Whitby Whaler
November 2026

Message from the Chair



The end of British Summer Time when we put the clocks back on 25th October marks the official start of winter, though we haven't had any really cold weather yet and there have been some nice sunny days. All our groups are in full swing and a number of them have noted increased attendances, probably due to the considerable number of new members who have joined – 61 so far this year. The total number of members is now 793, but this does include 51 members from last year who have not yet renewed.
The coffee morning in October was very well attended, this may have been partly because there was a RNLI stall run by Lynn Stuart, assisted by Pat Clarkson, selling home-made soft toys, ideal for Christmas presents. Also, at the coffee morning the 3rd Age Stagers, suitably attired, were selling tickets for their show at the end of January, entitled "A Dickens of a Christmas" – apparently most tickets had been sold by the end of the morning.
Please try to attend our AGM on 7th November at the Rifle Club, we need a good number of members to make it quorate and as well as voting in the new Committee it's an opportunity to hear a summary of the year and to make comments. If there is anything that you want to say or ask at the meeting please contact our secretary, Sandra Goodship, at secretarywhitbywhaleru3a@gmail.com , or on 07840 509992. Two members of the Committee will be resigning and altogether there are three vacancies. Members can join the committee on a trial basis without commitment until the next AGM, and if you are interested, please contact Sandra, details as above.
Finally, this is my last message as Chairman, as I will be stepping down at the AGM, having completed my second three-year term. I have enjoyed being Chairman, but after six years I feel it's time to move on and hand over the reins to someone else. David Bradley has indicated that he is willing to stand, so provided he is elected at the AGM he will be your new Chairman.
Trevor Barrowcliffe

Music Appreciation

The second meeting of the new term was on 30th October**,** when we listened to music for the violin, from composers including Beethoven, Prokofiev and Coleridge-Taylor. The session in November is on Friday 27th November and will take place at our usual venue, Flowergate URC (upper room), from 2pm to 4pm. This will be our third and final visit to North America, and will feature music by lesser-known composers.
Trevor Barrowcliffe

Jazz Appreciation

The meeting in October took place on the third Thursday, the 15th, because of a large number of apologies for the second Thursday. For the next meeting we will revert to our normal date of the second Thursday, 12th November, and it will be at our usual venue, Flowergate URC (upper room), from 10.15am to 11.45am.
New members welcome – come and listen to relaxing jazz in comfortable surroundings, with tea, coffee and biscuits available.
Trevor Barrowcliffe

u3a Singers

Can it be November already? As we coast through the pathway to Christmas and New Year. I would like to wish everyone good luck in their preparations towards the many extra festive events. The alarming weather over the past few days has been a wakeup call and a reminder of how to cope with sudden changes like road closures and bridge closures. Despite years of trying to be in two places at once, it can't be done and choices have to be made. So, to everyone in u3a, thank you all for all your regular attendances, week by week. Each attendance is vital and of great value to everyone. As you set out to meet your friends, new and old, during the next few weeks, making that extra effort, despite bad weather and disruption may you enjoy every moment and share the joy of music and song and the spoken word. There will be a performance of songs relating to Wartime and Remembrance at Flowergate URC on Wednesday 4th November at 2.30pm. All welcome; the entrance to the church is down the right-hand side looking from the corner with Skinner Street. 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

Those of us who went to the Glasshouse on Friday 16th October enjoyed an excellent concert. The star attraction was Sheku Kanneh-Mason playing the cello concerto by Saint-Saens, but there was also some wonderful orchestral playing in music by Grieg and Sibelius.
The next concert outing will be at the Glasshouse on Saturday 10th April 2027, 7.30pm, when the Royal Northern Sinfonia will be playing an all-**Beethoven** programme, consisting of the second and fifth piano concertos, with soloists Stephen Hough and Elizabeth Brauss. A deposit of £40 is required to secure a ticket, and can be paid at coffee mornings in November, December, January and February. If anyone would like to go but cannot make any of these coffee mornings, please contact me on twbarrowcliffe@yahoo.co.uk or 01947 600963. The coach fare is likely to be around £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 session 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

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL £80 paid
Sunderland Empire
Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 2.30pm
Remember to bring your ticket!!
Pick up points
(8.55 am Sainsburys, 9am Harrison's,
9.05 am Castle Park, 9.10am Salmon Leap)

****** All payments for shows in 2027 due in before Christmas please*******

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
Newcastle Theatre Royal Thursday 25th March 2027 at 2pm (£93)
Some tickets still to collect.

