

## The Old School House



A smaller than usual group from Local **History Group 9** enjoyed a visit to the Old School House in Southport, the home of Mrs Jean Ireland for the last 15 years. Jean had returned to Southport after living abroad for a number of years and was looking

to settle here. She would walk past the house on a regular basis and although it was in a somewhat rundown state she fell in love with what some people would describe as a gothic style building with its tower. This is all that is left of the day school that was built in 1864 from money given by Manchester cotton manufacturer, John Fernley. He moved to Southport in 1859 with his wife, Eliza after spending the previous winter here. A great

..... continued on page 10

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# Happy New Year

**FORMBY U3A**  
**Nomination Form for the**  
**2016/2017 Formby U3A Committee**

Nominee: .....

For the office of: .....

Proposed by: .....

Signature of proposer: .....

Seconded by: .....

Signature of seconder: .....

I agree to be nominated for the above office.

Signature of nominee: .....

**Nomination Forms should be returned to:**

Alan Speakman, Secretary Formby U3A, 10 Springfield Close, Formby Liverpool L37 2LL, e-mail: [secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk)

**by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016, at the latest.**

**New Year, New Venue**

If you have a group that is looking for a venue where all your group's members can meet up, the Formby U3A website contains a list of potential places to meet. It can be found by clicking on the "here" hyperlink on the **Looking for a venue for your Group?** article on the **Latest News** page.

[www.formbyu3a.org.uk/latest\\_news.html](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/latest_news.html)

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Will you help your U3A?** There are a number of vacancies on the Committee. Some members of the committee are seeking re-election.

**The Committee posts are:**

Chairman	Vice Chairman	Secretary
Treasurer	Membership Secretary	Groups Secretary
Five Committee Members		

Nominations forms for the positions of U3A Officers and Committee Members are printed on the previous page. These should be returned to the Secretary, Alan Speakman, by the end of January 2016, signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee.

## Music and Theatre Group

Just a reminder that the events we offer are open to everyone in the U3A; there is no Music and Theatre Group as such. The only thing you need to do is buy a ticket, turn up on the night and we will deliver you door to door from The Cross House pub to the performance venue, then sit back and enjoy.

**Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, “The Haunting of Hill House,”** Liverpool Playhouse 7:30 pm. This is now sold out

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Feb “La Mer,” Liverpool Philharmonic,** 7:30pm. The amazing combination of Vasily Petrenko, the Orchestra, the fabulous Macedonian pianist Simon Trpceski and Russian music. Vasily Petrenko conducts Timothy Jackson Six Lancashire Folksong Settings, Prokofiev Piano Concerto No 1, Ravel Mother Goose Suite and Debussy La Mer. Tickets including transport £30.00.

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> April “The Last Tango,” Liverpool Empire,** 7:30pm. The nation's favourite Strictly Come Dancing stars in their ultimate farewell show. Fresh from their sell-out hit shows, Midnight Tango and Dance Til Dawn, Strictly super stars Vincent Simone and Flavia Carcace have created their most moving production yet as they prepare to dance in their final ever show. Tickets including transport £30.00

Dave Irving can be contacted directly, if necessary, tel. 201039.

*Eileen Jones*

## **Formby U3A, Draft Minutes of the 2015 AGM**

held in the Holy Trinity Hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Apologies for Absence:** Mr and Mrs N Blundell, June Faulkner, Gordon Harrison, Glyn Pike, Mr and Mrs A Speakman, Denise Taylor, Audrey Wardle and Jennifer Whicher.

**Minutes of 2014 AGM:** Having been circulated in the Newsletter and at the meeting, these were approved nem con and were signed by Andrew Hoare as Chairman.

**Matters arising from the minutes:** There were no matters arising.

**Annual Report:** This was approved nem con.

**Treasurer's Report :** Circulated at the meeting.

The treasurer talked through the Audited Accounts, which he pointed out covered just the 11 months up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 because it had been decided to align our financial year with the calendar year in future. He drew attention to some major items of expenditure during the year which included: the capitation fee of £4,494, the costs of the ballot of £1,791, £587 for catering for the Group Leaders meeting, and £590 'equipment', which was the cost of a new laptop.

