

WHITBY  
CIVIC  
SOCIETY

(Registered Charity No. 1055386)

# NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter. As we move through autumn it is encouraging to report that in most respects the Society seems to be in good health. Our membership figures continue to rise, our financial position is pleasingly buoyant, and our events are once again well-attended. Our main problem is a shortage of volunteers to help maintain the high activity levels that we are used to.

The Society's relevance now seems as great as ever – maybe even more so. We have been working hard as usual to influence planning decisions in ways that help protect the town's heritage and promote good principles of design. As usual we have had some successes and some failures, but we continue to plug away at this vital if unglamorous work.

I am not alone in worrying that some influential figures in Government would like to reduce the role of the public in the planning process. One senior minister has suggested that public consultation on new applications for fracking should mean a vote by MPs; the Government has also removed controls on planning in the new freeports, and is looking to do the same in its planned 'investment zones'. Previous attempts to remove public consultation have failed, but we should keep a very close eye on these moves.

We will also keep a close eye on the future of planning decisions after the new North Yorkshire Council comes into being. Until April the planning authority is Scarborough Borough Council but in the meantime it has lost several experienced planning officers (including the Conservation Officer) and relies heavily on short-term contract staff.

From April, the new North Yorkshire Council will apparently deal with planning matters through six new Area Committees, which will be based on parliamentary boundaries and have unspecified powers (the promise is of "strong delegations"). As well as planning they will also be responsible for highways, licensing, rights of way, and as yet unspecified other matters. The staffing structure is not yet known. So there is much uncertainty ahead, but the Society's core objects remain unchanged, and we will have plenty of work to do.

**JOHN FIELD**

# HOUSING

Second homes, holiday lets and housing for locals: why we need to strike a balance.

Housing has become a hot topic in Whitby, culminating in the recent referendum on holiday lets and second homes. Whatever the merits of the referendum itself, there is no question that the growth of the holiday market has affected the supply of housing.

Scarborough Borough Council in a recent report showed a sharp rise in short-term lets and second homes across the area, with far the steepest growth being in Whitby. It is also clear that this has contributed to a rise in house prices across the town, which in turn has led to staff recruitment challenges in low wage service industries as young families look for homes away from the tourist hotspots.

Resentment has been growing over this for some years, and it isn't surprising that it has now come to a head. From the perspective of the Civic Society, whose objects include protecting our local heritage and promoting high standards of planning, we are keen that policy-makers don't continue to allow the situation to drift. First, our heritage isn't just buildings; it must also include people. Second, high standards of planning must mean paying attention to sustainability over time.

Of course, this is complicated ground. Let me just take a specific example: much housing in the older parts of town, with its lack of parking and steep steps, is often unsuitable for young families or older people. Holiday lets and second homes, for marketing reasons, are often well maintained and look smart, and at best they are renovated by conservation-aware architects and builders.

At the same time short term lets can also be noisy and messy neighbours for permanent residents, and they can crowd permanent residents out of amenities like parking. Our planning sub-committee has noticed two worrying trends in planning applications.

First is the growing number of residential properties that are being converted into large short-term lets; these 'party houses' often lead to noisy evenings, particularly when combined with hot tubs or large balconies. The second, on the other hand, is the tendency for the Council to approve applications for very small rooms, provided these small rooms are only used for short term lets. This then locks the house into short-term letting, as the rooms do not meet the standards for permanent homes.

Rather different considerations apply to newer properties away from the historic centre. Scarborough Council's survey found that relatively few of these newer homes are taken up by tourism. But we can already see the steady expansion of tourist accommodation outwards from the old town, and some developers are already advertising the newer developments as good investment opportunities for tourist purposes. From the developers' point of view, the consequent rise in price is good news, but of course it has an effect on local people looking to settle in the town.

No one in Whitby is arguing against the tourism trade, which brings in money for local businesses. Surely, though, it is time to seek a balance between competing demands for housing, and to promote a more balanced economy for the town that does not rely on one single industry. The main benefit of the housing referendum was to draw attention to this growing problem.

What we now need to decide is what type of town we want Whitby to be going forward – and how we can achieve it.

**JOHN FIELD**

### **Civic Voice** – what we are doing.

Many members will be aware that civic societies have a national umbrella association, called Civic Voice. Sadly, Civic Voice suffered a serious theft from its bank account earlier this year, and has appealed to its members to help it get back on its feet. Unfortunately, we can't say much about the theft itself as it is now a police matter, but it is large enough to put the future of Civic Voice in doubt.

Whitby Civic Society has found it very helpful to be part of the national civic movement: we benefit from information, joint lobbying, representation with ministers and senior civil servants, guidance on practicalities such as insurance, and the ability to pick up ideas from others' experiences. The Executive accordingly decided in principle to make available no more than £500 to support Civic Voice.

