

**KEEPING CONNECTED
NEWSLETTER**

Hello Everyone,

I really cannot believe that the end of 2025 is approaching! What a year it has been...

At the start of 2025, the trustees decided to continue delivering our excellent service in Whitby & area on a permanent basis. So we took on Laura Brown as co-ordinator for Whitby and then increased our overall capacity with Natalie Fothergill. All of us now work across both areas, giving us much greater flexibility.

Summer saw the introduction of Whitby Fisherfolk breakfast, based on the excellent Lythe Farmers breakfast. We now get up to 20 people coming along each month and it has a lively buzz. We hope to begin a similar event in Ryedale in 2026. Watch this space.

Volunteer Hubs began in Malton, Kirkbymoorside and Whitby during September. Volunteers are central to what we do; I hope you know how much you are valued. This is one way to show our appreciation and spend time listening and learning from you.

At our AGM on 18th November, the integration of Ryedale Carers Support and Caring Together Whitby and District took another step forward when members voted on a new name. We will now be known as Caring Together North Yorkshire, with the strapline 'across Ryedale and Whitby area'. A new logo, new website and Facebook profile will all be developed over 2026. I am very excited by this change. We will not forget that we must be led by those who use our services and so our offer will continue to reflect our different communities. Operating in a larger area provides us with some financial certainty as well as opportunities to apply for a wider range of grants.

Alas 2026 will begin without Isabelle, who has decided to leave us to progress other commitments and interests. We would like to thank Isabelle for her tireless 8 years spent developing great events in Whitby and Scarborough, as well as supporting Ryedale Carers Support more generally. Best wishes for the future.

Thank you for volunteering with us this year. What you do continues to impact positively on so many people's lives and for that we say a BIG 'thank you'. We wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Ann & the team

**OUR FORAY INTO
FUNDRAISING**

We have had a focus on fundraising over recent months, and our efforts are starting to pay off. Huge thanks to the team, volunteers and organisations below



Thornton le Dale Crafty Hubbers have been selling their handiwork and raised enough to pay for one of our quarterly Tea and Tunes events, plus a set of percussion instruments for folk to join in!

Co-op Funeral Care (Whitby) donated £250 towards the costs of our new Whitby Volunteer Hub meetings.

Our very own Jacquie Cole hosted a 'Come Sleuthing' evening at the Coliseum Café in Whitby. Excellent food was provided by Pizza Pals. As well as having fun, we raised a fantastic £345.

To start the Christmas countdown, we had an enjoyable musical get-together in partnership with All Saints Church, Kirkbymoorside. An impressive array of fantastic raffle prizes were sourced by Sam Berriman, helping us to raise a huge £411.

2026 will see us do more but ... we can't do it alone! We are therefore calling on all of you to consider if you could help us fund raise.



If you like baking cakes, have a special skill, or are willing to support our events in any other way, let us know!

SPOTLIGHT ON...

OUR NEW GROUPS

Connecting Threads

This exciting new initiative sees older people from Whitby meeting weekly with local sixth form students to help break down stereotypes associated with both age groups. Topics covered have included cyber security, news then and now, budgeting then and now, make do and mend.

Rural activities co-ordinator Isabelle Harrison shares: 'The students were initially very shy, never having mingled with older people that were not members of their own family. By session 4, we couldn't get a word in edgeways!'

Watching a film from the Yorkshire Film Archive caused much mirth and hilarity with the students and led to a discussion around the all-male workforce of the 1950s, and daft things like the state of teeth then, compared to now, thanks to us all being babies of the NHS.'

We very much hope that this successful group will continue in 2026.

Volunteer Hubs

We have now hosted Volunteer Hubs in Malton, Kirkbymoorside and Whitby, meeting at local cafes Hidden Monkey, Gavel & Bean and Bothams.

Co-ordinators Heather, Laura and Natalie have been delighted to see so many volunteers and to spend some time with those attending, to share details of upcoming events and of the wonderful feedback we receive from those who have a volunteer visitor.

These new Hubs are already proving to be very successful, offering an opportunity for volunteers to meet and share experiences together. There's been discussion about how to attract more volunteers and offers of help at local stalls.

Invitations to upcoming Hub meetings in Whitby, Malton and the Kirkbymoorside/Pickering/Helmsley area will either have gone out or be on their way.

For any questions about the Ryedale Volunteer Hubs, contact Heather (07946 188879). Contact Laura (07946 188874) or Natalie (07950 470213) for any questions about the Whitby Volunteer Hub.

Seasons Greetings from all of the team

