

Sankey Valley



Walking Group 2's second walk in March started from Sankey Valley Heritage Centre, located at Blackbrook Rd, St Helens, a short distance from A580 (East Lancs. Rd). We followed a bridle way beside Blackbrook river to reach Glass House Close Wood where there is a dismounting block for horse riders before proceeding down a steep slope which we all managed safely. Then we went under a road bridge to reach the nearby Carr Mill Dam.

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After completing a circuit of the dam we returned to the heritage centre by an alternate route where there are numerous leaflets providing information on the history and walks in the area. We were fortunate to enjoy excellent Spring weather and thanks are due to George and Lynda Rodda for arranging a most enjoyable and interesting walk.

R. Blackwell

Do you think this is a thin edition? Is something missing? Your group's report! Without it we have nothing to fill your Newsletter.

Dalton Lees



Twenty four members of **Walking Group 3** turned out for a 5 mile walk. We started at the Stocks Tavern in Parbold after giving in our lunch orders, the staff also very kindly providing free tea or coffee before we set off.

Showers were expected but it turned out to be a mainly bright and sunny day, if somewhat muddy at times. Heading off initially along canal from Parbold, we crossed the River Douglas and walked up to Dalton Lees where good views of Blackpool Tower were to be had, before looping back down the valley to the river and canal again.

Stephen Birchall

The Cloud



The **Fell Walking Group** did a walk from Biddulph Country Park up to the summit

called the Cloud, with amazing views of the Cheshire Plain. We could see Jodrell Bank and Fiddler's Ferry and, if it had been a bit clearer, Liverpool Cathedral. David Poole was our leader and we enjoyed fine views, interesting scenery and, despite the forecast, good weather. A slight detour through a farm was interesting but we were allowed to by-pass the slurry and cattle and directed towards the Bridestones and our route back. No snow this time; some mud but a very enjoyable day.



Marcia Thompson

Cycling



The **Cycling Group** goes out for a ride of between 15 and 20 miles every week on a Tuesday morning. Our rides are usually organised by one of our joint group leaders: David Manning-Fox and Pam Ashton.

With often more than 20 of us we usually divide into two or three smaller groups and the picture shows the B group recently on the promenade in Waterloo on our way to our coffee break at Crosby Marina. The A group were already there enjoying their lattes and tea-cakes!

*Nic Dickson,
photo by Alan Gibson*

Spring Cruise



Fifty members of the **Outings Group**, under the auspices of Ann Blackman, travelled to Lancashire. As we journeyed up the M6 motorway, a brighter day emerged with intermittent sunshine following the dispersal of early morning fog. Exiting the motorway North of Preston and travelling through country lanes, one could see attractive homesteads having nicely manicured gardens. We finally arrived at Bartle Hall, a country house hotel set in the heart of rural Lancashire, commanding lovely views over the surrounding countryside. This was an alternative coffee stop to Barton Grange Garden Centre as they were unable to accommodate groups.

We were directed to a building at the rear of the main house, where we were served rather nice coffee along with tasty lemon drizzle cake. This building is used for weddings. One had a limited view of the main house to know that it is Georgian in style and probably built around the mid to late 1800s.



Our next stop was Barton Grange. Following a short break, we made our way to board the canal boat "Kingfisher" for our trip on the Lancaster Canal. Sarah, the manager, introduced herself, welcomed us on board and briefed us on safety etc. We were served a choice of tea, or coffee. Later, we enjoyed a nice lunch of fish and chips followed by pavlova for desert.

Again, a choice of tea, or coffee. It was obvious that our group was enjoying themselves; all were deeply engrossed in conversation and laughter. We continued to enjoy the views over the Lancashire countryside, enhanced by the far off Pennine mountain range to the north and east. Along the canal, one could see a number of mallard ducks, making their presence felt, their colourful plumage glistening in the Spring sunshine. Further along, a busy swan could be seen making her nest in the bulrushes, while two oystercatchers stood watching the World go by. On our return to Barton Grange, it was time to shop.



