

Whitby Whaler
July 2026



Message from the Chair



As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the National u3a Festival is taking place in York from July 1st to 3rd; and our walking Netball team will be performing on Thursday 2nd July as will the Flowergate Singers, a subgroup from our u3a singers. Clair Stones will be leading both groups, which will be representing Whitby Whaler u3a in the Festival, with over 1000 participants – wish them luck!

The main focus of the Committee this month is to check and complete the new curriculum, so it can be printed in time for our **Enrolment Day**, which is **Thursday 3rd September**. Rick Harwood, our Groups Liaison Officer, has been working hard on this and has been in touch with all the Group Leaders to check for any alterations from last year. The Group Leaders had a chance to check the new draft curriculum at the recent Group Leaders meeting, an annual event where the Committee meets with Group Leaders to discuss any outstanding issues and to offer them a free lunch as a small token of our appreciation for all their hard work. Fortunately, almost all groups are set to continue next year, and there are a couple of new groups.

The Committee has also started to think about the arrangements for Enrolment Day. This year we intend to make the signing in process for groups easier, by avoiding the necessity for people to have to fill in their details several times if they are continuing with the same groups as last year. Further details of this procedure will be published in the next newsletter.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

From the Membership Secretary

A huge thank you to those members who responded to my emails about authorising Gift Aid and more recently the Data Protection check.

If there is anyone who still wants to reply either of those messages, please do let me know by email at: membersecwhitbywhaleru3a@gmail.com

Renewal of Membership due form 1 August 2026

This is just a little reminder to help you prepare for renewing your u3a membership.

Your u3a year runs from 1st August to 31st July every year. Enrolment day this year is Thursday 3rd September. However, any renewal membership payment that you can make in advance of this from the 1st August onwards is such a great help in enabling me to spread the task of renewing your memberships throughout August.

Important: If planning to pay by Bank Transfer please do not send any payment before 1st August. Our u3a computer cannot recognise this as an advance 26/27 payment and simply sees it as income for the year ending 31st July 2026. In these cases, our Treasurer has to return the payment to your bank account and you need to pay again on or after 1st August.

I will be sending you all a dedicated email around the middle of July with more specific details about renewing your membership from 1st August onwards.

Many thanks, in anticipation, for your help with this.

Maureen Osborne, Membership Secretary. membersecwhitbywhaleru3a@gmail.com 07368534403

Concert Outing

The next concert outing will be at the Glasshouse on Friday 16th October, 7.30pm, when the Royal Northern Sinfonia will be playing the following programme: **Grieg, Peer Gynt Suite; Saint-Saens, Cello Concerto (Soloist Sheku Kanneh-Mason); Sibelius, 3rd Symphony**. Tickets are £40 and can be booked at the coffee morning on July 18th, those of you who have signed up for the concert but haven't paid need to pay me at the coffee morning, as there is no coffee morning in August – if you can't make it to the coffee morning please drop the money off at 3 White Point Court, YO21 3UR. If you can't make the coffee morning but would like to reserve a ticket please contact me on twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk or 01947 600963.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

u3a Singers

When the u3a Singers are called upon to do their bit for the Community they volunteer without hesitation. They don't always use the same name so it's best to be aware that they are a semi-secret team of songsters. When they sing at the Royal Hotel, they are Royal Direction. When they observe the summer and winter solstice, they are the Solstice Singers. They have been Sommeliers, The Seasideers, and the Pavilion Balladeers.

A well-earned rest is being taken for most, but those who have some free time are going to York to represent Whitby's heritage area of Flowergate.

u3a Theatre Visits Group 2026 - 2027

(57 seats on each show) Cost includes transport. New members very welcome.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Grand Opera House, York (There is one ticket left – contact Rose)
Friday 24th July 2026 at 5pm. £75
Leave Whitby from 10.30am (later departure)

ANNIE Newcastle Theatre Royal
(5 seats left) Please get in touch.
Wednesday 5th August 2026, 2pm £70

THE CAR MAN Matthew Bourne (Music from CARMEN)
Newcastle Theatre Royal £75
(9 seats left) Please get in touch
Thursday 10th September at 2pm.

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL Sunderland Empire £80 (full)
Wednesday 18th November at 2.30pm

2027

CINDERELLA Matthew Bourne Newcastle Theatre Royal
Thursday 22nd April 2027 at 2pm £75

CATS Newcastle Theatre Royal

Thursday 17th June 2027 at 2pm £80 (full)

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Sunderland Empire

Thursday 22nd July 2027 at 2.30pm £80

GREASE Sunderland Empire

Wednesday 6th October 2027 at 2.30pm £75 (full)

Rose Corner 07790896062. rosiecorner@gmail.com

Recorder Group

Where has the time gone? The recorder group has continued to flourish, and it has been a delight to welcome new members. Although the weekly sessions finish on 9th June, four members will be attending a Play Day in July in York. Huge thanks to all members who have turned up each week and tackled everything thrown at them! Your commitment, musicality and humour make this group work effortlessly! We will recommence on 15th September, looking forward to seeing you all again.

