

## Skipton



The destination for this year's **Walking Group 3's** annual holiday was Skipton, North Yorkshire and the Rendezvous Hotel. We were very fortunate to have picked a really good week to explore the area around Skipton, which included walks around Gargrave, Bolton Abbey and a local walk including Skipton Woods. The weather was great, sometimes a little hot for walking, but most enjoyable, nevertheless.

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Our Gargrave walk was the most memorable for two reasons; the first being the lovely scenery and magnificent views along the Pennine Way and the canal system following the towpath back to Gargrave towards the end of the walk. The second reason was the lost key. During our lunch break on the walk someone discovered he had lost the keys for his car which was parked in Gargrave. He then set off, retracing his steps along with a companion, proceeding back along the towpath, asking walkers along the route if any keys had been found. Regular mobile phone calls to the "searchers" produced no good news of found keys. The main party carried on towards the end and, when coming off the

towpath, literally bumped into three walkers going to Malham, walking in a different direction from Gargrave. Imagine our amazement when they asked us if we had lost any keys, as a bunch of keys had been found earlier in the day by other walkers further back along the Pennine Way. They had been found, put on a hook by a gate and then taken by other walkers who in turn told others (including the three Malham walkers) what had happened to them. The keys had been dropped off at livery stables near the Cross Keys Pub at East Marton, a distance away of about 10 miles. When we got to the livery stables the keys were indeed there. Many thanks to all the considerate walkers who saved the day for one grateful U3A member.

The rest of the week was equally memorable only for reasons of good weather, enjoyable walks and pleasant company along with a lovely stay at the Rendezvous.



*Dave Taylor*

## Welcome To October's New Members

Colin Beaver

Eric Forster

Janet Greenwood

John Sharkey

David Fitzsimmons

Sally Garnett

Susan Ludlow

Hooi Singer

Diane Fitzsimmons

Elizabeth Gibb

Dorothy Owen

Marie Wilford

## Dunham's Lost Years



A lovely clear sky greeted **Local History Group 10** to Dunham Massey, a stately home in Cheshire, built for the Earl of Warrington starting in 1730. The family made their fortune from the wood of oak trees, used for ship building. The house and gardens, consisting of in excess of 30 acres, is now in the care of the National Trust.

This year, the trust has a theme called "Dunham's Lost Years." In 1856, The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl and Countess, newlyweds George Harry and Catherine left Dunham for Staffordshire. The home was left without an Earl and Countess for 50 years. They were ostracised by society, as George Harry married Catherine a bareback rider from the local circus. They were not invited to any society occasions, nor were any of their invitations replied to. Even the vicar in the local Dunham Church would not allow the bell ringers to perform their duties. The family of the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl returned to Dunham in 1883. After touring the house, we then had lunch in the Stables Restaurant.

The grounds were beautiful and it was nice to see the tame fallow deer so close. As our visit was drawing to a close, the rain clouds gathered and we managed to get back to our cars without getting too wet.

Thanks to the two Barbs and Jean for another great trip.

*Elaine & John Lea*

**FORMBY U3A**  
**CHRISTMAS SHOW SPECIAL**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**



Doors open 1:15pm, show starts 2:00pm

*Come and see our Christmas show and let us entertain you.  
Sit with friends and enjoy a glass of wine and mince pies.  
We guarantee you an hour of laughter and the odd surprise.*

Please note that this year's Christmas Show Special is not being held at the venue previously used, but instead is being held at:

**The United Reformed Church,  
Church Rd,  
Formby L37 3ND**

*There is street parking on Church Road*

Tickets £2.00 each, available at the November Monthly Meeting and Coffee Morning.

Looking forward to see you there,

*Susan Birchall*

## Ilkley Moor



### **Fell Walking Group**

members started from the Cow and Calf Car Park and went up to the top of the rocks. Then we crossed Rombalds Moor to the 12 Apostle

stones, Thimble Stones and Buck Stones before descending to the Millennium Way and down Hebers Ghyll. After that, we had to climb back up on to the Millennium Way, with a welcome tea break before making our way back, via the tarn, to the car park. Good weather and good views, mostly good paths.....and excellent company!