This money will be lodged with the Yorkshire & Humberside Association of Civic Societies, and will be returned to us if Civic Voice either recovers the stolen money, or folds, or decides it doesn't need it.

I hope that members are content with this decision, which we did not take lightly. We will, of course, be held accountable for it at our AGM in February, but as chair I wanted to let you know the position now. The Executive is confident that we can commit this sum without any risk to our future activities, thanks largely to our success in fund-raising over the past five or six years. This, along with careful management by our treasurers, has left us in a reasonably good financial position.

**JOHN FIELD**

## HAPPY MEMORIES

*Written by JIM EVANS recently returned to his home town, Whitby*

Sitting quietly reminiscing as I often do, vague images from the past slowly emerge through the mists of time.

Slowly, but surely, my recollections reassemble, transporting me to a time, which filled a precious picture from the pages of my life. I was fondly reminded of a beautiful bright sunny day, about 75 years ago. Just a kid in short pants, walking hand in hand with my younger cousin along the West Cliff and with my other hand clutching that of my lovely Aunt Joan. Why we were there we had no idea! ...

In fact we were expecting a day on the sands, especially since our cosies, refreshments, buckets and spades were weighing heavily in Aunt's beach bag. I remember the feeling of disappointment as we aimlessly trudged along the West Cliff.

'When can we go on the sands Aunt?' looking up into her expressionless face. 'Be patient Jimmy, we're nearly there' was her quick response.

There was no paddling pool in those days, but that's where we had arrived – and our hopes were lifted when we appeared at the top of the long winding zigzag path and there below was our golden destiny.



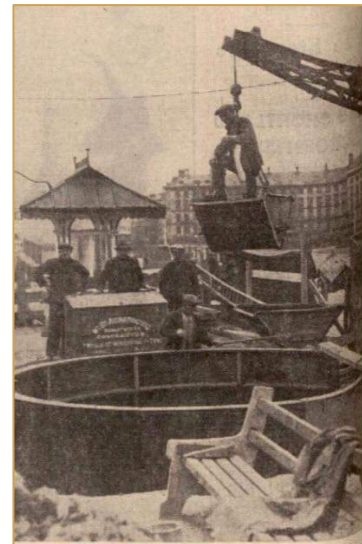
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Since Auntie had other ideas, we were both herded away from the footpath and heading towards a nondescript, unfriendly looking building in which we had not the slightest interest. Strangely, Auntie walked us close to the building and pressed a button, which was attached to the brickwork. Somewhere in the bowels of the cliff came echoing back the sound of an electric bell. After a minute or two, we could hear the whirring of machinery, but still not knowing what to expect. Eventually from the depths emerged a steel cage and magically, the gates opened and to our surprise out stepped people. The penny still hadn't dropped since both myself and little cousin had never seen such a contraption. Nor did we expect to be cajoled into entering the unknown world of the Cliff Lift. I guess that having two frightened children to deal with was not the result that poor Auntie had expected. Eventually our fears were eased a little by the gentle coercion and kind words of the lift operator. We gingerly entered the cage, the doors clanged shut and away we went, falling almost weightless as we descended into the bowels of the earth. My cousin, bless her, gave out a little cry as we headed into the abyss. Holding her hand a little tighter, we eventually reached the bottom of the lift shaft where the doors were flung back to reveal that long arch-shaped tunnel.

With a sigh of relief, still tightly clutching the hand of my little cousin, we entered this strange domain with its echoing sound, its musty smell and odd looking electric lights which lit our way.

A few minutes later we emerged into the light and the familiar sight of that beautiful beach and the sound of breaking waves on the shingle sand. Five minutes later, having recovered from the excitement of the Cliff Lift, there we were, in our element and splashing in the sea.

## HAPPY DAYS, SIMPLE PLEASURES



## JIM EVANS

Re-typed due to condition of print by T.C.R.

### The Construction of a lift at Whitby.

for each lift to ascend to the top. Drawing No 531/2 shows this arrangement. A concrete raft reinforced with angle iron was constructed around the top cast-iron cylinder, and finished flush with the top flange. The openings between the steel joists and the casings were shuttered from the underside and a rectangular concrete raft was constructed over this up to within 3 in. of the finished surface level, the raft protruding well over the sides of the shaft. The motor house had to be designed so that there was ample room for housing all the machinery for the two lifts, and the lift makers insisted on at least 7 ft. head room in the centre of the floor, while a floor area of 400 sq ft had to be provided for the various positions of the machinery.



LIFT HOUSE. ["Northern Echo" photograph.]

The actual ground area necessary for the lifts arriving at the street level was only about 120 sq ft. The motor house above the lifts was, therefore, constructed on eight 14-in. pillars and overhanging the lift entrance.

The main walls are 14 in thick and built of engineering bricks faced with a selected multi-coloured hand-made brick. The 14 in. pillars were also built with the same facing brick, the roof being covered with tiles to match. All doors and frames are made of pitch pine, sized and varnished.

