

Fairy Steps



The **Fell Walking Group** recently travelled to Arnside. Our leader was Ken Bryning and he led the group along the coast, over the Knott, to the Pepperpot and through woods and along valleys and finally the old railway line from Storth into Arnside. One of the highlights was the ascent of the Fairy Steps where we would have benefited from being a lot smaller than we were, but rucksacks off, we all made it! Ken also arranged for the sun to shine all day – no mean feat in the present climate.

Marcia Thompson

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Catalyst



A fascinating visit to Catalyst Science Discovery Centre, a science centre and museum, which focuses on chemistry and the history of the chemical industry was recently enjoyed by members of **Local History Group 6.**

Visitors do not require specialist knowledge of the chemical industry, as Catalyst not only houses equipment ranging from test tubes, to a 20-ton cast iron caustic soda finishing vessel, laboratory equipment, and chemical samples, but also includes objects reflecting the industry's impact on local social history, giving a human context to the collection as a whole. Given the centre's proximity to Nantwich, Middlewich, Northwich, and the St Helens Coalfield, all suppliers of massive amounts of raw materials by water, the collection has concentrated on the salt-based chemical industries of Merseyside.

Our guide, Diana Leitch, a retired chemist and one of the Trustees of the charity that runs the centre, located near Spike Island in Widnes, took us first to the glass enclosed upper floor observatory which had spectacular panoramic views of the Jubilee Bridge, new Mersey Gateway Bridge currently under construction, Widnes

and Runcorn. Leaving there, we had an absorbing insight into the history of the chemical industry in Widnes and Runcorn, the building itself being part of the enormous Gossage's "dry soap" factory that occupied a huge part of West Bank. The works had a colossal impact on everyone's life and the area's environment. The close-packed back-to-back houses are now only visible in some of the photographs showing the area in bygone times, when in some parts of the chemical industry, workers were fortunate to live beyond 29.

The centre houses a "Lab" which hosts "Potions," "Forensics" and other workshops. All looked to be not only





interesting, but inviting. Many of the exhibits found throughout the entire centre are interactive and group members quickly reverted to their childhood and enjoyed “playing” with the wide range of activities, each designed to demonstrate the importance of chemistry to everyday life. Diana reflected on the sad demise of the industry in the area, with unemployment in the town now approximately 50% following the closure of many of the works and the reduction in the labour force of those few remaining factories and she explained how the

centre was trying to address the problem for local children.

Catalyst receives no public funding and is entirely dependent on visitors and the support of local businesses to maintain and develop the centre. Several members could be seen plotting to bring grandchildren, nephews and nieces to the centre during one of the forthcoming school holidays. It would certainly keep them entertained, as well as being interesting for the adults.



Roger Andout

Theatre and Music Group

Wed 6th April, ‘The Last Tango’, Liverpool Empire 7.30pm. Strictly Come Dancing stars in their ultimate farewell show. Tickets including transport £30.00

Thurs 19th May, ‘One Night of Queen’, Liverpool Empire 7.30pm. The return of a stunning show that has rocked sold out audiences . Tickets inc. transport £28.00

Dave Irving can be contacted on **his new telephone number, 630192.**

Eileen Jones

Liverpool Grand Tour



Fifty plus members of the **Outings Group** took advantage of the Liverpool tour which had been organised by Ann Blackman. Where would we be without her? Luck was on our side as the forecast downpour did not materialise, which made for pleasant viewing conditions on the coach.

On arrival in Liverpool, we decamped at the Adelphi Hotel for a coffee/toilet break. On returning to the coach we met our guide for the tour, Hilary Oxlade. Various landmarks were given historic detail by Hilary, along with information such as some of the nicknames given to the RC Cathedral (completed in 1962) including the Pope's Launching Pad and Paddy's Wigwam. Lots of important venues were pointed out, for example the LIPA building, together with a potted history of some of its more illustrious students. We stopped at St. Luke's, passed the famous 96 suitcases and went to the riverside and saw all of the magnificent buildings, both the old and new in that part of Liverpool. After visiting Sefton Park, we were introduced to the wildlife of Liverpool in Penny Lane, though on this occasion only the Giraffes were sighted. On

our return to the Adelphi, we were served a three-course lunch which was excellent value. We were then given a conducted tour of the hotel which was very informative, where we were allowed to view some of the guest rooms including the room where Harold Wilson once rested his head together with some of the many function rooms. We left



just after 4pm, showing our appreciation for the guides, our driver for the day, and of course our Ann.