Still collecting payment for STARLIGHT EXPRESS £80 payment due now.
Sunderland Empire Thursday 22nd July 2027 at 2.30pm

CATS £80
Newcastle Thursday 17th June 2027 at 2pm
payment by the end of November 2026

CINDERELLA Matthew Bourne. £75
Newcastle Thursday 22nd April 2027 at 2pm
payment by mid December 2026

(**GREASE** £75 is already paid for)

Cash or cheque (Whitby Whaler u3a) in an envelope with your name on, the show and preferred bus Pick up point.
See me at the Rifle Club or the TOAST coffee mornings or other u3a events.
Thank you for your continued support

Rose Corner   07790896062 rosieccorner@gmail.com

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.

Our next sessions are the 2nd and 16th of November.

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

TOAST (The Out and About Socialising Together Group)

The next TOAST coffee morning will be on Saturday 14th November at 10am in the Penny Hedge. Everyone is welcome to plan meals and outings for the coming few weeks.

3rd Age Stagers

Wow what a coffee morning we had! Every ticket is sold, all three shows are sold out so we hope you have your 'hot' ticket.

What can you expect you may ask, well the story is the most famous Christmas tale. Yes, it's A Christmas Carol but naturally we perform it in our Stagers style and we've even added some extra characters just to keep you guessing. We are really looking forward to sharing our story with packed audiences in January.
Jan 07949264022



Days out / Trips

Harrogate Knit & Stitch

Not long now Ladies, this is an **8:30am Pick up** picking up at Opposite Sainsbury, Lay by (Eastside) New Bridge, Harrisons Garage, Castle Park Bus Shelter, Salmon Leap Sleights
Please those booked on this trip, contact me to let me know your pickup point .
Our next Trip will be to **YORK CHRISTMAS MARKET**
This is on Friday 11th December leaving Whitby at 9am
The cost is £10 per person. Please contact me if you wish to go
paulineshepherd63@hotmail.com 07780717222

Gardening Group

Meeting 5th October 2026
Talk How the Endeavour Grew Your Garden - A huge thankyou to Claire Stones for sending the following write up of her recent talk to our Gardening Group.

From Whitby to Your Window Box

Who knew half the plants in our borders owe their place to a Whitby coal ship? On Monday 5th October, Clair Stones of the Captain Cook Memorial Museum (CCMM) took our u3a Gardening Group on a voyage from Whitby to the world and safely home to our own back gardens.

It all set sail in Grape Lane, where a 17-year-old James Cook swotted up on navigation by candlelight. Whitby's sturdy "cats" were no beauties, but tough enough to shrug off the Great Barrier Reef. Cook was clever with people too: he beat scurvy by serving sauerkraut at the officers' table first, so the crew assumed it was a treat. Parents of fussy eaters, take note!

Aboard Endeavour came Joseph Banks, who brought botanists, artists and two greyhounds, then collected anything that grew or moved the way we collect fridge magnets. Some 30,000 specimens later, including 1,300 plants new to science, he sailed home with a gardening revolution in the hold.

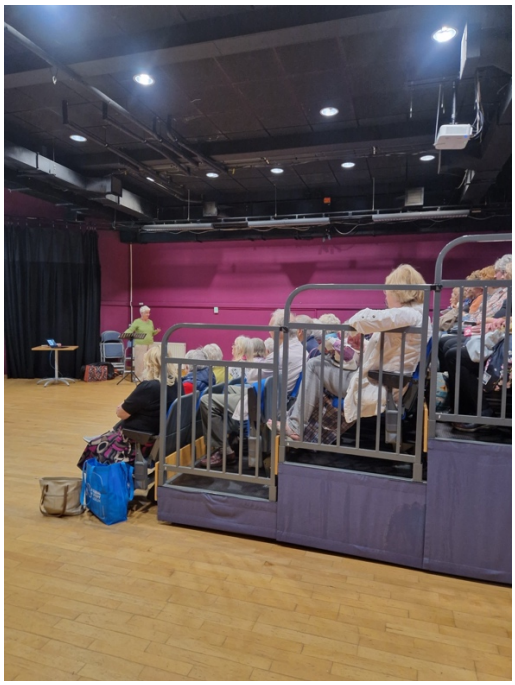
Until then, British gardens had been terribly sensible: cabbage, turnip, more cabbage. Suddenly there were banksias, repeat-flowering roses and a Bird of Paradise at Kew that sulked for 25 years before deigning to bloom. Our favourite surprise was the monkey puzzle tree, which (sorry, Whitby) isn't a local and won't produce jet. On George Vancouver's voyage, five nuts served as dessert by the Governor of Chile were quietly pocketed and coaxed into seedlings. Rarely has a pudding been so productive!