The accounts showed a surplus for the year of £163, giving a closing balance of £11,705 (+1.4%). He proposed that subscriptions remain at £9 for 2016. He thanked Alan Thomas for audit and advice.

Membership at the end of the year stood at 1263 which was 12 less than the previous year. The meeting accepted his report and the proposition that Alan Thomas continue as Auditor.

**Election of Officers and Committee Members:**

One nomination had been received for each of the positions, and this was noted by the meeting. The following will therefore serve for next year:

**Chairman:** Andrew Hoare

**Vice Chairman:** Glyn Pike

**Secretary:** Alan Speakman

**Treasurer:** David Manning-Fox

**Membership Secretary:** Dudley Lidiard

**Groups Secretary:** Mary Coleman

**Committee Members:** Sue Birchall, Ann Blackman, David Bosworth, Linda Howard and Rosemary Thomas

The Chair, Andrew Hoare, thanked two retiring members of the committee, Gordon Harrison and Denise Taylor, for their work over the years. Following an invitation by the Chair, the new committee introduced themselves to the Meeting.

**Any Other Business** There was no other business.

## The Benefits Of Being A U3A Member

### Discounts

As a member you can receive considerable benefits from local traders who have agreed to give discounts to Formby U3A members on presentation of their membership card. The Formby U3A website; membership tab, lists those businesses which have a personal recommendation from a U3A member. If you have a recommendation to add please let Denise Taylor know tel: 875053.

Your name  
Your Membership Number

**Formby U3A**  
**Reg. Charity No. 1161157**  
www.formbyu3a.org.uk  
**Membership Card 2016**

*Please show this card at each event*

**Please note:** U3A Membership Discounts are only available to the member named on their card. They are not transferable! Without their current card, members will have to pay the full price. New cards are valid throughout 2015 and are available, once subscriptions have been paid, or renewed.

### Activities

You have free access to the 130 groups covering 50 different activities that Formby U3A offers, ranging from A:Amblers to W:Wine & Dine. Your subscription also includes access to monthly meetings and the monthly coffee morning.

## What Have You Been Doing?

Formby U3A Newsletter can only report on your group and what it has been doing if you let us know. Committee members are keen that the Newsletter shows an accurate range of the diverse activities that members participate in. We are always grateful for articles from the Local History and Outings groups, but there are 48 other interest areas covering 130 groups, many of which we never hear from. Please get in touch by e-mailing:

newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk

to let others know of your successes, or struggles, so that other groups can be encouraged, or can support you.

## E-mailing The Newsletter Editor

If anyone wishes to contact the Newsletter Editor, could you please remember to only use the e-mail address: newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk

Personal e-mail addresses are sometimes changed and this is the only one that will always connect with the Editor.

## Group News

Formby U3A is part of the national organisation, The Third Age Trust. Members of our U3A share their skills and life experiences, but did you know that The Third Age Trust offers some useful support.

You can access the members' section of the national organization, [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) so that if you have an idea for a new group and wonder how it could be organized, help is at hand. Simply look at the section on the Third Age Trust's "Subject Advice" page. There are named subject advisers for a range of subjects from Archaeology to Wine Appreciation and you can contact them directly. In addition, there are start-up leaflets or booklets for some subjects as well as subject newsletters offering encouragement. For more information about your chosen topic check out the U3A publication "Source" which concentrates on a different topic each quarter. Past copies can be downloaded from the national U3A site. Their Resource Centre is certainly worth a look.

### Latest Group News

**Amblers 1:** Has vacancies. The group leader is Dorothy Standley, tel: 0151 520 1577, or email [dotstandley@talktalk.net](mailto:dotstandley@talktalk.net)

**UNO:** A second group is now in progress every other Thursday, 2:00 to 4:00 pm. It is an easy game to play. Check out [www.wikihow.com/Play-UNO](http://www.wikihow.com/Play-UNO) if you are interested, or would like to know more, then please ring Audrey 873466.

