

Whitby Whaler
October 2026



Message from the Chair



Our new term is well under way and most groups will have had their first meeting by now. The Enrolment Day was busy, as it always is, but there was plenty of space for everyone, though there were some queues for the most popular groups, such as gardening and history.

We welcomed 37 new members on Enrolment Day plus an additional 7 'lapsed' members, i.e. people who had been members before but who had not joined last year. However, as of 13th September 136 people who were members last year had not rejoined. I would urge all of you who have enjoyed u3a activities last year to pay your membership fee before the end of October, or you will be removed from the members list. If for any reason you are not intending to rejoin, can you please let the membership secretary, Maureen Osborne, know by email on membersecwhitbywhaleru3a@gmail.com or on 01947 605141.

The printed curriculum leaflets were picked up by most who attended the Enrolment Day, but will continue to be available at coffee mornings and at the Library and the Coliseum. Details of all the groups, and of the various outings, can be found on our excellent website, run by Colin Rutland, or you can contact the Group Leaders on the numbers given in the curriculum leaflet.

Finally, please try to attend our AGM on 7th November at the Rifle Club. Two members of the Committee will be resigning so we are looking for replacements. It would be good to have a representative from our new members on the Committee, but also perhaps one or two of our existing 750+ members could consider giving something back to the organisation you enjoy. If you would like to know more, please talk to me informally at the coffee morning, call me on 01947 600963, or email me on twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk

Trevor Barrowcliffe

Barry Foster

It is with sadness that we report the death of Barry Foster at the age of 89. Barry was one of our longest standing members and was dedicated to Whitby Whaler u3a. He was Chairman from 2012 to 2016, and as a committee member during that time I have fond memories of meetings under his Chairmanship – he was able to make light of difficulties and under his direction meetings were always fun. He was also the Newsletter Editor for many years, and at various times was the Leader of the Monthly Lecture Group and also ran an Easy Walking Group. He wore all these responsibilities with a lightness of touch; he was a very sociable man and had a wonderful sense of humour.

He will be remembered with fondness by many of our members. Our sympathies go to Monica, his wife, and to all the family.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

Barry Drummond

We also report the death of Barry Drummond. Barry was brought up in South Africa where his father was a mining engineer, but the family returned to Whitby and Barry became a mining engineer himself. In his youth he was a keen rugby player. He was a u3a member for at least 5 years, and although he was not very involved with u3a activities he and his wife used to enjoy the theatre trips organised by Rose Corner. Our sympathies go to his wife Ingrid and all his family.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

Dave Jeffery

We are also sad to report the death of Dave Jeffery, who died a few days ago from cancer. Dave had been a member of our u3a for many years, and was actively involved in several groups, including the Discussion Group, Jazz Appreciation, Backgammon and the Art Group. His contributions to these groups will be missed, and our condolences go to his wife Linda and their family.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

First Aid Training Demonstrations

St John's Ambulance have offered to hold some First Aid Training sessions for our members. These would take place on a Monday evening at Flowergate URC. If you would be interested in attending such a session, please let me know by email or phone - secretarywhitbywhaleru3a@gmail.com 0784 050 9992

October Coffee Morning

At the next coffee morning on 17th October Lyn Stuart will be having her stall selling soft toys and Christmas Cards, with all proceeds going to the RNLI, so bring your purses along and get your Christmas shopping done here. *Trevor* I have had a great response to my request for volunteers to make tea and coffee at the coffee mornings. Thank you very much to all who offered to help. I have completed a rota to Christmas, but will be looking for more volunteers in the new year. *Sheila*

AGM Saturday 7th November

An early reminder that our AGM will be held at the Rifle Club on Saturday 7th November from 10am - noon. Individual notices will be e-mailed or posted out during October. Please make a note of the date and make efforts to attend so that we can ensure a quorum of members present.

Music Appreciation

The first meeting of the new term was on 25th September, when we renewed 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 took place on Thursday 24th 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.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

u3a Singers

On Wednesday 4th November at 2.30, the u3a Singers will be remembering the fallen in the World Wars. We will be performing songs with a Scottish twist during our usual weekly gathering at Flowergate Church. If anyone would like to join us and create an audience, and also hear what we do you would be most welcome.