*Marcia Thompson*

## Wirral Transport Museum



**Local History Group 9** arrived at Woodside for our tram ride to the museum where we were met by the Manager, Tony Cooper who gave us a history of the building and the museum.

The building, dating from 1892, was originally used for stabling horses in transit from Ireland, then by various breweries. The Transport Museum was created by Wirral Council as a Visitor Attraction in 1995. At the same time, The Merseyside Tram Preservation Society which was formed by Liverpool University students to preserve the last Liverpool tram (1961), used the museum as a base. Between 2008 and 2011, the future looked bleak and the entire contents of the museum and tramway were put up for sale. A potential sale to Mersey Travel collapsed in 2013, so Wirral Borough Council Officers approached volunteer groups to manage and run the Museum and Tramway on behalf of the council. After approving their business plan in 2014, the Museum and Tramway is now run by a group of enterprising, enthusiastic and very friendly people.



Why a Tramway Museum in Birkenhead? The first street tramway in Europe was created here by an American Entrepreneur, George Francis Train in 1860. You can see trams, buses, motor cycles and cars dating from different eras, a lot of them in

good working condition. There are also lots of photos etc. of times past.



It was a real all our yesterdays moment, bringing back memories of when I used to go to work on a tram (6A) from the Rocket to the Auto. Afterwards, we went by tram to Angelinas for lunch (just down the road), a local cafe which provides good quality food. They served 21 of us in no time at all, then just a short walk to the ferries, or train and we were on our way home after a good day out. I would certainly say go; it's a good day out for all children, big or small.

*Bill Farr*

## World of Glass

The discovery that took place over 5,000 years ago was the enthralling subject for our **Local History Group 14** at the impressive World of Glass. The venue was of course St Helens for an engaging day of guided tours about this amazing material.

It commenced by looking at the exhibition of the social and industrial history of this relatively new town, formed by an amalgamation of four townships as recently as 1868. The authentic reconstruction of a Victorian home was well done and revealing with strange old tools of the trade for wash day Mondays such as a dolly peg. The last exhibition was a display from the famous Pilkington collection of glass artefacts dating from 5,000 year old Egyptian glass to the present day, with familiar names such as Lalique and Gallé.

Prior to our lunch we were treated to a short film about the history of glass followed by a demonstration of the skills of the glass blower and the complexity of working with glass. Comfortably seated, we were able to witness a piece of molten golden glass being transformed by a form of alchemy into a polychrome vase.



The final tour of the day took us to a former glass manufacturing works that in the 1890's was the height of industrial innovation where the skills of the glass blowers, the heat and the heavy manual labour as well as the heady atmosphere was easily imagined. It made us reflect that the real heroes of the Industrial revolution may not only have been the Brindleys and the Brunels, but also the working men and women.

*Geoff Jones*

## **2016 Annual Group Leaders' Meeting**

Would Group Leaders kindly note the usual November event is being postponed this year until the New Year whilst the possibility of a different format is being explored by Committee.

## **U3A 2017 Dairies**

U3A dairies which have already been ordered can now be collected at the Wednesday and Thursday meetings. I will endeavour to contact those who are unable to attend any of those meetings. There will also be a small number available which have not been pre-ordered - first come, first served.

*Jack Ashworth, Secretary*

I feel like my body has got totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors.

I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour, but, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

## Theatre and Music Group

(Events are open to all members of Formby U3A )

Tickets for forthcoming events are selling fast, with both Nutcracker and Andre Rieu sold out, although we are keeping a reserve list.

Please pay for tickets when the initial booking is made. This enables us to ensure that you get the best possible deal, including transport to and from the event. If you are unable to attend the event, could you notify us as soon as possible. Dave Irving's phone number is always included at the bottom of this article.

**Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. "Nutcracker" (English National Ballet), Liverpool Empire, 7:30pm.** The coach will leave The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm

**Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, Andre Rieu, Echo Arena, 8:00pm.** The coach will leave the Cross House at 6:15pm.

**Thurs. 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, "The Commitments," Liverpool Empire, 7:30pm.** A fantastically feel good celebration of soul, direct from a record breaking run in London's West End. This is the story of Jimmy Rabbitte, a young, working class music fan, who shapes an unlikely bunch of amateur musicians and friends into an amazing live act, the finest soul band Dublin has ever produced. Placing an advert in a music paper, Jimmy auditions a number of wannabes before finalising the new line up who he names, The Commitments. Centre rear stalls are available, £40.00 including transport. The coach will leave, The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.

**Thurs. 2<sup>nd</sup> March, "Rhapsody", Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, 7:30pm.** Returning Hungarian guest conductor, Gilbert Varga, conducts Bartok's "The Miraculous Mandarin," live and uncensored. Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody sets things fizzing and Leeds International Piano Competition winner, Louis Schwizgebel, brings all his poetry and panache to Ravel's dreamy Piano Concerto. Finally take a trip to Mother Goose's enchanted garden: musical fairy tales for all ages. Tickets including transport, £30, rear side stalls seats. The coach will leave, 'The Cross House', bus stop at 6.15pm.

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

*Eileen Jones*

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## Llandudno



This year **Walking Group 4** visited Llandudno and stayed at the Merrion hotel. The hotel, with its excellent food, comfortable accommodation and friendly staff, did not let us down. Our cars were parked at the hotel on the first day and not used until we were ready to come home. The 1<sup>st</sup> walking day we walked round the Great Orme. During the walk we came across two of Lewis Carroll's characters, but we couldn't persuade them to accompany us. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day we took the bus to Conwy and climbed on Conwy mountain. We were blessed with fine weather and enjoyed lovely views on both walks. The whole break was organised by Kay and Bill Farr, so a big thank you to them from all the group for doing such a brilliant job.

*Gwyn Jones*

## Long And Winding Road

Mendips, on Menlove Avenue and Forthlin Road, are now National Trust properties, but were previously the respective childhood homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. They proved a nostalgic guided tour for members of **Local History Group 6**.

Mendips, a fine example of 1950s semi-detached Liverpool housing, was donated to the National Trust by Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono. Many of the original features remain and the house has been restored to what it was like in the 1950s and early 1960s when they lived there; neat, tidy, cosy; a real home. Mendips, more luxurious than 20 Forthlin Road, Paul McCartney's home, was lovingly maintained by John's Aunt Mimi, and was John's home from the age of 5 to 23 after the break-up of his



parents' Julia and Freddie's marriage. Mimi was John's mother's sister and was very aspirational. Although she appeared to be very middle class, wanting John to have nothing to do with Paul and George from the nearby council houses, her husband used the saving from selling his business to buy Mendips for cash and, as a result, worked nights cleaning trams in the nearby shed. To make ends meet and to keep up appearances, Mimi initially used the spare bedroom to lodge 2 students, the dining room becoming the students' study, before relinquishing her own bedroom to accommodate additional students and earn extra money after the death of her husband when money became short. Aunt Mimi appears a rather ferocious and snobbish figure in many versions of the Beatles' story and it was not just John's friends who had to use the back door when calling, to preserve the front carpets. However, John always acknowledged the importance of the help and stability that Mimi provided for him, when he lost his own mother, not once but twice, once as a five year old when Mimi, the patriarch, decided it was best for John to move in with her and also later, when re-united, his mother, she was tragically knocked down by a car as she was crossing Menlove Avenue, near to Mendips.

The group visited the small box bedroom where Lennon spent hours playing his guitar, where 45rpm singles lay, as if left by him, along with a poster of "The King," Elvis Presley on the wall. The Beatles' first UK number one, "Please Please Me" was composed at Aunt Mimi's. When Mimi got fed up with the boys making a noise rehearsing in her living room, she would send them off to play their music in the tiny front porch.