Jim Dowsett

Cadbury World



The recent **Outings Group** visit was a thoroughly enjoyable day, despite the incessant rain! It was also a long day, nearly seven hours travelling time, during which our driver did us proud, contending as he did with not just the rain, but also strong winds and the inevitable hold-ups on the M6, so although we left at 9:00, it was virtually 1:00 when the 34 of us finally reached Bourneville. We were then joined by our guide, who showed us the fascinating model of the village, which has been found to be “one of the nicest places to live in Britain.” Named after the nearby Bourn brook and the French for ‘town’, the village had been built in the 1890’s by George Cadbury, in an effort to “alleviate the evils of modern, more cramped living conditions,” not just for his workers in the adjacent Cadbury’s factory, but also for any others who could afford it.

We then turned to Cadbury World itself, one of the country’s largest leisure attractions, with over 500,000 visitors per year. We saw the state-of-the-art exhibition, punctuated by free tastings of melted chocolate and a variety of bars thereof! We learned how chocolate was discovered and first brought to England. John Cadbury founded his chocolate company in London. This was later taken over by his sons, George and Richard, who moved the business to the Birmingham area, where they opened their new chocolate manufacturing factory in 1879. Like so many successful business families, the Cadburys were Quakers, and as such were excluded from public service.

We were particularly interested in a display of the old Cadbury’s adverts, where unfortunately we showed our age!

We then adjourned for afternoon tea, or coffee, though ironically not hot chocolate! Although our guide had presented each of us with a large bar of Bourneville, the quality of our meal was not quite as expected. This was no fault of Ann’s, however.



Indeed, she did us proud by securing an apology from Cadbury's in the form of another large bar of chocolate for each of us! So we had plenty to sustain us on the long journey home!

This was a thoroughly entertaining and informative day, our first experience of Ann's outings and it certainly won't be our last. Thanks Ann for all your

organisational and negotiation skills!

Alastair & Jane Gillies

Group News

Our Groups Secretary, Mary Coleman, keeps a list of all our groups with vacancies and you are welcome to check this out at the monthly meetings, or by contacting her, Tel: 871563 or e-mail: groups@formbyu3a.org.uk Vacancies are also highlighted on the website.

Creative Writing: Am I describing you? Do you like to record memorable events and experiences, or maybe you have little, or no experience of writing, but wonder if you would enjoy it? Do you believe you could write at least one readable story, or novel; love words and think you might enjoy writing descriptive anecdotes about people, or places? A creative writing group is an opportunity to meet like minded people in a friendly setting and to participate in an enjoyable creative activity that will prove interesting and perhaps improve your writing skills.

Local History: An opportunity to visit places of local historical interest with a guided tour, or talk has always been very popular with members of Formby U3A and we have a number of very successful groups. A new Local History group, mainly for those who are new to local history, is under discussion.

Computer Security & Safety on Line: Places are still available.

Contact Mary for more information, or if you are interested in any of the above.

A reminder: All groups are for current, paid up members, so please remember to show your green 2016 membership card at all U3A events and group activities.

Mary Coleman

First Aid Help

First Aid: St John Ambulance has produced a free pocket sized guide which covers 5 of the most common conditions where straightforward first aid could be the difference between a life saved and a life lost. If any members think this would be useful, please contact the Secretary, or Group Secretary.

First Aid App: St John Ambulance has a free app which could be very useful to some of our groups, especially to cyclists, walkers and amblers. Even basic first aid knowledge can be the difference between a life lost and a life saved. St John Ambulance's free first aid app puts potentially life-saving advice at your fingertips. Available for Android™, BlackBerry® and iPhone® mobile device users, the app provides easy to follow advice on a range of first aid scenarios, from minor injuries to major emergencies. We recommend that Group Leaders consider whether it might be useful to their group to download this app which can be found at:

www.sja.org.uk/sja/support-us/the-difference/helpless/mobile-phone-app.aspx

Accident report forms for U3A activities: If any group leader requires an accident report form it can be downloaded from :

www.formbyu3a.org.uk/u3a_accident_report_form.pdf (pdf format),

or if you require any other format please Tel: 870595 or email:

secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk

Name	U3A
In Case of Emergency Contact:	
1.	_____
Tel:	_____
2.	_____
Tel:	_____

In case of emergency cards: If you have not already filled one of these cards in and are not carrying one with you, please ask for one at the Monthly Meetings, or Coffee Mornings. They are simple to complete, but provide important information if you should ever be involved in an emergency of any type whilst out and about and not just on U3A activities.