Elizabeth Cheyne

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**. All tickets have been purchased but there are still a few seats left on the

coach, so if anyone else would like to go please contact me on twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk or 01947 600963. Tickets are £40 and the coach fare is £25.

Trevor Barrowcliffe

Bridge

The Whitby Whaler Bridge “Club” is back running after the summer break and is open to all members of all abilities (including complete beginners). We play bridge socially at the Rifle Club on roughly alternate Wednesday mornings (next sessions 14th October then 4th & 18th November). You are welcome to drop in to see how we run or come along and join in. Although I believe bridge to be the best game in the world, it does take a little while to learn but we are happy to help you along the way towards an enjoyable and mentally healthy pastime.

Pat Donnelly

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.

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 on Wednesdays (9.30 to 12 noon)

Anne

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*

Latin in Line



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

3rd Age Stagers

Rehearsals are now well underway for our next show “A Dickens of a Christmas” based on the most famous Christmas tale and if you need a clue, it features a famous old miser but like all the best stories it has a happy ending. Tickets will be available at coffee mornings starting on 17th October so grab yours because our shows always sell out! Friday 29th January 7.30, 30th and 31st January 2.30 all tickets £3.

Can you help us? We need items of clothing for men and women that would pass as Victorian: skirts blouses, coats or hats.

Jan 07949264022

Days out / Trips

Hello. The trip to Beverley is **FULL** and the Knit & Stitch to Harrogate is **FULL**. The Xmas Days Out Trip will be in the November Newsletter

Pauline Shepherd. 07780717222. paulineshepherd63@hotmail.com

TOAST (The Out and About Socialising Together Group)

The next TOAST coffee morning will be on Saturday 5th October at 10am in the Penny Hedge. Deposits of £5 can be paid for the Christmas lunch on 12th December 12.30 for 1pm. Also, there is a Sunday Lunch on 11th October at the Hare and Hounds (£5 deposit) and dinner on 23rd October at 7pm at the Victoria, Robin Hoods Bay. (£10 deposit). Hope you can join us for some good company. See you all soon. Sue. (07432546489)

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

Wine with Friends

This year's first meeting of Wine with Friends was held on 20th September and kindly hosted as usual by Claire and Mike. Our wine experts, Liz and Dave, introduced us to wines from Spain and Argentina, such as Cordoniu Cava Brut, Torrontés, Argento Chardonnay, a Garnacha, an Argentinian Cabernet Sauvignon, a Tempranillo and ending with a delicious Moscatel dessert wine.



Gardening Group

Hello everyone and welcome back to our Gardening Group. I hope you had an enjoyable summer, enjoyed your gardens and holidays and are ready for another enjoyable year together. I'm presuming you have all received this year's programme, if not see me after our first meeting (see date below).

Some of our trips have also been suggested by members, which is lovely alongside a request to have meals included where possible (the option is there for you to opt out of this and costs will be adjusted, gives you the individual more free time to explore).

This is my second year in running this group, a lot more to organise, I am asking everyone for a little patience, plenty of humour and most importantly your moral support. As I get this new programme underway, thank you all for your continued support (and others behind the scenes work too). On Enrolment Day it was nice to see past members rejoin (I must be doing something right) and meeting new members too. I'm aware there is confusion for new members and a lot to take in ... so I will be drafting a welcome letter to you all with more about our Group. For everyone I am available by phone or text if you want a one to one with me. (See programme for contact details). So welcome to another happy year of surprises, gardening news nature / garden wildlife talks, friendships and some lovely days out.

Trip: Ripon Poppies Project / Displays Monday. Monday 9th November.

We now have a full booking for this trip but you can still put your name down on the reserve list should someone not make it on the day.

