

WHICKHAM AND DISTRICT u3a JULY – AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

Learn, Laugh, Live

Whickham and District u3a Mission Statement

Our mission is to raise awareness of Whickham and District u3a, celebrating lifelong learning, friendship and community spirit. We aim to encourage new connections and showcase the varied opportunities available within our u3a.

Hello all members,

What a fantastic time we had at Whickham Golf Club, where we held our Summer Celebration on June 10th. Have a look at the pictures below and see if you can see yourself. Jenni Crawford, the Group Coordinator was an excellent chocolatier, when she helped Adam, from Canny Chocolates, make some chocolate casings so the flavours could be added eg ginger, strawberry, raspberry and champagne. They were yummy.

Please note this Newsletter is for July and August. There will be no Newsletter in August (my laptop is having a rest)

Wrekenton Recycling Centre is booked for August 12th, names are needed by August 1st. A visit to the Little Theatre, Gateshead to see the play Abigail's Party will be on September 10th. Names are needed by August 20th, so tickets can be booked. PLEASE SEE ADVERTS BELOW GIVING YOU MORE DETAILS Thanks, Cecilia, Chair of Whickham and District u3a.

Next Meeting at Sunnyside Club is on Wednesday July 8th 2026 at 2pm



Bird Ringing – why are birds ringed and what is done with the data collected. – **by Dan Nesbitt an expert in conservation work.** (This talk was recommended to me by a friend...she said it was very interesting)

PLEASE NOTE >>> THERE WILL BE NO MAIN MEETING AT SUNNYSIDE CLUB IN AUGUST.

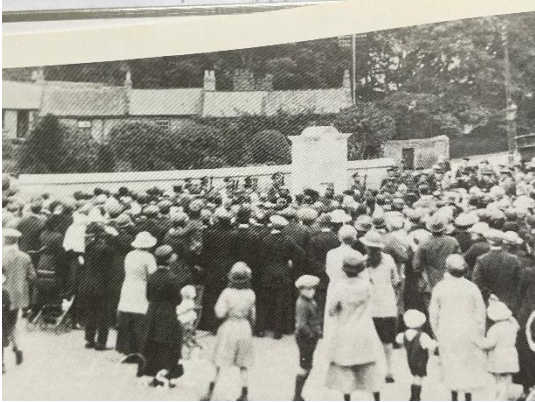
u3a North East Region has organised several events that ALL members can attend. Please click on this link [Events - North East Region](#)

The next event is 30th July called 'Historic Stockton – the Old and the New'. This link will take you directly to the information page [Historic Stockton – The Old and the New - North East Region](#)

WHICKHAM WALK WITH RICHARD PEARS

Hi everyone, it's your roving reporter here Jenni Crawford.

Myself and several other u3a members joined the local history group and a few local residents for a walk around Whickham with Richard Pears. Richard runs the local history group which meets on the 4th Monday of the month, in the evening at the community centre by the traffic lights on Front Street. He is an incredibly knowledgeable guy, knowing so much about Whickham, I wonder how he remembers it all.



We met at the war memorial unveiled in 1922 in common with every town and village in the kingdom. You are looking with your back to the church and there was a row of houses where the park is now. The church is a grade 1 listed building with a Norman Tower from the 13th and 14th centuries. It was almost completely destroyed by fire in November 1841 caused by the overheating of a stove which set light to a pew! Harry Clasper was one of the notable people to be buried here and William Shields celebrated musician whose melody was used for Auld Lang Syne.

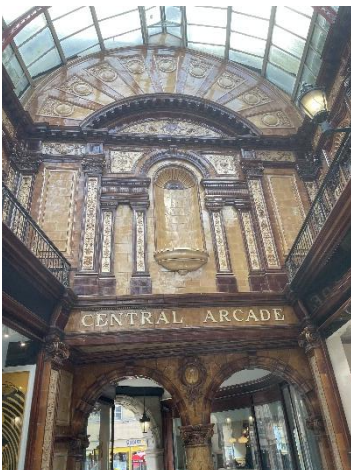
The Revd Dr Robert Thomlinson who was Rector of Whickham founded the school for 30 or 36 poor boys of the parish in 1714. The Council Offices, now The Harry Clasper c1930 was the centre of local government till 1974. The Bay Horse has been a prominent building in the village since c1905.