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A

will be held at 2:00pm on **Wednesday 9th March 2016** in Holy Trinity Parish Hall,
Rosemary Lane, Formby

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM, as published in the Newsletter
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 To receive and approve the Annual Report
- 5 To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts for
the year ending 31st December 2015
- 6 To appoint an Auditor
- 7 Elections of Trustees:

Chairman:	Glyn Pike
Vice Chairperson:	David Bosworth
Secretary:	Jack Ashworth
Treasurer:	David Manning-Fox
Membership Secretary:	Ann Gunstone
Groups Secretary:	Mary Coleman
Committee Members:	
	Ann Blackman
	Linda Howard
	Rosemary Thomas
	Susan Birchall
	Sarah Beaumont
	Valerie Tibbetts
- 8 Any other business.

Formby U3A, Draft Minutes of the 2015 AGM

held in the Holy Trinity Hall on the 11th 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 31st 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.

Welcome To February's New Members

Ian Barclay	Catherine Bass	Freda Clarke
Gordon Cowen	Susan Donaldson	Susan Fleming
Irene Fox	Susan Greenhalgh	Cheryl Kershaw
John Langdon	Ronnie Lofthouse	Kath Morison
Joan Rimmer	Joan Talbot	Eileen Taylor
Harvey Tully	Linda Tully	Joan Tuttle
Barbara Warren	Brenda Yarwood	

Speakers During The Next 12 Months

Speakers have now been booked for the monthly Wednesday meetings for the next year. They are:

April 13 th	Early flying at Freshfield	David Davies
May 11 th	Anglesey, The Enchanted Island	Rodger Burgess
June 8 th	From Roses to Rhinos (The Stanley family)	Ken Pye
July 13 th	Music	Andrew Smith
August	Summer break; no monthly meeting	
September 14 th	My Eggheads Experience	Betty Hayhurst
October 12 th	Iceland - Fire and Ice	Frank Nicholson
November 9 th	A History of Cartoons	Ian Barclay
December 14 th	Christmas Concert	
2017		
January 11 th	On the Record (The life of a journalist, part 2)	Angela Danby

Outings Group

Outings are only 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 stamped 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, March 18th, 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.



Tuesday, April 26th, Carnforth Station Heritage Centre and Leighton Hall.

Tickets £34.00 include return coach travel, coffee and biscuits on arrival in the unique surroundings of the museum where the 1945 film Brief Encounter was made. There will be time to explore the centre and village. Lunch is **not included**

but can be purchased at the centre, or in the village. Early afternoon we travel to Leighton Hall, a grade II listed building set in a stunning location. The Hall is still the family home of the Gillow furniture family who have arranged that we have a guided tour followed by their famous afternoon tea and time to wander through the gardens and grounds before we leave around 5pm. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.

Monday, May 9th, Whitby. **Tickets £18.50** each are for ***coach only***. We will have a lovely scenic drive, with a mid-morning stop on the way, arriving Whitby around midday. You will have time to explore this historic town, either by walking, or taking the open topped bus. Enjoy a hearty meal at one of the many seafood restaurants and an ice-cream whilst sitting watching the world go by. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.

Date to be announced. Caernarfon Castle and Welsh Highland Railway. **Tickets £37.00** each include return coach travel from Formby to the Castle, where we will be entertained with a historical costume drama. We will then have time to explore the castle and grounds before being transferred by coach to the railway station. We have a reserved carriage on the steam train, which travels along a narrow gauge railway to Porthmadog, where we will have some free time before we re-join our coach. You can purchase refreshments on the train, or bring a picnic. **Please note earlier departure time, Cross Green 8.30 am.**

Ann Blackman, Tel: 871127

Monthly Meetings

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

March 9 th	AGM	
April 13 th	Early flying at Freshfield	David Davies
May 11 th	Anglesey - the Enchanted Island	Rodger Burgess
June 8 th	From Roses to Rhinos (The Stanley family)	Ken Pye
July 13 th	Music	Andrew Smith

Please remember to bring your current (green) membership card to all events, including group activities.

COFFEE MORNINGS are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, March 10th 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 (until 9th March)

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 1st April. 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 24th March at the latest to:**

The Editor, Email: newseeditor@formbyu3a.org.uk

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