The lifts themselves are constructed of panelled pitch pine, the internal measurements of each car being 8 ft long by 4 ft 3 in wide and 7 ft high and they each carry a load of 15 passengers.

## VISIT TO THE LOBSTER HATCHERY

Members enjoyed an informative and entertaining visit to the Whitby lobster hatchery at the former fish market on Pier Road on Tuesday 16th August 2022. Joe Redfern, the hatchery manager, described the life of the lobster from its moment of hatching through to the release of the baby lobsters into the sea. Several of Joe's lobster 'assistants,' all of whom he has named, provided excellent illustrations of his talk.

Members learned about the major sustainability programme which aims, through careful nurturing within the hatchery, to return 100,000 lobsters to the North Sea. Joe has not quite obtained the funding to fulfil all of his ambitions so he still welcomes contributions through donations or the purchase of merchandise (<https://www.whitbylobsterhatchery.co.uk/>). But he hopes that the marine discovery Centre, complete with hatchery, will soon be open to the public.



Such was the success of the visit that we expect to organise a repeat, so if you missed out this time, look out for details.

**JULIE ALLAN**



## L'IL AWESOME ANNIE

Paula & I moved to Whitby in November 2007 to take on a new lifestyle. We had both worked in I.T. for various companies & had decided to run a B&B, following my good luck to have been offered early retirement in 2006.

I had really enjoyed sea fishing over the years so, after a short while, I decided to look into the prospect of owning my own fishing boat, or possibly having a half share in one.

A friend of ours, Jim, who we worked with in I.T., was born & brought up in Horden, a mining village north of Hartlepool, and I was telling Jim about wanting to have my own boat. He had a friend, Gordon (aka 'Gordon from Horden'), who spent his childhood holidays, every year, in a cottage in Robin Hoods Bay and he eventually ended up buying a holiday cottage there for himself & his family and would spend 2 or 3

weeks there, travelling from his home in Northamptonshire.

Gordon acquired a fishing boat and initially enjoyed going fishing in Robin Hoods Bay. However, after a few years the annual maintenance work would unfortunately take up too great a part of his holiday time. Now, while Gordon was relating this to Jim in one ear, I was informing Jim, in his other ear, that I was looking to get ownership of a boat. Jim immediately put the two of us together and the rest is history. Gordon & I are now fishing partners and are the best of friends.

The partnership is a win-win situation and we carry out the annual sea worthiness work on the coble, together, and make her ship shape, typically in May, then we spend time fishing in the months of June to early September.



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## Annie

It was in 2012 that Gordon sold half of his share in his coble, 'Annie', to myself.

'Annie' is a traditional Yorkshire Coble, clinker built (meaning the planks slightly overlap each other). The planking is made from larch timber & the boards are made of oak. The design is based on the old Viking boats. (see photo)



She was built by Scarborough Marine in 1997 and she contains approximately 1,800 copper rivets. With a broad beam, 'Annie' provides a solid and safe boat for the North Sea. She is sixteen and a half feet long & will float in less than 10 inches of water.

She was originally named "Hannah" and was berthed in Whitby until 2003 when she lay in the initial owner's back garden until purchased by Gordon in May 2005 for £2,500 including a Johnson 9.9hp outboard engine.

With the varnish and paintwork in very poor condition, Gordon transported her to his home garage in Northamptonshire, and spent 100 hours (6 weeks), restoring her, spending every weekend from early morning to late evening. He sanded every piece of timber down to the original wood, then gave the timber 5 coats of varnish, starting with a 50/50 solution of varnish and thinner, increasing up to a 95/5 solution for the last coat (see photo). When he worked past midnight it sometimes resulted in poor Gordon being accidentally locked out of his house, having to resort to throwing stones at the bedroom window to wake up his wife. The name 'Hannah' was then replaced by 'Annie', in honour of Gordon's mother who had passed away in 1998.

On 'Annie's relaunch in July 2005 the timbers were very dry; so dry, that the 20 litre petrol tank floated in the boat. Within a few days the timbers had swollen and 'Annie' was finally water tight, once more. This situation also occurred in 2020 & 2022, on her initial launches.

## Limited Shellfish Permit (LSP)

Both Gordon & I are members of the Robin Hoods Bay Grunwick Boat Club, and 'Annie' is berthed there.

We are both registered with the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) as 'Hobby Fishermen'. We therefore apply annually, for a 'Limited Shellfish Permit' (LSP). This provides us with a number which is unique to every such fisherman. There is no cost for this type of permit but it must be displayed on all of our fishing gear e.g. crab/lobster pots and identification flags. We are then restricted in how we are allowed to fish : we cannot have any more than 10 pots at any one time, in the sea, nor can we bring ashore more than 2 legal (see criteria below) lobsters or 10 crabs per day.

