

Whitby Whaler
September 2026



Message from the Chair



Well, the summer recess is almost over and I'm sure all our members are looking forward to joining their groups again. Our 'year' starts on 1st August, but in practice most group activities begin after Enrolment Day, which is on **Thursday 3rd September** (see separate article). The new curriculum leaflets will be available for collection then, and also before then – see article below. Many thanks again to Rick Harwood for all his hard work in preparing the leaflet and ensuring its accuracy.

All except one of the groups which were active during 2025/26 will be continuing (French is discontinued), but there are a few new groups, and with around 50 different groups, plus the usual outings to theatres, concerts and places of interest, there is a great variety of activities on offer, thanks to our marvellous Group Leaders who give so much of their time for the enjoyment of our members.

However, we should not be complacent, we are always interested in possible new groups, and one area which is not covered is languages, particularly French and Spanish, both of which have featured in previous years. If there is anyone out there who would be interested in starting conversational groups in these (or other) languages please let me know. Nonetheless one of the new groups is British Sign Language, which will be very useful for people dealing with deaf individuals.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

From the Membership Secretary

I would like to thank all the members who have been paying their renewal subscriptions throughout August. Your cooperation with making your payments a little earlier has been amazing and it is much appreciated. I am writing this message on 24th August (for the Newsletter) and already I have received 200 more payments at this stage this year than at the same date last year.

There are still over 300 memberships awaiting renewal so I am hoping that many of you have continued to send your payment by your preferred method (bank transfer, cheque or cash) during these last few days up to Enrolment Day. Just a little reminder if you are paying by cheque – they should be made payable to WHITBY WHALER U3A (not Whalers with an S).

Here is the link with full details of how to make your payment: https://whitby.u3asite.uk/u3a_notices/membership-fee-due-from-1st-august-2026/

Enrolment Day - Class sign ons

In an effort to minimise queues for signing on to classes, this year we are aiming to provide the group leaders with lists of sheets giving the details of those who were in their class last year, so that they will already have your details - all you need to do is let the leader know that you wish to continue as a member of the group (unless they have already said that they will automatically roll the class members list from last year forward).

Enrolment Day - Membership renewals

If you intend to renew your membership at our Enrolment Day, please put your £20 membership fee (either cash or cheque payable to WHITBY WHALER U3A) in a sealed envelope. Clearly write your name and contact phone number on the front of the envelope, along with any recent changes to your personal details, and then place it in the basket that will be on a table at the front of the Northern Lights Suite on the day.

Music Appreciation

The first meeting of the new term is on the last Friday of the month, 25th September, when we will renew our travels round the world, with our second visit to North America. Dates of the subsequent sessions in 2026 are: 30th October; 27th November; 18th December, and all sessions will take place at our usual venue, Flowergate URC (upper room), from 2pm to 4pm.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

Jazz Appreciation

The first meeting of the new term will take place on Thursday 10th September, at our usual venue, Flowergate URC (upper room), from 10.15am to 11.45am. Subsequent meetings in 2026 will be on the second Thursday of each month at the same time and place, i.e. 8th October; 12th November; 10th December.

u3a Singers

If you are interested in keeping fit health wise and like being static why not try singing. To sing well you need good breath control and strong muscles. Singing brings enjoyment, satisfaction and the company of like-minded friends. The outlook for this year is very interesting indeed and the Autumn term starts at 2.30 on Wednesday 9th September. Don't be late. As Lewis Carroll says, "You start at the beginning. You go on to the end and then stop." It sounds like good advice to me.

Elizabeth Cheyne.

New Curriculum

The new curriculum leaflets for 2026-2027 have now been printed, and are available for collection at the Library and the Coliseum. If they are not readily visible on display, please ask at the reception desk in each venue. The leaflets will also be available on Enrolment Day and at subsequent coffee mornings.

Coffee Morning Rota

I am still looking for volunteers and am starting a new list for September, so if anyone (present volunteers or new recruits!) would be willing to be on the rota, please send me an email on haygates31@gmail.com or catch me on Enrolment Day. Only one person has volunteered up to now and I'll need a couple for 19th September. You can do as few sessions as you would like and your help will be really appreciated.