We made our way to Barton Grange Garden Centre, where one can see much diversity, ranging from household furniture to clothing, grocery, green grocery, an excellent butchery, the list is non ending, and I was given to understand from a local shopper that a lot of the produce is sourced in the local area, one business complimenting another. Having made our purchases, it was time to board the coach for the return

journey home. Finally, thanks to Ann and her helpers for another most enjoyable day. Needless to say, for some of the group, the next outing cannot come fast enough!

Teresa Fitzgerald

Theatre and Music Group

(Events are open to all members of Formby U3A)

Sat. 16th July. "Last Night of the Summer Pops," Philharmonic Hall, 7:30pm.

This is a celebration of the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. John Suchet hosts a gala of favourites that have become synonymous with Royal celebrations. The Royal Philharmonic choir will raise the roof with Handel's, Zadok the Priest and Parry's, I Was Glad and of course Walton's, March from Crown Imperial, Purcell's Trumpet Tune and Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance. Middle rear stalls seats are available, £35.00 including transport. The coach leaves the Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.

Thurs. 15th Sept. "Chicago," Liverpool Empire, 7:30pm. The international and award winning Broadway and West End musical starring EastEnders actor and Celebrity Big Brother star John Partridge as Billy Flynn. Based on real life events back in the roaring 1920's, nightclub singer Roxie Hart shoots her lover and along with her cell block rival, Velma Kelly, they fight to keep from death row with the help of smooth talking lawyer, Billy Flynn. Tickets including transport £35. The coach will leave The Cross House bus stop at 6.15pm.

Thurs. 1st Dec. "Nutcracker" (English National Ballet), Liverpool Empire, 7:30pm. Over 100 dancers and musicians bring Nutcracker to life with exquisite dancing, beautiful sets and Tchaikovsky's glorious score played live. Expect enchanted toys, mischievous mice and sparkling snowflakes in a colourful ballet. Centre rear stall tickets, including transport £35. The coach will leave The Cross House bus stop at 6.15pm.

Dave Irving can be contacted directly, if necessary tel: 630192.

Eileen Jones

Group News

You will be asked to show your green 2016 membership cards when you attend group meetings. All groups are for current, paid up members, so please remember your 2016/ subscription was due on January 1st, £9 per annum.

Welcome To April's New Members

Peter Barrand	Ruth Bloom	Alan Brett
Geraldine Brett	Margaret Gibb	Norma Greenwood
William Greenwood	Elizabeth Linker	Alan McDonald
Lynden Symonds		

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 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.**

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.

Saturday 25th June, please note change of date, 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.**

Thursday, July 7th, Ullswater Lake Cruise & Lunch. Tickets £36.00 include return coach to Ullswater. We will cruise the length of the lake from Pooley Bridge to Glenridding to be transferred by coach to the Inn On The Lake for a two course lunch with tea/coffee. The hotel enjoys one of the most spectacular settings in the Lake District. Set in 15 acres of grounds with lawns sweeping down to the shores of the lake, it is renowned for excellent food and award winning chef. We return via Kirkstone Pass, arriving back in Formby late evening. Depart Cross Green 9:00am

Monday August 1st Plas Newydd. Tickets £21.00 for Non-members of the National Trust **or £12.50** for National Trust Members. The outing includes return coach travel and entrance only. Refreshments can be purchased on the day, or take a picnic. Plas Newydd is an elegant house set in amazing gardens with stunning views of the Menai Straits.

Friday, September 9th, Fleetwood and Blackpool Ice show. Tickets £46.00 include morning coffee in Fleetwood, with time to explore the sea front or market. At 5pm we will travel to Blackpool for a two course fish supper with tea/coffee before going into the stunning 80th Celebration Ice Show. **Please note later departure time, Cross Green 10:00am**

Ann Blackman, Tel: 871127

Monthly Meetings

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

May 11 th	Anglesey - the Enchanted Island	Rodger Burgess
June 8 th	From Roses to Rhinos (The Stanley family)	Ken Pye
July 13 th	Under the Influence (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, May 12th 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, 2016/17

Chairman	Glyn Pike	0151 929 2996	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
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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 June. 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 19th May at the latest to:**

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

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