There is an NEIFCA boat that can inspect the fishing gear & catch of any fishing boat, at any time, in our area. This is 'Guardian III' and its home berth is in Whitby Harbour. It patrols the North Sea from the Tyne to the Humber.

Gordon & I have been inspected by Guardian III's crew on many occasions, both at sea and on land, to check that we are abiding by our LSP rules. Anyone found contravening these rules is liable for fines and/or may have their fishing gear seized.

We are always found to be 'good boys' !

## Legal Lobsters

All lobsters that we would like to keep and take home do have to follow certain criteria to enable them to be legally valid.

Each lobster must:-

- be greater than the defined minimum size (i.e. a lobster is measured from the back of the eye socket to the end of the carapace – this should measure no less than 87mm).
- be hard shelled (a lobster needs to shed its shell before it can increase in size and when it does, it will immediately have a new soft shell which will take approximately 2 months to become hard shelled).

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- not have any damaged swimmerets (these are the under parts of a lobster used for movement, balance and aeration of eggs)
- not be carrying eggs (see photo) these eggs would be held among the swimmerets on the underside of the hen lobster – such lobsters are known as a ‘berried hens’.
- not have a V-notch in their tail (these notches will have been man made by fishermen in a berried hen to ensure it remained safely in the sea for several more years)
- not have any deformed or missing claws



#### **Some interesting facts about crabs & lobsters, learned from fishing on ‘Annie’**

- Each lobster has a ‘crushing’ claw and a ‘cutting’ claw.
- Lobsters can be left handed or right handed.
- If a lobster enters a pot firstly, then a crab will not follow. A lobster will follow a crab into a pot.
- Crabs prefer fresh bait but lobsters are not as fussy.



‘Annie’ has helped Gordon & I to catch Lobsters, Crabs, Codling & Pollack, a huge number of Mackerel, and quite a variety of other species e.g. Whiting, Wrasse (Ballan & Cuckoo), Dabs, Plaice, Sand Eels, Ling, Pouting & Weaver fish, plus we have caught Dog Fish, Eels, Octopus & Sea Urchins in our pots. Over the years we have caught half a dozen ‘monster’ lobsters; one weighing in at 5lbs exactly and a couple of cod came in at 20lbs each.

You are never alone in the sea around Robin Hoods Bay when you are on board ‘Annie’. You never know when you are going to be in the company of Herring Gulls, Black Backed Gulls, Terns, Puffins, Guillemots, Razor Bills, Fulmars, Cormorants, Oyster Catchers & Gannets. It is also very common to see Dolphins, Minke Whales, Porpoises, & Seals (Common & Grey)

#### **The Future**

‘Annie’ is now 25 years old and we look forward to another 25!

**PETER CRAGGS**

## A PILGRIMAGE

My mother and father met in the summer of 1944 at a dance in a small village hall in North Yorkshire. It was an original love-at-first-sight thing. He was an officer in the Royal Navy, sent with his crew to Teesside on a 2-week secondment to pick up and sea-trial his brand-new landing craft that had just been manufactured in the dockyards there. She was a Wren, serving at the docks. Over a hectic few days and a single weekend they found time to meet at every opportunity before he sailed his small ship back to Portsmouth to prepare for D-Day. But he wrote to her whenever he could, proposed to her in writing, and then managed to get back briefly to Teesside to marry her in the simplest of ceremonies before he left to meet his fate on the beaches. He came home safe from Normandy, thank goodness, and after the war my parents went on to live a long and happy life together.

During their short courtship, whenever he could at the end of the day Dad



would cross the Tees on the famous transporter bridge (it featured in the film Billy Elliot) and catch a bus to Great Ayton, the nearby village where Mum was born and bred and still lived with my grandparents. Their few innocent dates comprised almost exclusively of walking together to the top of Roseberry Topping, a distinctive hill at the back of the village, before he caught the last bus back to the docks and his duties. A simple wartime tale of two hearts, but it's our family's special story and steeped in nostalgia.

I remember Roseberry Topping from my childhood; whenever we visited my grandmother in Redcar, as we trundled past it in Dad's old Austin, Mum would unfailingly tell us "...the story of how your Dad and I met...". But then I became a man, the memory became dimmed, and half a century passed before I returned to the area.

In 2017 my wife Jo and I were looking for a seaside bolthole. She loved Whitby and because of my childhood I felt strongly drawn to the place. One Bank Holiday Monday on Rightmove we saw a condo property on the promenade there, and impulsively booked a viewing for that afternoon. It was York Races day, we were running late, so the satnav guided us north of the Moors to avoid the traffic and hence through Great Ayton. Without warning old memories rushed to the fore. I told Jo my mum and dad's story for the first time. I shed a private tear as I looked up once again at the grand hill silhouetted against a bright blue sky. When we finally got to the house-viewing the scantily-furnished property had only two pictures on the walls – one of the transporter bridge, and the other of Roseberry Topping. I'm not in the slightest bit spiritual, but it did seem like a sign. We bought the house on the spot and loved living there. The pictures (below, courtesy of Joe Cornish Galleries) now hang in pride of place in our new house on the cliff. But I had never climbed Roseberry Topping. Until last month. My middle son Thomas and his beautiful wife Lucero were visiting us from their home in Spain. We see them too seldom, so these were a few glorious days grabbed together catching up on



news and reconnecting. Spontaneously we all decided to retrace my parents' steps to the top of Roseberry Topping.