**Whist Group 2:** We have had an urgent request for new members, whether experienced or novice players. Contact Barbara Dodd for more information, tel: 832774, or email [bmdoddformby@aol.com](mailto:bmdoddformby@aol.com)

The full list of group vacancies is on the website. Contact group leaders if you are interested.

**A reminder: All groups are for paid up members. Please remember your 2016 subscription is due on January 1<sup>st</sup>, £9 per annum.**

## Welcome To November's New Members

Angela Brooks  
Jan Owen

Patricia Guy

Frances Hipshaw

## In Case of Emergency Cards

<b>Name</b>	<b>U3A</b>
<b>In Case of Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>1.</b>	_____
<b>Tel:</b>	_____
<b>2.</b>	_____
<b>Tel:</b>	_____

<b>Medications</b>	_____
	_____
<b>Conditions</b>	_____
	_____
<b>Allergies</b>	_____
	_____

When you each receive your 2016 membership Card, you should also receive a U3A “In Case of Emergency” card. When completed these carry details of your name and the person(s) to contact in the event of an accident, or emergency. They also list any medical conditions you have and the medication(s) you require. Whilst we hope you will never need it, **we would encourage all members to carry one.**

## **Renewing Your U3A Membership**

**Annual subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. In order to ensure that the insurance cover provided by our affiliation to the Third Age Trust is not compromised, all membership subscriptions should be paid by 29<sup>th</sup> February.**

**How to renew your membership:**

### **Standing Orders**

If you have already set up a Standing Order to be paid during February, there is no need to alter it to January. If your current Standing Order is payable after the end of February, please arrange for it to be paid in January. If you wish to set up a new Standing Order, please complete the Form printed in this Newsletter and send it your own bank for processing **or** use the details to set up a Standing Order using on-line banking. Membership Cards will be posted to those paying by Standing Order.

### **Cheques:**

We ask that all other renewals should be by cheque only, as there is too much potential for error in handling cash. Please make your cheque payable to **Formby U3A** and write your membership number (as on your current membership card) on the back. If you do not know your membership number, please write your name and address instead.

**Where? When?** Payment can be made at the Wednesday afternoon meetings in Holy Trinity Parish Hall (13<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February); or at the Thursday morning meetings in Holy Trinity Workshop (14<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> February).

**By Post** Cheques may be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer, David Manning-Fox, 53d Paradise Lane, Formby, L37 7DU. Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope to receive your Membership Card.

### **Collecting your 2016 U3A card**

**If you have a Standing Order in place**, your new 2016 Membership Card will be posted out once your subscription has been received from your bank.

**If you pay by cheque at the Monthly Meeting or Coffee Morning**, you can collect your Card at the same time.

**If you pay by post**, your 2016 card will be available for collection at the Monthly Meeting or Coffee Morning following receipt of your payment, unless you included a stamped addressed envelope with your payment.

**Please remember that from 1<sup>st</sup> January onwards, you will need your green 2016 Membership Card at all events, including group activities.**

## Standing Order Mandate

Your Bank's Name & Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Sort Code: ..... - ..... - .....      Account Number: .....

Please make payments as follows to:      **Formby U3A**

Sort Code: **40 - 21 - 20**                      Account Number: **41365878**

Reference: ..... (Your U3A number and  
your surname, e.g. 9999 JONES)

Amount: **£9.00**              Date of Payment: **Immediate**

Frequency: **Annually on 1<sup>st</sup> January until further notice**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_              Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and date this mandate before sending it to your Bank.**

## U3A Legal Helpline

Since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015, Arc Legal Assistance, in partnership with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, has been the new provider of the free legal advice helpline which the Trust pays for on your behalf.