20 Forthlin Road is a typical example of post-war terraced council housing, being much smaller and plainer than Mendips. It was where 100s of the Beatles tunes were created by John and Paul as they trained to be cover artists, which is what they started out as. Paul's mother, Mary, was a nurse and was able to rent the property because of her career but she tragically died shortly after the family moved in, when Paul and his brother Mike were in their teens and Jim, their father, brought them up alone after that. The McCartney men weren't as house-proud as Aunt Mimi and

money was tight, so the house has mismatched wallpaper, clutter, threadbare sofas and sewn carpet runs. Paul's brother, Mike, was not only a member of the group, The Scaffold but was also an accomplished photographer and, as a result, many photographs exist showing the house when they lived there and these were used to restore the property when acquired by the National Trust in order to show 1950s council housing.



Ali Tun

**Formby & Little Altcar Neighbourhood Development Plan...**

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**This is YOUR CHANCE to look at your Neighbourhood Development Plan for YOUR AREA and HAVE YOUR SAY!**

**THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION** will begin on **Monday 31st October 2016** and will run for 6 weeks until **Monday 12th December 2016**.

**THIS IS YOUR CHANCE** to see what is being proposed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan **FOR YOUR AREA** and **MAKE YOUR COMMENTS!**

**YOU CAN SEE** the Neighbourhood Development Plan at Formby Library, Formby Pool and Sefton Council, Magdalene House, Bootle, also you can borrow a copy from Formby Library or the parish clerk.

**Drop In sessions** will be held on the following dates at the following venues for anyone to call in and discuss the Neighbourhood Development Plan:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Gilfil Hall, Church Road, Formby</b><br>Wednesday 2nd November 2016<br>9pm to 9pm.  | <b>Gilfil Hall, Church Road, Formby</b><br>Thursday 24th November 2016<br>10am to 4pm. |
| <b>Gilfil Hall, Church Road, Formby</b><br>Thursday 10th November 2016<br>10am to 4pm. | <b>Formby Library, Duke Street,</b><br>Wednesday 30th November 2016<br>2pm to 8pm.     |
| <b>Gilfil Hall, Church Road, Formby</b><br>Thursday 16th November 2016<br>6pm to 9pm.  | <b>Gilfil Hall, Church Road, Formby</b><br>Monday 5th December 2016<br>10am to 4pm.    |
| <b>Formby Library, Duke Street</b><br>Monday 21st November 2016<br>6pm to 9pm.         |  |

Access on line at:  
[www.http://www.FormbyandLittleAltcar.org.uk](http://www.FormbyandLittleAltcar.org.uk)  
 Parish Clerk: 01704 252995 or email: [parishclerk@formbyandlittlealtcar.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@formbyandlittlealtcar.org.uk)

**FORMBY PARISH COUNCIL**

## Group News

**You should 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 1<sup>st</sup>, £9 per annum. Any members who did not renew their subscriptions by 28<sup>th</sup> February have been removed from membership lists and should not attend any U3A activities or groups.**

**Creative Writing, Poetry and Prose:** This new group has started. The group meets fortnightly on a Monday morning. Contact Patty Hearne on [patty.hearne@outlook.com](mailto:patty.hearne@outlook.com)

**Darts Group:** This new group is now up and running. They meet in the Bay Horse on a Wednesday afternoon. For further details, contact the Groups Secretary.

**Fun on your Computer:** This new group will teach you to enjoy playing games etc. on your tablets, PCs and Playstations and learn more of the fun side of your Computer. Contact the Groups Secretary.

**Italian, French, German and Spanish at basic level:** We would like to start groups to learn these languages at a basic level but need teachers to lead these groups. Are there any members out there who are willing to come forward and help?