Line Dancing

The three line dancing classes have proved very popular this last year. We have over 20 “absolute beginners” who started in September 2025 and are still attending regularly. They have learned over 24 dances in that time and are doing incredibly well, so hopefully, they will move up to the “improvers” class in September and some “improvers” will move to the “intermediate” class. We plan to start the “absolute beginners” class again from scratch in September, so if you fancy giving line dancing a try, come and have a chat with us on enrolment day or find out more on the line dancing group pages of the Whitby u3a website. Line dancing is enjoying a resurgence in popularity, so give it a try – no cowboy hat required.

Debbie Hogarth. Line dancing convenor.

3rd Age Stagers

Would you like to be part of the back stage team for our shows? In September we are needing help with music for our next show - what does that mean? Well at its easiest it means pressing go on a laptop to play the song or sound effect OR it could mean helping source songs etc it would be up to you.

Also, for our show with a Dickensian theme, we will be giving it a Victorian costume feel and anyone wishing to help source items (on the cheap) or some dressmaking you would be very welcome.

We are a friendly fun team that always support each other while trying not to laugh too much. Please contact Jan 07949264022

Gardening Group

Hello. I hope everyone is still enjoying this gorgeous sunshine.

IMPORTANT UPDATE. Trip to Beningbrough Hall and Gardens – please note that our pick-up route has changed due to Noth Yorkshire Council roadworks. There is no pick up at Castle Park. Please check the revised times and locations below. Also, contact each other to ensure everyone is at the right stop. Thank you to Glynis Flanders for the information. Pick up times: 9am: Sainsbury’s opposite car park near, next to layby. 9.05: New Bridge layby near traffic lights, 9.10 Prospect Hill (first bus stop after traffic lights, 9.15: Harrison’s Garage, 9.35 Salmon Leap, Sleights. We could not have asked for better weather for our visit to Harewood House. We were shown the interior of this beautiful Georgian House and had an interesting talk about previous residents. We were in awe of the Chippendale furniture, 4 poster beds, stunning fabrics and paintings. We had a light lunch before exploring the gardens, with stunning borders, topiary trees and the Himalayan Garden. Some saw red kites and red deer. We visited the gift shop and some purchased reasonably priced second-hand books. It was a fantastic day.



From: Elaine Hoyle (piggy112264@gmail.com). Phone: 07818238099

“I’ve talked many times to the u3a gardening group in the past, and also to Whitby WI so I thought that some of the members might be interested in the fact that we are opening our garden, the subject of several of those talks. Thursday 30th July 1.30-4.30 4 River View, Sneaton Lane, Ruswarp YO22 5JA. Parking in the village. Subject to weather. In aid of House Martin Conservation UK. A wildlife garden with a large House Martin Colony”.

TOAST (The Out and About Socialising Together Group)

TOAST would like to thank Jen Smith for hosting her ever popular coffee and scones morning at her delightful Runswick Bay cottage overlooking the spectacular bay. As usual, the weather was glorious and fifteen members enjoyed Jen’s hospitality.



!5 members also met at the Fat Badger before the visit to the Spa Pavilion for The Great British Bake Off Musical



Please note that the next TOAST Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 11th July 2026 (a week later than usual) at 10.00am in the Penny Hedge.

u3a Philosophy Group

We explore a range of topics from both contemporary and classical philosophy. The topics are intended to be interesting, understandable and participative. New members are very welcome. We meet in the downstairs room at Whitby Rifle Club (near Leisure Centre) at 2:15 pm until 4pm generally every 1st and 3rd (but *not* the 5th) Monday of each month, subject to the availability of the venue.

We are currently on summer break and will be resuming in September 2026.

Please look at our u3a group page for more information on upcoming sessions...

https://whitby.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/philosophy/ If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me on 07 974 145779 or graham.c.robinson@gmail.com

Walking Cricket

The u3a group of Walking Cricketers is all set to resume activities over the summer months. Sessions are led by experienced cricket coach, Mike Stones, and are open to all, both men and women. The aim is to have fun above all. Each session lasts about one hour and is not too strenuous at all. Sessions take place at Whitby Cricket Club (Uppang Lane, Whitby, next to Whitby Town FC) on the outfield of the cricket ground. Equipment (bats and tennis balls) is provided, and toilets are at hand in the cricket pavilion. If you would like to try it out, please contact Mike Stones on 0773 465 1128. The cost is only £1 per session, and sessions are made up of easy practices for cricket skills of batting, bowling and fielding along with a short match of walking cricket. For further information, simply ring Mike. Sessions are held weekly on Wednesdays 11.15-12.15 beginning on Wednesday 24th June.