It was a clear, windy day. We took a picnic. All my kids were very close to their Nana and Grandpa so I knew this was a special thing for Thomas as well, and for he and I to do together. A pilgrimage. A homage. The four of us scrambled breathlessly up the steep rocks, with Doris the Border Terrier loving every second.



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As I said, I'm not in the slightest bit spiritual, but I felt my parents' presence all around. Not the parents I knew as a child, not the old couple I cared for in their later years, but the teenagers who were newly in love, innocent, laughing and kissing and holding hands, uncertain about surviving the war and grabbing every precious moment together. We got to the top. I could imagine them standing beside me. Thomas and I stood together, both of us lost in thought, the village of Great Ayton spread out on the plain below. A sad and happy moment. A unique father-and-son moment. A pilgrimage of respect to honour a simple and honourable couple, for whom family was everything. Who came from an age lost in today's modern world. Who were modest, and loyal, and knew the value of simple things. Who instilled a love and respect that survives today in their children and grandchildren. We can all only hope to leave such a legacy.



**MARTIN SMITH**

## CHARLES DODGSON

Charles Dodgson first visited the quaint and charming fishing village of Whitby in August 1854 when he was 21 and he fell in love with the beauty of the sea, the sky and the sands there. He came as a visitor and member of a mathematical reading group who had arrived for a two summer month stay to study for important examinations. The leader of the party was Professor Bartholomew Price, fondly known as Bat.

*Twinkle, twinkle, little bat.  
How I wonder what you're at.  
Up above the world so high.  
Like a tea-tray in the sky.*

To the left of the western pier are Whitby Sands, a three mile length of sandy beach which stretches out all the way to Sandsend.

One of the members of the reading party wrote that Dodgson used to sit on the rocky areas of the beach and tell stories to anyone who would stay with him, to listen.

Could he have kept those stories in his mind's eye and used them later for his writings, especially for his poem *The Walrus and the Carpenter*? It would be nice to think so.

*The Walrus and the Carpenter begins like this.  
The sun was shining on the sea, Shining with all  
his might. He did his very best to make the  
billows smooth and bright, and this was very  
odd because it was the middle of the night.*

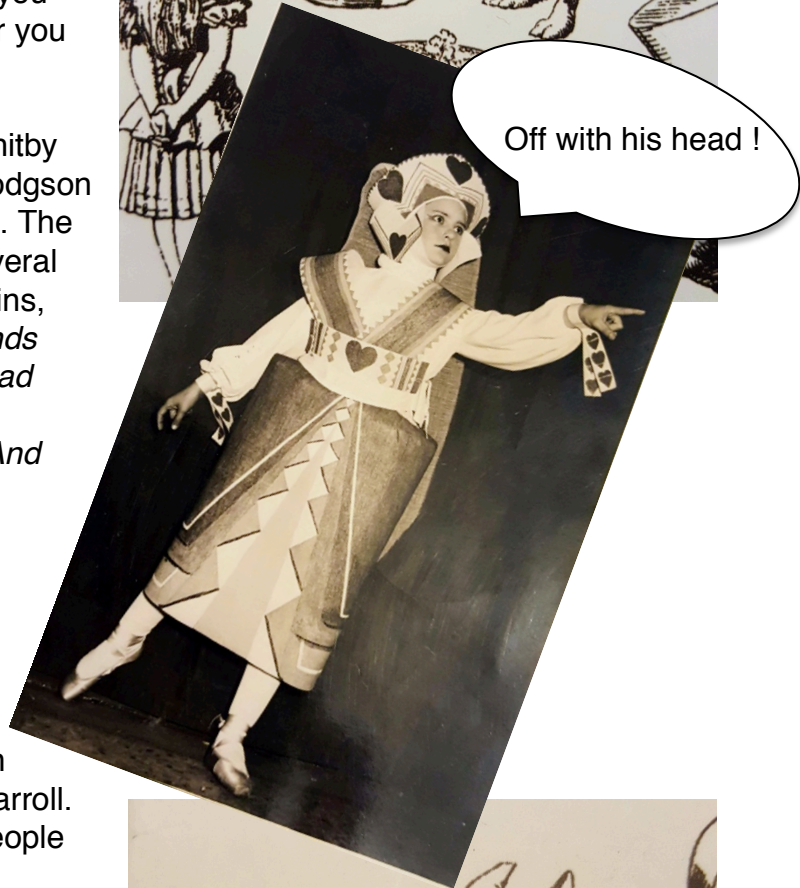
Dodgson stayed in his "old room" for a number of summers after that, at Number 5, East Terrace, which overlooks the harbour, the River Esk, the Abbey and the Church Stairs which climb up to St. Mary's Church.