**Painting Group:** This group, run by Dot Owen, has changed premises to St Peters Hall. The Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Dot would welcome new members, tel. 879332, or e-mail: [davidowen@sky.com](mailto:davidowen@sky.com)

**Thursday Afternoon Bridge Group:** has vacancies for players who have a reasonable knowledge of the game. They are a sociable and friendly group who meet in members' houses every Thursday, from 2:15 till 5:00pm. They play duplicate Chicago. Please contact Mike Belshaw on 874940 or [mikebelshaw1@gmail.com](mailto:mikebelshaw1@gmail.com)

**Ukulele Group:** meets on Saturdays 10:00am to 11:30am at United Reform Church and has vacancies for new and experienced players. Contact Pat Harwood on 877047.



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

### **To all Group Leaders**

Please remember to let the Group's Secretary know if you have any vacancies in your group.

*Linda McAuley, Groups Secretary*  
Tel: 871890 or e-mail: [groups@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@formbyu3a.org.uk)

## 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, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Bartle Hall Celebration.** Tickets £30.00 include coach travel, meal and excellent entertainment. Celebrate over 50 coach tours by the Outings Group. Enjoy a brief visit to Barton Grange to see their splendid Christmas decorations before continuing on to Bartle Grange Hotel for an afternoon of fun, music and mirth. We begin with a two course lunch with tea/coffee. Our entertainer for the afternoon is Judith Hibbert, an extremely popular and versatile artiste who travels far and wide to entice you back to the beguiling Good Old Days of English comedy. Having performed in opera in America and numerous pantos in UK, her singing will have you begging for more. To enhance the event you may like to bring along a small gift which we can use in the free raffle. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.



**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, Palm House, Christmas Military Band Concert.** Tickets £10.00 each includes return coach journey, and reserved seats for the concert. Refreshments of tea, coffee, or mulled wine (**not included**) will be on sale. Depart Cross Green 12:30.

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Palm House, Carols by Candlelight, Liverpool Hospital Choirs.** Tickets £14.00 each includes return coach journey and reserved seats for concert, before returning late evening. Refreshments of tea, coffee, or mulled wine (**not included**) will be on sale.

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cabaret, Briar's Hall.** Tickets £22.00 each includes return coach, 3 course meal with coffee or tea and an afternoon of entertainment. Depart Cross Green 11:00am.

*Ann Blackman, Tel: 871127*

### Monthly Meetings

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

|                           |  |              |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| November 9 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>A History of Cartoons</b>   | Ian Barclay  |
| December 14 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Christmas Show Special: <i>N.B. this is being held at the United Reform Church, Church Rd</i></b> |              |
| <b>2017</b>               |  |              |
| January 11 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>On the Record</b><br><i>(The life of a journalist, part 2)</i>                                    | Angela Danby |

**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, November 10<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, 2016/17

|                 |                   |               |                             |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Chairman        | Glyn Pike         | 0151 929 2996 | chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk   |
| Vice-Chairman   | David Bosworth    | 0151 345 1347 | vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk  |
| Secretary       | Jack Ashworth     | 874847        | secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk  |
| Treasurer       | David Manning-Fox | 833124        | treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk  |
| Membership Sec. | Ann Gunstone      | 872879        | membership@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Group Secretary | Linda McAuley     | 871890        | groups@formbyu3a.org.uk     |
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|                 | Sara Beaumont     | 872733        | 2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
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|                 | Linda Howard      | 570141        | 4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
|                 | Rosemary Thomas   | 871376        | 5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
|                 | Valerie Tibbitts  | 577985        | 6thofficer@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](mailto:datamanager@formbyu3a.org.uk)** or tel: 873597, remembering to include your full name and address, or membership number.

If you need **information about your membership card, or subscriptions** please contact **[treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk)**

**The next edition** of the Newsletter is due to be sent by e-mail and be on the website early December. 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 17<sup>th</sup> November at the latest to:**

The Editor, Email: **[newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk)**

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