Sheila

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**. Those of you who have signed up for the concert

but haven't paid need to pay the £40 for your ticket at Enrolment Day, when I can be found at the table for Music Appreciation. If you can't attend Enrolment Day, please drop the money off at 3 White Point Court, YO21 3UR.

There is just one ticket left so if you would like to reserve a ticket, please contact me on twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk or 01947 600963. The coach fare is £25 and can be paid at Enrolment Day, or at any time up to and including the September coffee morning.

u3a Theatre Visits Group 2026 - 2027

2026-27 (57 seats on each show)

Cost includes transport. New members very welcome. We keep a reserve list for each show.

THE CAR MAN Matthew Bourne (Music from CARMEN)

Newcastle Theatre Royal £75 (2 seats left)

Please get in touch asap

Thursday 10th September 2026 at 2pm.

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL Sunderland Empire £80 (full)

Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 2.30pm

Payment Cash or Cheque (Whitby Whaler u3a) in an envelope with your name on and preferred bus Pick up point

SHOWS for 2027

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR + Sam Ryder

Newcastle Theatre Royal

Thursday 25th March 2027 at 2pm £93

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

CATS Newcastle Theatre Royal

Thursday 17th June 2027 at 2pm £80

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Sunderland Empire

Thursday 22nd July 2027 at 2.30pm £80

GREASE Sunderland Empire Taking Payment now

Wednesday 6th October 2027 at 2.30pm £75



Rose Corner

07790896062. rosieccorner@gmail.com

Art Group

The art group meets every Wednesday in the Community Hub Eastside, starting on the Wednesday after registration. We are a friendly group of mixed abilities so all are welcome so see me at registration or on the 1st Wednesday after. You will be welcome

Anne

Latin in Line – New Term Starting Thursday 10th September 2026

Come and join our friendly **Latin in Line** class every Friday from **2–3 pm** at **Colbrooke Studio**. This is a fun, relaxed way to keep active, enjoy Latin rhythms, and learn simple routines — all at your own pace.

- No partner needed
- Suitable for all abilities

- Great for fitness, balance and confidence
- Warm, welcoming group atmosphere

Cost: £3.00 per class We'd love to see you there and welcome new members.

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

We've been busy over the summer making preparations for our next production - "A Dickens of a Christmas", 29 - 31st January. The script is finalised, props are being sought, music is in place but we need your help with Victorian costume. So if you have any items that would pass as Victorian that you could lend us, to keep costs down, we would be very appreciative - we need for both men and women dresses, skirts, jackets, coats, capes, hats etc.

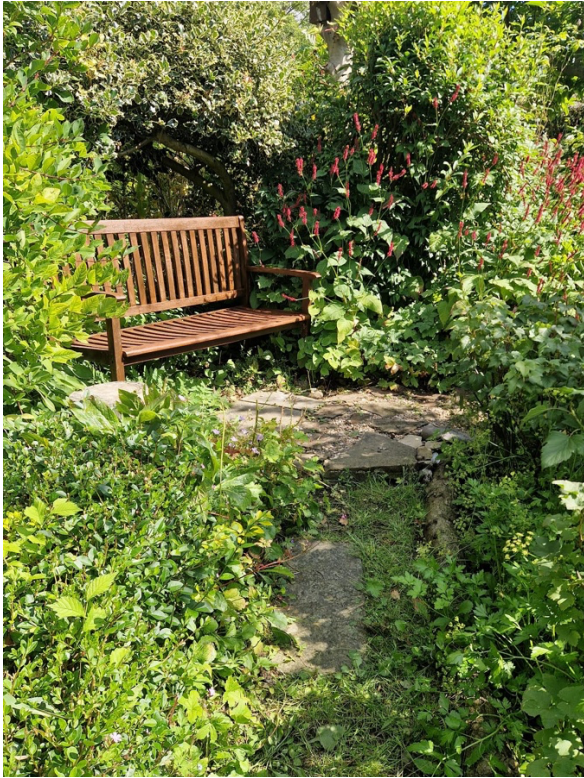
If you want to find out more come for a chat at Registration on 3rd. We rehearse on Tuesday mornings 10 - 12 at the Rifle Club starting on 8th September.

