have had to rearrange our venues due to their small size. This is obviously good news for us and not so good for the smaller coffee outlets in the area. As always everyone is very welcome to come. Please put name on the list at the back table at the meeting if you are able.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October****Social quiz****Contact Jennifer Jean**

2pm at St Andrews. We advise masks to be worn on entry to the Hall; they are optional in the meeting room. Looking forward to getting back to our quizzing!

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October****Mah Jong****Contact Pat C**

1-3pm. Anyone wishing to join us in the future please call Pat.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October****Theatre Group****Contact Kath R**

1.30pm in Whitley Bay Library. The first meeting of the Theatre group on 29<sup>th</sup> September was very well attended by an enthusiastic group of members. The group decided to visit two theatres during October and agreed to discuss the productions at the next meeting.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October****Art Appreciation****Contact David**

We decided we will have a hybrid meeting this month. Those of us who are willing and able to will meet at 10:30 at the café in the Laing. We can see their shows *Portrait of An Artist* and *Women Only Works on Paper*. If you want to see *Portrait of An Artist* you would have to book in advance or buy a ticket at the desk. The other exhibition is free and doesn't require booking.

We will combine this physical outing with a Zoom meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November. I hope to see you at these meetings.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November****Scrabble****Contact Janet, Liz**

2.30 at Park Lodge Hotel.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November      Art Appreciation      Contact David**

Zoom meeting at 10:30 where those of us who venture out can discuss what we saw at the Laing. Those who aren't able to go to the exhibition or have perhaps seen it another time can join in and share our experiences.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November      Social groups      Contact Val**

Monthly Sunday Lunch, 12.30pm at The Beacon, Earsdon Road West Monkseaton. We enjoyed our last Sunday lunch and are looking forward to the next one. Please add your name to the list on the back table at the next meeting or ring Val to book a place.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November      Archaeology      Contact Derek W**

At Linskill Centre at 11-30am when we have Chris Jones speaking on 5000 years of Archaeology in Northumbria National Park.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November      Mah Jong      Contact Pat C**

1-3pm. Anyone wishing to join us in the future please call Pat.

**Reminder**

Entries for the next newsletter (15<sup>th</sup> November-17<sup>th</sup> December) should be sent to Ann by email at **wbu3anews@gmail.com** by midday on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November**. 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>**