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It was during his first visit that Dodgson was asked by the Rev. Mr. Keane if he would go with his group up to the Abbey Fields to help with a large number of children who had been invited to a summer feast. All was well until the rains came and everybody got soaked. Dodgson was asked to organise some games to help dry the children out before they began to eat. The games were very successful and everybody enjoyed them and prizes were given out. Maybe he was recalling those precious moments when he wrote in his book the event of the Caucus race, when you can start running at any time and stop whenever you want to and everybody wins and gets a prize.

Whitby's List of Visitors, soon to become the Whitby Gazette, included some items of interest and Dodgson decided to offer two of his poems for publication. The first was "Lady of the Ladle" which mentions several well known parts of Whitby with affection. It begins, *"The Youth at Eve had drunk his fill, Where stands the Royal on the hill, and on his mid-day stroll had made, on the so-called Marine Parade"*. It continues, *"And he had strayed into the town. And paced each alley up and down, Where still so narrow grew the way. The very houses seemed to say 'One struggle more and we shall meet' "*

The Rev. Dodgson was shy about signing his real name to his literary works so he looked at his first two names, Charles and Lutwidge (his mother's maiden name) reversed them and then found their Latin forms and he became Lewis Carroll. He took up photography as a hobby as many people with money did in those days. Whitby had many photographic establishments around that time and Lewis Carroll became one of the most highly respected experts. He was a talented illustrator of books and John Tenniel the illustrator of both *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* had to be very careful to send in examples of his work for approval. Carroll's love of photography made it possible for him to meet John Ruskin in 1857 and they became friends. Later, when he was 31, in 1863 he met Dante Gabrielle Rossetti and his family in Chelsea. Also, William Holman Hunt who painted *The Light of the World* and John Everett Millais painter of *Ophelia* were friends of his too. He had a weekly column in *Vanity Fair* from 1879 to 1882 and also in 1882 he had a memorial stone unveiled in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey.



## LOOKING BACK

Although it is right a civic society looks forward, sometimes I feel we should pause and reflect on our own history, and this may encourage more members to come forward to help run our society. In the past few years our membership has increased substantially but in some respects there has been a disconnect with the core activities of Whitby Civic Society.

It might be helpful to newer members, and also of interest to those of us involved over a longer period, if our Newsletter included a reflective column in each edition. **This could be written by a variety of members from different perspectives.**

At our February 2007 AGM, I paid tribute to my predecessor, Dr John Shorter, unknown I suspect to many of you and this is a pity. John took over at a very difficult time when Peter Thornton died suddenly and unexpectedly. He made a major contribution in establishing our society in the early days. John was a major academic in his field of chemistry and lectured internationally but sometimes he could ring me at the inconvenient times, such as half way through a cup final! My memories however are all pleasant.

In sorting through personal papers recently, I came across the following, which might be of interest to members.

**BARRY ATKINSON**

### *Thanks to John Shorter at the WCS-AGM, 2007*

*Before I introduce our guest speakers this evening, it would be remiss of me if I did not thank John Shorter on behalf of all members. John was quite unexpectedly thrust into the chair following Peter Thornton's sudden and untimely death. John has manfully carried a heavy burden over the past three and a half years without complaint.*

*For the past two years whilst I have acted as secretary, John and I have developed a very easy relationship, which I have certainly appreciated. I have become acutely aware of John's many qualities, in addition to those expected of a senior academic, especially his balance of judgment, good nature, tireless support and leadership and his qualities as a good team player. I think John is an example to us all in that after retiring from the chair, at an age when it would not be unreasonable to put his feet up, he is staying with us on the committee and his wise counsel will be appreciated by us all, not least by myself.*

*John, on behalf of all members, many, many thanks for your period of stewardship during which WCS have made such excellent progress.*

*Barry Atkinson  
Secretary*



# KEEP YOUR COMPUTER SAFE FROM HACKERS

In today's online space, generating, managing, and remembering hundreds of passwords for accounts and websites is getting out of hand. Password generators, password managers and security advice are abundant and loud on the internet, so we have put together the best security tips for generating and managing strong passwords to protect your data from hackers.