Gardening Group

Last month Elaine Hoyle invited our members to visit her beautiful garden in Ruswarp with a chance to see the house martins that have become residents and have been around for 5yrs. Elaine and her partner often support The House Martin Conservation Trust and give talks and invitations to visit these remarkable birds for a donation to the cause. The visit was very enjoyable and informative. Elaine was delighted to have such good attendance. It was greatly appreciated by the hosts and raised £80 on the day.

Photographs Below (none of the house martins.one blink and they were gone!)





OUR NEXT GROUP MEETING will be on Monday 5th October 2026 at the Coliseum 2-4pm.our GUEST SPEAKER: Claire Stones Topic; How the Endeavour Grew Your Garden.

The talk will look at the plants and trees in Pannett Park Whitby and the story behind how they have developed and grown.

PLANT SWAP: Following Claire's talk there will be an opportunity to take part in a plant swap. To help make this a success, please bring along any spare cuttings, seedlings, bulbs or surplus garden plants that you would like to share with others. Please make sure that anything you bring is healthy and clearly labelled.

NOTICE OF OUR NEXT TRIP Monday 9th November 2026 (please note this is not our usual meeting day)

We will be visiting Ripon Community Poppies and Displays. This will include a meal on our return home.

The final costings are to be confirmed.

I will give you full details by email before our first meeting on Monday 5th October.

PAYMENT DATES FOR THIS TRIP

Monday 5th October at the Coliseum.

Saturday 17th October coffee morning) at the Rifle Club.

ENROLMENT DAY

Thursday 3rd September 10am - 1pm at the Spa Pavillion. it would be lovely to see you all again, and of course look forward to meeting new members too. If you are regular members, all I need is your name and contact number so I can refer to the previous Gardening Group Register. This is also an opportunity for you to pick up The New Gardening Group Programme. There will be interesting visits, talks and trips for you all to enjoy.

See you on Enrolment Day!

Daphne Wilson. Mobile: 07359756765. Email: wilsondaphne730@gmail.com

Days out / Trips

Our next trip will be on Saturday 24th October 2026

This is to Beverley and it is market day. Beverley has plenty to offer like the Minster and lots of lovely shops and tearooms. The cost of this trip is £10.

Harrogate Knit & Stitch. Friday 20th November 2026

This trip is full, but several people still need to pay for the bus it is £10

I will be at Registration Day at the Spa where I will be taking names and payment for both of these trips.

You can contact me by email pauleshepherd63@hotmail.com

TOAST (The Out and About Socialising Together Group)

The next TOAST coffee morning will be on Saturday 5th September at 10am in the Penny Hedge. Over the last month, we have enjoyed a visit to the Land of Iron, Skinningrove with a visit to KasKane restaurant and a meal at the Ellerby.

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

History Group

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

Our programme this year begins with our special visit on **Saturday 5th September:**

Kynren – An Epic Tale of England: A spectacular outdoor night show that takes you on an unforgettable journey through 2,000 years of history, myth and legend including live action, mass choreography, stunning horsemanship, pyrotechnics, water effects from a cast and crew of 1,000 volunteers on a vast 7.5-acre stage.

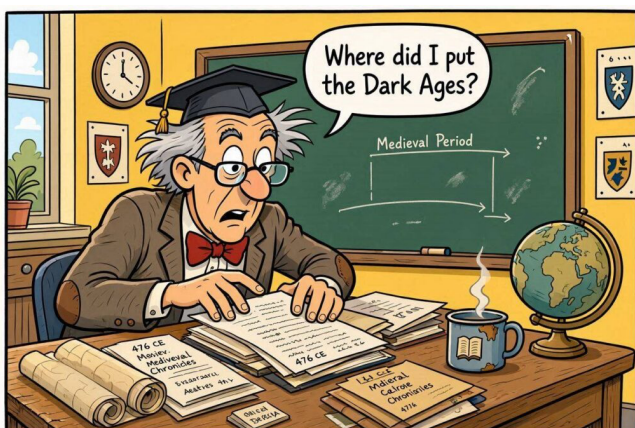
A reminder of pick-up points for the trip: Opposite Sainsbury's, 3.30pm / Harrison's, 3.35pm / Castle Park, 3.45pm / Salmon Leap 3.55pm. Return at around midnight. Remember this is an outdoor event so keep an eye on the weather forecast and dress appropriately.