This telephone advice service is available to all U3A members, not just committee members. There is no limit to the number of calls you can make and advice will be given on all aspects of law. The legal helpline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and powered by a dedicated team of legal advisors, divided into specialist teams. To access the legal helpline, please call 0322 770 1040 and quote "U3A Legal Helpline." If you are asked for an insurance number you should say that you do not have one.



benefactor to Southport, he also gave money to build a boarding school, three churches, observatory, the lifeboat station and land for the Infirmary.

The history of the house and John Fernley was researched into after a builder doing work on the property discovered documents and other items in the attic. This discovery has led to Mrs Ireland obtaining a vast amount of pictures, books and memorabilia. The visit was thoroughly enjoyed and worthy of a visit by other groups, a further highlight being the tea, coffee and warm mince pies provided. If visiting, Mrs Ireland does not charge, but asks visitors for a donation to her charity the Spinal Injuries Unit.

*Alison Dockery*

## Annual Christmas Show



The newly-formed Folk and Country Group, relaxing in the Green Room after their "Calypso Carnival" performance in the U3A Christmas Show

## Christmas Visit to Samlesbury Hall



Twenty members of **Local History Group 7** made their Christmas visit to Samlesbury Hall, near Blackburn. The event was organised by Terry Simmons and John Adamson. The visit started with coffee in the tea shop followed by a talk and tour of the Hall by a Guide dressed as Henry VIII. The tour started in the Great Hall which dates back to 1325. Our guide gave a detailed description of the construction of the original building and the living conditions of the occupants back in 14<sup>th</sup> century. As we moved through the Hall our guide gave an account of how the Southworth family were involved with the Lancastrian and Tudors family's. The family was a fervent catholic family, so after the English Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century they practised their religion in secret. This situation resulted in a number of priest holes being constructed within the building.



The family did not take sides between the Royalists and Roundheads in the Civil war. However the Parliamentarians later demanded taxes from the family which eventually resulted in the Hall falling into ruin. In 1862 Joseph Harrison bought the estate and spent a large amount of money restoring the Hall. His ghost is supposed to still haunt the hall today. There are also a few other ghosts roaming the area so its not the place for the faint hearted.

Following the very interesting talk we retreated to the Great Hall for our Christmas dinner, with a drink, crackers, jokes and party hats. The hall provided a very atmospheric environment for the occasion. A very enjoyable time was had by all.

*John Adamson*

## Christmas Military Band Concert



On a wet Sunday afternoon in December, 83 U3A members of the **Outings Group** set out for the Palm House, Sefton Park, in two coaches. We had reserved front row seats to watch and listen to the Royal Lancaster Regiments Christmas Military Band Concert. Quite a few of us had attended this concert last year, so we knew we were in for an entertaining 2 hours in a very unusual setting.

When we arrived and had found our allocated seats, there was time for a quick cup of tea, or coffee and a mince pie, or slice of cake, or maybe a tumbler of Christmas punch. We settled down to be entertained with well-known classical pieces and some not quite so well known.

The Master of Ceremonies and Conductor, Gavin Holden, kept us amused throughout the afternoon with his jokes and anecdotes. After a short refreshment break of 20 minutes, the programme carried on with Christmas tunes and Carols and we could join in the singing by reading from the words provided. We started with "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", then "Once in royal David's city", "Come all ye faithful" and finally "The 12 days of Christmas," which was sung at a fair old pace.



We were sad when it was all over and we had to get back on the coaches. As a final treat, our drivers drove home along the Coast Road so we could get a glimpse the Christmas lights along the way, especially those at Albert Dock. We made a speedy homeward journey and were back in Formby in good time for



any evening  
entertainment.

Thanks to Ann and all  
those who help her make  
this a very enjoyable  
afternoon.

*Helen Gretton,  
photos David Skelton*



## U3A Memories of Childhood Food

Do you remember when:

Curry was a surname?

A takeaway was a mathematical problem?

Oranges only appeared at Christmas?

The only choice with crisps was whether or not to add and shake the salt?

Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking?

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi?

Healthy food was anything that was edible?

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy?

Cooking outside was called camping?

Prunes were medicinal?

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we'd only ever seen a picture of a real one?