Not every newcomer behaved, as anyone battling Japanese knotweed will tell you, but Kew's 250-year-old pressed leaves are now helping scientists track climate change.

And Yorkshire has always had green fingers of its own. The Egton Gooseberry Society, founded in 1800, still holds its show on the first Tuesday in August, where berries are weighed with deadly seriousness.

So that cheerful jumble in your borders? It isn't poor planning, it's global history. You're curating an empire with a watering can! Our warmest thanks to Clair for a fascinating, informative and thoroughly entertaining talk.

This is a fantastic recap for everyone who attended and a perfect catch up for members who missed this. As Whitby residents, it is amazing to read how our local coal ships and Grape Lane history kicked off a British Gardening Revolution. We particularly loved the mention of Egton Gooseberry Society and the secret history of the Monkey Puzzle Tree. Thank you again Claire, i hear you do more talks, we look forward to your next visit.



Next Group Meeting Monday 2nd November 2026 2-4pm Venue Coliseum
Guest Speaker: Derek Wilson will be talking on the Subject ' A Gardeners Best Friend the Hedgehog. There is a £3 entry fee each, to pay his costs)
Plant Swap Event Plant Swap ,Bulbs, Seeds , Garden Plant cuttings and House Plant cuttings
Our last Plant Swap of the year come for 1.30pm if you have any of the above. Please approach Brenda my volunteer, she is there to guide you on what to do.
As before ...the Plant Swap will not begin until after the Guest Speaker's Presentation.
Trips
Monday 9th November 2026. **Ripon Poppy Project** This trip is now fully booked and all paid for. An itinerary of the day will be emailed o to all members going before the trip. Members with no email will receive a phone call to confirm this. Pick up times are on the Group programme (if this changes i will let you all know (this is down to the Ripon Organisers, waiting for confirmation on the timings for their itinerary)

Monday 14th December 2026 Christmas Dinner and Carols. Costs £35. Time:12 noon 4pm Now ready to accept payments and your choice of meal (at the venues below). **Payment Dates:** Monday 2nd November Venue: Coliseum 2-4pm Saturday. November 21st Coffee Morning. Venue Rifle Club 10am -11.30am

- Pick up points (please note the timings will be different to what's on the Group Programme) ask the volunteer at the desk for timings. All payment cash or cheque payable to Whitby Whaler u3a

Provide an Envelope with the Name of Trip, your name, must have a Mobile Contact, Amount paid cash or cheque Pick up point. (Doing this save waiting time in the queue.
Group leader: Daphne Wilson. Mobile 07359756765. Email: wilsondaphne730@gmail.com

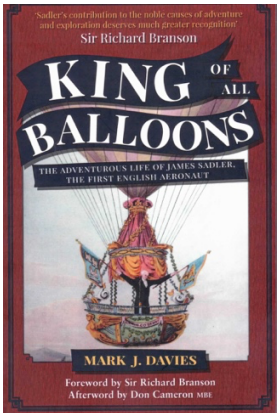
History Group Eastside Community Centre, Thursdays (weekly), 2 – 4 pm.

Our sessions in October have consisted of presentations that have seriously extended our knowledge and understanding of historical events. Fiona Barnard introduced us to William Mogg, a polar whaler unknown to us previously, but who had aided Amundsen when he was trapped in the Arctic ice. Her detailed description of the hardship and perils of the whaling fleet in the Arctic was impressive. Carol Wilson's following talk on the profuse botany and key historical features of Holy Island was a delightful summary of the attractions of that island.
The remaining presentations of the month exemplified detailed research and superb presentation dealing with totally different topics. Denis Fox presented a very engaging talk on the Battle of Britain in the North-East covering detail of which, again, many of us were unaware. He linked together his research, artwork and talks with the families of those involved to give a talk which engaged the interest of all the audience.



Denis Fox's painting of an aerial dogfight over Seaham harbour (August 1940)
Mark Davies kept us in the air with the final presentation of the month on '*Balloonatics: some pioneering Yorkshire hot-air balloon ascents*'. Based on his book '*King of All Ballons' ,* Mark drew extensively on the life and pioneering work of James Sadler and gave us a talk that was both entertaining and highly informative on events that were new to most, if not all, of the group.