- Outdoor live-action night show, lasting approximately 90 minutes.
- We will be arriving early so there is chance to look around before taking our seats for the performance.
- Food, drinks and visitor facilities are available across the site; but you may wish to bring some food/drink with you.

Our **regular programme** of talks for the group begins with a presentation by David Bradley.

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

David writes of his talk as follows: 'The Dark Ages Were Brighter Than You Think' is a light-hearted gallop through the years between the Romans leaving Britain in 410 and the Normans arriving in 1066. I am exploring the reasons for calling the period 'Dark', the written works of Caedmon and the Venerable Bede, and the significance of some Anglo-Saxon finds in Staffordshire and Suffolk.



Our talks follow weekly through until Christmas and details and commentary on the programme can be found at

https://whitby.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/history-group-talks/.

We do encourage you to check out the sessions and look forward to seeing you there

History group members: don't forget to renew your u3a membership (£20 for the year) after 1st August.

Enrolment Day is Thursday, September 3rd; Ruth and I will be there if you would like to speak to us but if you were on our list last year, we will automatically include you again unless you tell us otherwise.

We will e-mail you regularly about the programme alongside information we put in the general monthly newsletter.

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

Monthly Lecture group members: don't forget to renew your u3a membership (£20 for the year) after 1st August. If you were on our list last year there is no need to sign up again for the Lecture group on Enrolment Day (Thursday, September 3rd) though Ruth and I will be there if you would like to speak to us.

We will keep you on record, unless you decide to leave the group, and will e-mail you regularly about the programme alongside information we put in the general monthly newsletter.

Looking forward very much to meeting up again for a stimulating series of talks. **Please note that our lectures now usually take place on the afternoon of the 4th Wednesday each month.**

Our first presentation will be given by **Roger Browne** on **Wednesday, September 23rd**

'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.



Roger giving his presentation on radio's golden age

Our programme is complete until May next year and represents what should be a series of excellent self-contained lectures on a range of interesting topics. Details of the programme and commentary can be found at https://whitby.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/monthly-lecture/.

All are very welcome and we do encourage you to come and enjoy some interesting sessions.

Play and Poetry Reading Group

Hope to see many of you at the Enrolment Day on 3rd September.

This Group will be resuming in September from Tuesday 22nd September. We will be in our usual venue - Whitby Cricket Pavilion from 2pm to 4pm every week.

We will start the new term with a suspense play called Nightmare by Norman Robbins. The summary of this play says it contains 'deceit, suspicion, blackmail, incrimination and a murder' - so something for everyone!

We should also have our usual eclectic mix of poetry to share with each other.

George Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com

Recorder group

Some members of the group attended an inspirational workshop in York in July, delivered by Michelle Holloway. We were definitely put through our paces!

Starting date for the recorder group: 15th September, 11.45, Rifle Club.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Heather Relf

British Sign Language taster

Sessions begin on 15th September. 11.00, Rifle club - downstairs committee room.

Some advance homework (BSL fingerspelling alphabet) will be emailed, with some copies available on registration day if members do not have printers.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

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 (website

<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>).

Whitby Regatta is from 8th to 10th August, website www.whitbyregatta.co.uk

Whitby Folk Week is from 22nd to 28th August, website www.whitbyfolk.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Enrolment Day. 10am to 1pm on Thursday 3rd September at the Spa Pavilion

TOAST Coffee Morning Saturday 5th September 2026 10.00am Penny Hedge

u3a Coffee Morning 19th September 2026 10 to 11.30 Rifle Club

The next newsletter will be produced on 1st October 2026

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