Water came out of a tap and if anyone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock?

### Stay safe

The more you weigh the harder you are to kidnap. Stay safe by eating a cake.

Perhaps that is why Santa mixed up my presents this year. I asked him for a big fat bank account and a slim body.

## Outings Group

**Outings are open to all paid up members** of the U3A. All we ask is that you have the ability to get on and off the coach independently. We cannot be responsible for providing assistance. The coach can accommodate mobility aids which are kept in the luggage compartment on the bus.

Owing to increased demand, we cannot reserve tickets: **Tickets will be allocated on a first come and paid for – first served basis.** A separate cheque is required for each outing and **it is essential that members include their telephone number with each booking.** Several cheques have been received with no information and I have struggled to identify what they are for. If no contact details are provided, I am unable to contact people when outings are fully booked.

Bookings and information are available at U3A monthly meetings, or coffee mornings. Alternatively please send a stamp addressed envelope to: Ann Blackman, 9 River Close, Formby, Liverpool L37 6DJ, enclosing a separate cheque for each outing made out to ***Formby U3A Outings Group***, having your name, address and telephone number ***on the back.***

**Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, Liverpool City Guided Coach Tour. Tickets £22.00** includes morning coffee at the Adelphi hotel and a three course lunch with coffee, also at the Adelphi. Our Blue Badge Guide will join us for a two hour coach tour of the city, during which they will explain the history and development of Liverpool. Depart Cross Green 9:00am, returning mid-afternoon.

**Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, Cadbury World Heritage Tour. Tickets £31.00** include return journey, coach tour with guide around Bournville village, entrance to museum and shop plus afternoon tea with sandwiches, scones and cake. **Lunch is not included.** We will stop on the way to Bournville to enable you to buy a coffee and a snack. Depart Cross Green 9:00am

**Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Spring Time Canal Cruise. Tickets £28.00** include return coach trip to Barton Grange Garden Centre for a morning coffee, before we embark from their marina onto the canal boat, Kingfisher. As we sail through the countryside with views of the Bowland Fells and surrounding villages we will be served coffee/tea plus a fish and chip lunch, followed by pavlova and cream. We will then return to the Barton Grange Garden Centre and Farm Shop for a spot of shopping. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.

*Ann Blackman, Tel: 871127*

### Monthly Meetings

Are at 2:00 pm in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, the second Wednesday of each month

Jan 13<sup>th</sup>      On the Record – the Life of a Journalist      Angela Danby

Feb 10<sup>th</sup>      The Lathom War Horses      Paul Kenyon

March 9<sup>th</sup> AGM

**Please remember to bring your current membership card to all events, including group activities.**

**COFFEE MORNINGS are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** and each Thursday, the day after the monthly meeting, except August. These are held in the Workshop, Holy Trinity Church, with free coffee and the chance to pick up information about other groups and meet some of your committee.

### Formby U3A Committee, 2015/16

Chairman	Andrew Hoare	877650	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Glyn Pike	0151 929 2996	vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Alan Speakman	872691	secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	David Manning-Fox	833124	treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec.	Dudley Lidiard	870595	membership@formbyu3a.org.uk
Group Secretary	Mary Coleman	871563	groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
Officers	Susan Birchall	201240	1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	David Bosworth	0151 345 1347	2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Ann Blackman	871127	3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Linda Howard	570141	4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Rosemary Thomas	871376	5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

### To Help You

If you need to tell us that **you have changed your address, telephone number, or e-mail address** please contact ***datamanager@formbyu3a.org.uk*** or tel: 873597, remembering to include your full name and address, or membership number.

If you need **information about you membership card, or subscriptions** please contact ***treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk***

**The next edition** of the Newsletter is due to be sent by e-mail and be on the website on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Paper copies can be collected at the monthly meeting & coffee morning.

Contributions are always welcomed. **The deadline for receiving articles is the penultimate Thursday of each month; MIDDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JAN. AT THE LATEST to:**

The Editor, Email: ***newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk***  
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