History Group

Eastside Community Centre, Thursdays (weekly), 2 – 4 pm.

Our sessions are finished for this year, and we do thank our speakers, both external and internal to the group, for providing us with an excellent series of talks covering a wide range of interesting and stimulating topics. We finished our talks with an exceptional presentation from Prof. Joann Fletcher on *'Egypt's Royal Women: from queens to female pharaohs'*. We round off our year's activities with a visit to the *'Cleopatra and the Queens of Egypt'* exhibition which Prof. Fletcher has set up in Barnsley.



Queens of Egypt exhibition, Experience Barnsley

Our programme of talks for next year begins at the end of September with presentations from David Bradley and Fiona Barnard.

Thursday, 24th September: David Bradley *'The Dark Ages were brighter than you think'*

'The Extraordinary life of William Mogg (whaler, explorer & Arctic walker)

We very much look forward to your continued support for the programme which we'll publish on the Whaler website shortly [https://whitby.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/history-group-talks/].

Monthly Lecture Group: Eastside Community Centre, 4th Wednesday (2 – 4pm)

We completed our series of presentations in early June when Fool's Gold visited us with their new show that took inspiration from William Irving's painting '**The Blaydon Races**'. The stories of characters from the artwork were very much brought to life using a mix of original and traditional music together with really telling visual graphics. The show provided a fitting and excellent finale to the year.



Fool's Gold (Carol & Steve) performing 'The Blaydon Races'

September brings a major change in the timing of our sessions as we move to Wednesday afternoons (2.00 – 4.00pm) at the Eastside Community Centre. The first session will be given by Roger Browne who will bring his own inimitable style to the occasion.

Wednesday, 23rd September Roger Browne 'The Great American Songbook'

Roger is a professional pianist, speaker, raconteur and singer and has visited us before – most recently to talk very entertainingly about the *'Golden Age of Radio'*. Roger will be presenting some of the most important and influential American popular songs and jazz standards from the early 20th century that have stood the test of time. You will recognise popular and enduring tunes from the 1920s to the 1950s that were created for Broadway theatre, musical theatre and Hollywood musical film.

Do have an excellent summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September. Our programme for the year is planned and will be published on the Whaler website shortly [https://whitby.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/monthly-lecture/].

Play Reading Group

We are continuing to read Shakespeare's Richard III. We are all enjoying it and finding much to discuss and interpret as we work our way through this. The Play Reading Group tries to continue to meet until the end of June providing we have enough able to attend (holidays do get in the way!) Our next play lined up is one called 'Nightmare' by Norman Robbins – described as a suspense play. If we do not manage to start this play this term, then this is the play we will start with in September. The Group is aiming to restart on either Tuesday 15th or 22nd of September. The date will be confirmed nearer the time.

George Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com

British Sign Language taster

Even a few signs can make a difference to a deaf person, who uses British Sign Language, BSL as their first language. If you are interested in learning some functional signs and communication methods, please let me know. If there is enough interest, we could meet at 11.00 - 11.40 on Tuesdays at the Rifle Club.

Heather Relf

North Yorkshire Community Messaging

At the Leaders Meeting on 26th June 2026 the committee present enquired if doing something to keep members abreast of latest scams and security issues might be of interest. The general consensus seemed to be that this could be beneficial to many.

I mentioned that I am signed up to receive email messages from North Yorkshire Community Messaging. When you sign up to this service you will be sent information about crime alerts, policing updates and security advice. You can also select other alerts you feel may be important to you. One of the things they offer from time to time is also

discounted access to various home security systems. I have found most of the messages relevant and/or simply interesting.

Here is the link to access their main page and from where you can sign up to the service and read more about it. You can, of course, easily unsubscribe at any time if you decide it is not for you.

<https://www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk/>

Maureen Osborne, Membership Secretary

Non-u3a events

The following are details of organisations and events in Whitby and area which may be of interest to our members.

Lectures are given once a month at the Civic Society

<https://www.whitbycivicsociety.org.uk/>) and by the Literary & Philosophical society (Lit & Phil, website

https://whitbymuseum.org.uk)

Films are shown weekly at the Coliseum on Thursdays, and the café is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (website

<https://whitbyareadevelopmenttrust.org>).

Live music is available at various times at “eighteen91” (formerly the Chapel on the Hill, website

<https://www.eighteen91.co.uk>).

Further afield “Scarborough Fair” comprises a series of events in the next couple of months (website

www.scarboroughfair.uk).

Dates for your Diary

TOAST Coffee Morning Saturday 11th July 2026 10.00am Penny Hedge

u3a Coffee Morning 18th July 2026 10 to 11.30 Rifle Club

u3a Festival Thursday 2nd July York University

Enrolment Day. Thursday 3rd September Spa Pavilion

The next newsletter will be produced on 1st August 2026

Deadline for copy (which should be sent to: haygates31@gmail.com) is 27th July 2026