The programme for November is as follows:

Thursday, 5th November Rick Harwood *'Nobel Chicanery'*



The Nobel Prize medallion

The purpose and award of the several Nobel Prizes has often provoked discussion and controversy over the years. Indeed, the original implementation was particularly controversial. This talk covers aspects of the history of the institution, notable and distinctive awards over the years, and the personal stories of some of the award winners.

Thursday, 12th November Aimee Fleming '*Henry VII and Elizabeth of York: the marriage that built Britain'*



Get to know Elizabeth and Henry and learn how their marriage brought peace and prosperity, and a lasting legacy right up to today!

Thursday, 19th November Marian Brockway *'Some Good Things to come out of Middlesbrough'*

Thursday, 26th November Dave Welford *'The Farmer Vaccinator'*

We look forward to a continuing programme of interesting talks and would encourage you to come along if you can.

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

October's lecture by Mark Davies will take place even as we are composing this newsletter – so more of reaction to that talk next time.

Mark Davies '*Once Upon a Time in Oxford (and Whitby):* the *Origins of Lewis Carroll's Wonderland'*

The lectures through until Christmas look particularly distinctive and are as follows:
Wednesday, November 25th David Creek *Delta Charlie Drones*
David produces impressive aerial photographs and videos of our local coastline and towns/villages for commercial company publicity and publication (some can be seen regularly on Facebook). He will talk to us about how these images are produced together with an active demonstration – making his talk somewhat different to our normal sessions! A gallery of some of his images can be found on the web:
https://deltacharliedrones.pixieset.com
Wednesday, December 9th Stephen Bowden FRAS *Discovering the Night Sky



Stephen will share photographs of deep sky objects such as Galaxies and Nebulae including detailed images of our closest star - most of these taken from his back garden observatory near Filey. Stephen also explains in simple terms how the Northern Lights are generated, together with photographs taken of the aurora from Filey and Scarborough area. Stephen is happy to share "how" the photographs were captured so that audience members with similar aspirations could achieve the same results.

**Note that this lecture is early because of the Christmas period.*

Thank you to everyone for all your support this autumn and we hope you'll be able to come to these final lectures in the lead up to Christmas.

Play and Poetry Reading Group

During October our Group has been meeting in the homes of several of our members. This is because the Cricket Pavilion is having some work undertaken and has not been available to us. We had hoped our meeting on the 27th October would resume there but with some finishing off still to do that was not possible. We are hopeful that the premises will be available to us from Tuesday 3rd November but if you are interested in attending our Group on that day please get in touch to check the venue.
October saw us complete the play 'Nightmare' by Norman Robbins. This was a brilliant tale and quite intrigued us all as the story developed. We had been promised a very unexpected ending and we were not disappointed. You had to be there!
We have just started a new play, a comedy called Roar Like a Dove by Lesley Storm, a Scottish author. The story is about an American woman who marries a titled Scot and he is concerned about having a male heir. After bearing him 6 daughters his wife is calling a halt and the differences between the American and the Scottish cultures and attitudes are ramping up.
After enjoying a comedy we are next moving on to a different genre - The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov.
The poetry readings each week have been a source of rich variety. The last meeting saw some topical poems about storms and late autumn, including a reading from Shakespeare, a favourite poem from schooldays rediscovered and an unusual one about Noah's Ark that spoke to all of us about hope.
Get in touch if you are interested in attending. Every Tuesday 2pm to 4pm.
George Osborne mandgosb@gmail.com tel: 07753609166

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).
Live Folk Music is performed at Rusty Shears café on the first and third Tuesdays, 3rd and 17th November, from 2-3pm.
Theatre. Whitby Amateur Dramatic Society will be performing the play "Revlon Girl" at the Pavilion Theatre on Friday and Saturday, 6th and 7th November at 7.30pm, and on Sunday 8th November at 3pm. More details and tickets on the Pavilion website https://whitbypavilion.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

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

TOAST Coffee Morning Saturday 14th November 2026 10.00am Penny Hedge

u3a Coffee Morning 21st November 2026 10 to 11.30 Rifle Club

u3a Coffee Morning 19th December 2026 10 to 11.30 Rifle Club – carols and mince pies

40th Anniversary tea party Wednesday 23rd June 2027

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