Further down Front Street on the right hand side still stands a building which was a schoolhouse in the 19th century where our very own William Armstrong attended due to his poor health and the dust in Newcastle!

So many more facts, I have attended these walks before and each time I learn something new. The weather was kind to us and no rain! If you ever get the chance to follow this walk with Richard later in the year please try and find the time to go it's fascinating! **Thanks Jenni**

A Newcastle City Guided Walk



Twelve members of Whickham and District u3a were taken around Newcastle city centre on Wednesday 17th June by Newcastle City Guides. The title of the walk was **'Iconic Shops of Newcastle, Past and Present'**.

The guide that lead us was excellent. She gave the history of Northern Goldsmiths, Fenwicks, Binns, Bainbridges, the Central Arcade and the Grainger Market.

It was quite entertaining in places and a few good memories brought to light, so a very enjoyable afternoon.

Script by Sheila Young, photo by Jenni Crawford.

The Past n Present Group

have put together a presentation called '**COAL**'. We take a look at the formation of coal, coal mining in the Roman and Medieval times, the industrial revolution, Whickham and surrounding coal mines, the social aspect and eventually the demise of the coal industry. It comprises a PowerPoint presentation, plus a video and a song.

Date: Thursday July 9th 2026 10.00 – 12 noon.

Venue: Warm Room, Whickham Library.

Numbers are limited to 15, so please book by giving your name to Anne Arnell phone: 07767821931 or email: annearnell@btinternet.com

THIS PRESENTATION IS FULLY BOOKED, CONTACT ANNE THERE COULD BE A CANCELLATION.



Monthly Coffee Morning, Whickham Library.

Our next coffee morning will be on **Tuesday July 28th 2026 in the warm room, Whickham Library at 10.30 - 12 noon. There will also be one on Tuesday August 25th same time, same place.**

Cost £2 includes a coffee /tea and homemade scones and cakes. Please come along, make new friends and enjoy some homemade cakes.

Every u3a member is welcome to come along.

Wrekenton Recycling Centre

A visit has been arranged to Wrekenton Recycle Centre on **Wednesday August 12th 10am – 12 noon. This event is FREE.**

The presentation will cover: Why recycling is important, The 3Rs and the Waste Hierarchy, What can and can't go in your recycling bin.

The tour will focus on the Household Waste Recycling Centre, so you can see how recyclable materials (that can't go in your recycling bin at home) are sorted and repurposed. The staff will talk you through what happens to each material, how the Recycling Centre works and what happens to your non-recyclable rubbish.



Depending on those that register and the numbers we will go for lunch somewhere. I have been given recommendations of - The Ship Inn , close to the recycling centre, - The Guidepost, Springwell Village and the Waggon Inn, Eighton Banks. (You don't have to go to for lunch, you can just go to the Recycling Centre)

For further information/register please contact Cecilia 07881768301/ cecu3a@gmail.com

You must book by August 1st , so I can arrange lunch, if necessary.

Fancy a trip to the Little Theatre to see Abigail's Party – a classic.



Abigail's Party is a sharply observed comedy of manners that takes a hilariously uncomfortable look at suburban life, social ambition, and the minefield of polite entertaining.

Set in the 1970s, the action unfolds over the course of a single drinks party hosted by Beverley and Laurence Moss, eager to impress their new

neighbours. Alongside guests Angela and Tony Cooper is Susan, a divorced neighbour whose teenage daughter Abigail is having her own party next door—an event we never see, but are constantly reminded of.

To book a ticket please contact Cecilia on 07881768301 or email cecu3a@gmail.com The last date to reserve a ticket is August 20th as I have to book the tickets.



This is yet another chance to go to the Little Theatre, but this is something completely different.

Have you ever been in the props department, the wardrobe department, in the control room, where the lighting and sound system is coordinated or maybe back stage or even under the stage at the Little Theatre? If not, then this is your chance.