Monday 5th October 2026

Is the last payment day for this trip. Choice of meals - see below. It would help to provide a sealed envelope with your payment. cash or cheque payable to Whitby Whalers u3a

On the envelope put: the name of the trip, your name Mobile number, cash or chq, Amount £35, Pick up point

Your choice of meal and desert

Meal and Dessert options

Steak pie vegetables and smash

Chicken casserole, dumpling vegetables and smash.

Desserts: Apple pie and custard, Lemon cheesecake and cream.

Vegetarian. Vegan & Gluten free options will be available for you to see when you make payment on the day

Information on the trip is as follows

On arrival we will be visiting The Ripon Community Hub Free tea, coffee, cake and biscuits will be waiting for us. This gives us the opportunity to meet and chat to the volunteers who do the Poppy Displays, meet Steve Martin (MBE) who will give us a chat on his life's challenges in Charity work with his colleague, Hazel Barker who is a Freemason. Both are hoping to invite the Mayor of Ripon and the Local Hornblower to 'Pop In'. Afterwards we will be given a walking tour (1/2-mile radius) to see their Poppy Displays. After this some free time for you all with maybe a visit to the Cathedral (I hear they always have their own display) The meal will be at 4pm prompt until 5.45pm so come early at 3.30 pm. This will be back at the Community Hub, provided by a catering company.

Our return journey home will be for 6pm

More news.....

Meeting 5th October- Coliseum

Speaker: Claire Stones

Today Claire is to speak of plants and trees in Pannet Park and the connection of Captain Cook and his voyages with the Endeavour. I'm sure her talk will include reproduction, genetics and chemistry. She will explore the relationship with wildlife, potential uses and the impact of botany and its influences.

Entrance fee: £1 (please bring the right change)

Christmas Dinner & and Singer Anna Liese

Monday 15th December at the Ellerby 2pm. Names only for this event as I am waiting on costs from the venue

Payment Dates

Saturday 17th November 2026 – Rifle Club 10am -11.30am

Monday 2nd November - Coliseum 2pm - 4pm arrive for 1.30pm if payments are to be made for this event. Thankyou.

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

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

September saw the first activities of the new year and we're grateful to all who have signed up to be part of the group for 2026/27. Our visit to Kynren was very successful and impressively entertaining. We are very grateful to Joyce Stangoe for all the work she put in setting up the trip. Suggestions for our History group visits next May would be gratefully considered.

Prof. Catherine Wynne – who has previously spoken to us on Bram Stoker got in touch with us earlier in September and invited help from our members on a project sponsored by Hull University to create a 'Bram Stoker walking route' in Whitby supported by an interactive phone app. Several members participated in discussions and communicated suggestions. Catherine has written in appreciation of these contributions and work is ongoing – she is also coming to speak to the group on Conan Doyle in March.

Our regular lecture series began on September 24th with an exhilarating and thoroughly researched presentation by David Bradley on *'The Dark Ages were brighter than you think'*.



The Iconic Face of Sutton Hoo

David's talk highlighted the findings from several archaeological sites, including Sutton Hoo, but also discussed the flux of different tribal groups into Britain. Our group was particularly interested by his outlining of the development of language; detailing the contribution of Caedmon, Bede and the role of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and Beowulf texts. It was encouraging to see the size of the supportive audience for the first talk. We look forward to our next presentation by another member of our group, Fiona Barnard.

Thursday, 1st October

Fiona Barnard

'The Extraordinary Life of William Mogg (whaler, explorer and Arctic walker)

Mogg was involved in the discovery of the North-West Passage, guiding Amundsen overland for 700 miles when his ship, the Gjoa, became trapped in the ice.



The Gjoa – Amundsen's ship that negotiated the North-West Passage

Details of the three other presentations for October are given in the August newsletter and on the Whaler website at https://whitby.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/history-group-talks/

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

Our programme for this year began on Wednesday, 23rd October and it was good to see an excellent number come to hear Roger Browne present a talk and performance on ***'The Great American Songbook'***.