## Methods hackers use to get your passwords

1. **Dictionary-based hacks:** This is an automated program that systematically combines and runs through dictionary words from commonly to least-commonly used. This hack mimics obvious passwords and will break accounts with low password strength (For example: "Pass1546" or "Liverpool786")
2. **Social scraping:** Hackers know that the accounts with the weakest password are often ones that use names, birthdays, and personal information to form the password itself (For example: "Rover011063"). Hackers can browse and scrape your social media to pull information that you may have willingly shared online but unwittingly used to form your passwords.
3. **Brute force attacks:** This is when an automated program runs through every possible character combination to find your password. These attacks are usually highly successful against short passwords. Imagine your password is a variation of "Password" (which is extremely bad by the way!), a brute force attack would cycle through all the possible formations, such as "p455w0rd", "p@ssw0r6" etc, until they find the right one.
4. **Phishing:** Here, a hacker will pretend to be a credible and trusted individual or organisation to get sensitive information from you. Phishing schemes use fraudulent websites, emails and even calls to trick you into a breach.

## Top 10 tips for strong password security

1. **Never use personal information:** We get it; it is easier to remember your passwords if you tie it to something or someone that you will never forget or misremember. However, this is the biggest no-no in password security. Anything that is known about you or discoverable is a no-go. This means no family names, pet names, personal locations or even interests and hobbies. This has not stopped users, however, as a **MicroBizMag** survey revealed that 4.1% of their respondents use the name of a pet in their passwords. You would be surprised just how much of your data and personal information hackers can find freely online. You do not want to make it easy for them!
2. **Unique passwords:** In the past, advice suggested using a singular base password and then adding unique characters/numbers to it for separate accounts. Not only is this a bad idea but also a point of vulnerability. If a competent cyber attacker can figure out your base password, it will not take them long to infiltrate all your accounts. You MUST use a different and unique password for each site you sign up to.
3. **Disable browser storage:** Browsers such as Chrome, Safari and Explorer will offer to store your passwords for you to speed up online form processes. Whilst this is tempting, please do not store passwords in your browser. Hackers can use malware to sneak into your browser data and steal passwords. In fact, as recently as December 2021, new malware called **RedLine** was seen to be wreaking havoc on data stored in browsers.

Continued....

4. **Passphrase vs Password:** Research shows that single or simple passwords can be very easily cracked. Cyber hackers use a program called **rainbow tables** to regularly target accounts using the most commonly used passwords, in both their hashed and encrypted versions. The current best practice is to do away with passwords as we traditionally know them and opt for passphrases. Staying away from personal words and interests, formulate a passphrase with random entries. Examples of strong passphrases include: “carpetchinarocket153”, “keyfacemagenta76”, “fashionlorryfly923” etc.

5. **How to use special characters:** Often you will find websites or online portals asking you to use special characters (numbers, capitals, and symbols) to strengthen your passwords. Make sure you do this but in the right way. Do not use special characters to replace letters in your base password/passphrase. This is a trick that hackers are aware of and look out for. For example, do not turn the passphrase “carpetchinarocket153” into “C4RPE7CH1N4R0CKE7153”. Hacking software is now smart enough to simply substitute letters in a known base passphrase for special letters until they hit the jackpot. So, when you are using special characters, use them between words in your passphrase. For example, “carpetchinarocket153”, should be “carpet%\$china/?rocket\*\*345!”.

6. **Stay away from keyboard paths:** There is a habit amongst some online users to use keyboard paths as passwords as they are easy to remember. This is one of the worst practices for password security. Never use sequential keyboard paths such as “QWERTY” or “123456” to form passwords, lest you want a hacker to break into your account. According to **NordPass**, over 2.5 million people use “123456” as their password.

7. **Size Matters:** When asked to create a password, you will often be given a minimum character count. As a good rule of thumb, try to generate a password that is at least twice as long as the recommended character count. The longer the password you choose, the harder it is to crack. For **example**, a 12-character password takes 62 trillion times longer to crack than a six-character password. This is, again, another reason to use a passphrase rather than a password.

8. **Two-factor authentication:** 2FA is necessary for protecting your accounts from nefarious cyber-attacks. You will find that a lot of social networks and websites now include 2FA as a standard aspect of their password security. However, other sites have it as a selectable option in your account’s security settings, so make sure you find and enable it. With 2FA, if someone tries to log in to your account from a different IP address or device than normal, you will be sent a one-time code to your mobile device via SMS to authenticate the login. If a hacker manages to crack your password, they should be halted by the 2FA obstacle as they will not have access to your one-time pass code sent to your mobile device.

9. **Believe in the password manager:** You have so many plates spinning, why do you need to add password management to your overloaded brain activity? Using a password manager not only lets you generate passwords in an instant but also recognises which passwords are associated with which account. There are a whole host of password managers out there that create encrypted vaults for your passwords, such as LastPass, Dashlane, NordPass etc.

**Update and change your passwords:** In the past, it was recommended to regularly update and change your passwords. Whilst this advice still holds true, you should not be changing them all the time. Research from The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) states that when users update their passwords regularly, their new entries become derivative and easily guessable. If you have a strong password that has stood the test of time, stick with it. But if you are seeing suspicious activity or unrecognised logins, make sure you are swift to update and change your password. According to a **Google survey**, only 45% of users change their password after a breach!