A tour and a talk has been organised to visit the Little Theatre, Gateshead and delve into all the above on **Monday 28th September**.

10 am – coffee/tea in the café

10.30 – 12 noon tour and then a talk given in the auditorium by Judith Carruthers, archivist at the Little Theatre.

Cost - £3 to contribute to the refreshments....payable on the day.

To reserve a place please contact Jenni Crawford phone: 07799590987 or email: jennicrawford@icloud.com

Can you spot yourself?





A MASSIVE THANK YOU

to all our members who contributed toothpaste, socks, soap and paracetamol to the Ukraine appeal by the Salvation Army. The hospitals in Ukraine are in desperate need of these items.

My car boot was full of donated bags and these were handed over to Craig, the Salvation Army Community Centre Manager by Arthur, a member of Whickham's Committee.

Anni Humes Community Coordinator from the Salvation Army sent me this message:

A huge thanks for your generous donations. The above photo shows just some of the donations we collected in Gateshead.. The photo shows myself and 2 members of the Ukraine Support Programme ..a full truck of donations is on its way to Ukraine from Tyne and Wear. Thank you all again on their behalf

Don't forget all you knitters out there that items eg knee blankets, scarves, hats, jumpers and cardigans for toddlers, babies are gladly received by the Salvation Army. I will be taking them through to Anni in early November. The Salvation Army works with the health visitors in the Sunderland Road area. The health visitors know families who are in need of help. By Cecilia Coulson

The Natty Knitters Group.



This group meets in the back room of Whickham Library.

They meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm.

It's not essential to sew or knit, anyone is welcome to come along for a chat. If you are on your own or free you may find it interesting.

There's no charge for the group, a small donation would be appreciated to go into library funds for coffee.

If you think this may interest you, please contact Sheila Young on 07938712876 or email sheilayoung51@hotmail.co.uk

CARPET BOWLS GROUP



Carpet bowls is a fun indoor game where the goal is to roll your bowls as close as possible to the white target ball, called the jack, while learning basic delivery, line, and strategy.

Basic Rules:

- 1. Starting the Game:** A coin toss decides who plays first. The lead player rolls the jack to a position on the carpet, usually 3–6 feet from the end.
- 2. Delivery:** Players take turns rolling their bowls from the delivery area toward the jack. The bowl's bias causes it to curve, so aim carefully.
- 3. Scoring:** After all bowls are delivered, the player or team with the bowl closest to the jack scores points. Only bowls closer than the opponent's nearest bowl count.
- 4. Turns and Ends:** A game is divided into ends, with the jack being repositioned for each end. The winner of the previous end usually places the jack for the next.

Basic Techniques for Beginners

- **Grip and Stance:** Hold the bowl comfortably, keeping your body aligned with the target. Stand with feet shoulder-width apart for balance.
- **Delivery:** Roll the bowl smoothly, releasing it at the right angle to follow the desired line. Practice consistent speed and direction.
- **Reading the Carpet:** Pay attention to the carpet's slope and speed, as these affect the bowl's path.
- **Footwork:** Maintain stability and avoid unnecessary movements during delivery.

Whickham's Carpet Bowls group meet weekly on a Tuesday afternoon. New members are very welcome. To find out more contact Marjorie Tait or Moya Forster. Telephone numbers below.

A sad loss

Some of you may have heard of or seen Mo Brown. Mo Brown was a member of Newcastle u3a. She was a Regional Trust Volunteer. She had been on the Regional Committee for 9 years and she was a Regional Chair. Arthur and I first met MO about 7 years ago when Arthur (previous Whickham Chair) needed to ask Mo about legal aspects. What Mo didn't know about the u3a movement you could write on the back of a postage stamp. She was always there to help, whenever she could. Nothing was too much.

Arthur and I became good friends with Mo. WE used to meet up sometimes for Sunday lunch and she invited us to her cottage in Belford, Northumberland for a BBQ, meeting family and friends.

She had driven down to Exmoor, last week to visit family. She was unloading the car, collapsed and died.

She will be sadly missed by all her friends and her colleagues in the u3a movement.