Roger presented 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. He also explained the development of different styles and the social history behind the music. He emphasised origins of the music and the composers involved, such as Jerome Kern. For instance, the background to Kern's musical 'Showboat' was particularly telling. The group recognised enduring tunes from the 1920s to the 1950s that were created for Broadway theatre, musical theatre and Hollywood musical films.



Jerome Kern in 1918

Roger's talk presented a very stimulating and intriguing first session to our lecture sequence – an excellent start to the year.

October's lecture will take place on Wednesday, 28th October and will be given by Mark Davies, a trustee of the Lewis Carroll Society and well known for his research, lectures and publications on Carroll.

Wednesday, 28th October

Mark Davies

'Once upon a time in Oxford (and Whitby): The Origins of Lewis Carroll's Wonderland'

Lewis Carroll's earliest published work – long before *Alice* – was inspired by Whitby. It was a place he revisited many times. Mark gave talks earlier this year in connection with Whitby Museum's ongoing 'Alice in Whitby' exhibition, which reimagines Alice through the Museum's costume collection.

The continuing programme for the whole year can be viewed, with commentary, on the Whaler website https://whitby.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/monthly-lecture/

Play and Poetry Reading Group

We are continuing to meet weekly but at the moment we do not have use of the Whitby Cricket Pavilion - our usual venue. If you fancy joining us please get in touch (my phone number is at the end) and I will give you the meeting details for that week. Existing Group members will have received an email giving them all the information up to and including 13 October. There will be no class on Tuesday 20 October and we will then resume at the Cricket Pavilion as usual from 29 October.

We are continuing with Nightmare where things are not at all what they seem!

Our next play will be Albert Bridge by Tom Stoppard.

George Osborne 07753609166. mandgosb@gmail.com

Recorder group

After our long summer break, it has been a delight to get together once again and start playing. New members have seamlessly integrated into the group and have brought their musical skills to everything we play. This term we are starting with new music, based predominantly on folk arrangements.

As a group, we remember Tamar Jones, a former recorder group leader and wonderful character, who passed away last year.

Heather Relf

British Sign Language taster

The group has got off to a flying start! The enthusiasm and commitment of the group is wonderful as is the determination to tackle a new language. Well done to everyone for working so hard.

Heather Relf

Non-u3a events

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

Local Transport Plan

The Mayor of York and North Yorkshire is consulting on a new Local Transport Plan, which will help shape future transport priorities and investment across North Yorkshire. The consultation team will be At Whitby Market on Thursday 8th October between 10am and 2pm, so pop along, have your say and tell them what Whitby actually needs. There is also a survey you can fill in online here

[https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/local-transport-plan.../..](https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/local-transport-plan.../)

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>).

Live Folk Music is performed at Rusty Shears café on the first and third Tuesdays, 6th and 20th October, from 2-3pm.

Concerts:

On Friday 9th October the Tuesday Singers will give their autumn concert at Flowergate United Reformed Church, at 7pm. Entry is free, with a retiring collection for charity.

On Saturday 24th October St Hilda's Festival Chorus and Orchestra will perform the Mass in D by Hummel followed by the Magnificat by John Rutter. The concert will take place at St Hilda's church, Westcliff at 7pm, entry £10.

WHISH Celebration Ball

WHISH (Whitby Hidden Impairments Support & Help) supports local children and young people with disabilities, hidden impairments and special educational needs. The charity would like to invite you to an evening of dining, live entertainment and dancing as it celebrates its recent King's Award for Voluntary Service and raises funds to continue supporting local families. On Thursday 13th November, 6:30pm at Sneaton Castle, Whitby with Live entertainment from *Back in the Habit* and *Thee & Me*. Tickets: **£49 per person** can be purchased at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/celebration-ball> For more information, please contact: steve@whishgroup.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

TOAST Coffee Morning Saturday 3rd October 2026 10.00am Penny Hedge

u3a Coffee Morning 17th October 2026 10 to 11.30 Rifle Club

AGM Rifle Club 10 to 12 noon Saturday 7th November 2026

The next newsletter will be produced on 1st November 2026 Deadline for copy (which should be sent to: haygates31@gmail.com) is 27th October 2026