## WHITBY CIVIC SOCIETY – 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>George Dawson</b>	<b>01947 820078</b>	<b>dawsonofwhitby@btinternet.com</b>
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<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Janet Kukk</b>	<b>01947 600677</b>	<b>janetkukk@outlook.com</b>
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<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>	<b>Chris Whitlam</b>	<b>01947 811808</b>	<b>cjwatchg16@gmail.com</b>
<b>LECTURE &amp; SOCIAL CO-ORDINATER</b>	<b>Martin Smith</b>	<b>07710512624</b>	<b>martin@thesasig.com</b>
<b>MINUTES SECRETARY</b>	<b>Laura Meszaros</b>	<b>07787 131674</b>	<b>lauraemeszaros@yahoo.co.uk</b>

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Mike Dawson                      Rebecca Tucker                      Fiona Clelow**

### NEWSLETTER

**Pam & Chris Whitlam                      01947 811808                      preven16@msn.com**



The Civic Society has a good presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.  
Our Instagram account has been noticed by Civic Voice.  
If you don't have Instagram all you need is an internet connection and about two minutes,

**GET INVOLVED !**  
**JOIN WHITBY CIVIC SOCIETY**  
**TODAY & HELP KEEP WHITBY SPECIAL**

Application forms below can also be left with our treasurer.  
Post your completed application form and payment through the letter box in  
the garage of number 10 St. Hilda's Terrace. (Back St.Hilda's Terrace)





## Membership Application

Should you wish to join Whitby Civic Society please complete this Application Form and send it with a cheque made payable to **Whitby Civic Society** to:

Mr Chris Whitlam, 16 Carr Hall Gardens, The Carrs, Ruswarp, YO21 1RW.

Alternatively, bring this completed form along to one of the Society's monthly meetings or we are pleased to receive payment by bank transfer to:

Yorkshire/Virgin Bank, Whitby Branch  
Sort code: **05-09-79**      Account No: **28118870** (Whitby Civic Society)      Ref: **Memb/your name**

Important: Please email the Membership Secretary your application form if payment is by bank transfer:  
[cjwatchg16@gmail.com](mailto:cjwatchg16@gmail.com)

(Virgin Bank currently do not subscribe to the 'safer payment' scheme so you may experience messages not recognising the Account – please be assured you will always receive confirmation of receipt of payment from us)

If you are a taxpayer the Society is able to claim back the tax that you have paid on your subscription at no cost to yourself. To allow us to do this, please sign the declaration below. Thank you.

Membership cost is £10 per person per calendar year due January.

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I/We would like to join **Whitby Civic Society**, Registered Charity No. 1055396

Full name/s:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

I/We enclose £ ..... Annual subscription.

I/We enclose £ ..... an optional donation towards the work of the Society. Total:

Signature:

Date:


Gift Aid: I am a UK tax payer

☐

Please tick box if appropriate

I would like Whitby Civic Society to claim back tax on my subscription and donation from the Inland Revenue from the date on this form until further notice. I understand that I must pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on my donations in the tax year.

Coming up.....Don't miss our next exciting lecture




WHITBY  
CIVIC  
SOCIETY  
(Registered Charity No. 1055396)


## NEXT LECTURE

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022     2 - 4 pm**

**An afternoon with Paul Berriff OBE**  
50 years behind the camera



Yorkshireman, photographer, film director and decorated lifeboatman Paul Berriff OBE has had one of the most fascinating life stories you could imagine.




Join us when he gives a first-hand account of his life behind the camera, including a host of unique images and videos.

## The Coliseum

EVERYONE WELCOME   MEMBERS £1   GUESTS £3  
**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE DURING THE BREAK**  
*Correct change will be greatly appreciated*

PHONE: 01947-811 808  
WWW.WHITBYCIVICSOCIETY.ORG.UK

FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
EMAIL: whitby\_civic\_society@yahoo.co.uk  
WHITBY CIVIC SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK

 @WhitbyCivic

Yorkshireman and BAFTA winning documentary maker, photographer, film director and decorated lifeboatman Paul Berriff OBE has long been dubbed the “Indiana Jones of Television”, having cheated death on a regular basis during his lifetime’s work. He has mixed with the Beatles and Rolling Stones before they were famous, survived a major helicopter crash, leapt to safety from a sinking ship during a North Sea gale and escaped death when a volcano erupted around him. He was filming in New York on 9/11 when both the twin towers collapsed on top of him; he was knocked to the ground and lay unconscious for 25 minutes before crawling out of the debris. His camera was smashed but his tape was recovered, and his iconic sequence of the south tower collapsing became the most powerful image recorded on the day. Join us when he gives a first-hand account of his life behind the camera, including a host of unique images and videos.