

## BBC Salford



After an easy journey by train to Salford, **Local History Group 6** arrived at Media City for a midday tour of BBC Studios. Each tour is different because of rehearsals, recordings etc. on the day and the BBC rents 4 buildings at Media City from Peel Developments. BBC Manchester started radio broadcasting from Manchester in 1922, opened their first TV studios outside London in Dickenson Road, before moving to Oxford Road

Studios in 1976. They relocated to Media City in 2011 and Sport, Children's, Learning, Future Media and Technology and Radio Five Live are all based there.

We walked across to Dock House, the base for radio broadcasting. DJ Brenda was in the hot seat, "driving the desk," with "Producer" Jeanette, whilst BBC's Mark Radcliffe sat the other side of the glass, in the larger studio, doing the real stuff. We then

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*Formby U3A Committee would like to remind contributors that it is their responsibility and not the Editor's to check their submitted articles for the grammar, spelling, punctuation etc. and that contributors' names should be given.*



moved on to the Studios, which the BBC uses and also rents to other broadcasters and amongst other things is used for "Let It Shine" and "Countdown." We were fortunate to be taken into the BBC Philharmonic Studio, a fascinating room with incredible acoustics and gizmos, as you would expect. Some members were elated to find that they could obtain entry to watch the orchestra rehearse.

We then crossed over to Quay House, well-known to most for its broadcasting of BBC



Breakfast, North West Tonight and the base for BBC Sport, including Match of the Day. Jean and Sadie became our hosts for "Breakfast," reading from the auto-cue and broadcasting to the adjacent group whilst Barbara was our "weather girl" doing a sterling job

ad-libbing without a script and giving an excellent forecast, based solely on the weather screen. We then moved up to the second floor, the studio proper, where the group met BBC presenter Roger Johnson who took time from his busy schedule to speak to the group about presenting the BBC's North West Tonight programme.

The group found the visit fascinating and, having thanked the organisers, took free time to look around the remainder of the area before independently making their way back to Formby by train.

## When The Going Gets Tough!



A select number of **Walking Group 6** set out for a walk from Clapham, up Clapdale and Trow Gill to Gaping Gill and onto Little Ingleborough. The remainder of the group, possibly anticipating the conditions on the day, took a wise decision to instead search abroad for the sun. Despite it being a sunny day, a significant amount of snow had fallen overnight on the fells and that, together with the gale force winds meant that when you put your foot down you had no idea where it would finish up. Hence, when we reached Little Ingleborough, we thought it best to abandon our intended 10 mile walk via Ingleborough itself and then down below Simon Fell towards Horton-in-Ribblesdale, onto the limestone pavement, Long Scar, Thwaite and back to Clapham and we had, instead to settle for a shorter 5½ mile walk back down to Newby and then return to our start. At least we can keep the original walk on file for another occasion! The group has some vacancies and if any U3A members would like to join us, we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Please contact Bill Farr on 870448, or e-mail [scottfarr@talktalk.net](mailto:scottfarr@talktalk.net) for more details.

*D Gee*

## Getting Involved In Research

The Third Age Trust has produced a guide "*Getting Involved in Research*" in response to the growing interest in research within the U3A movement. It provides some basic guidelines on developing research projects. If you would like a copy please contact me so that I can order copies for you from the National Office. In addition to the guide, a large number of projects are already in the TAT National Research Database and can be accessed at [www.u3aresearch.org.uk](http://www.u3aresearch.org.uk)

*Jack Ashworth, Secretary*

[www.formbyu3a.org.uk](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk)



## Group Leaders Afternoon Tea



I wish to thank everyone who helped arrange the 'Group Leaders Afternoon Tea.' A special thank you to the following Cathy and her staff who worked hard to produce a splendid selection of freshly prepared food. David Davies and his group who welcomed the guests with good selection of music. Tim Chrimes expertise with sound equipment. Pat McCracken and Gill Bargaen served tea and coffee throughout the afternoon. Judi Pike assisted preparing room. Frances Hoare and Nick Dickson, who helped make the arduous task of washing up, light hearted and fun everyone who helped clear the debris. Thank you to the leaders who attended. However, all Group Leaders are essential to the Formby U3A. Thank you everyone.



*Valerie Tibbitts*

## Keswick



Like Ann, Lakeland is my favourite place, and once again we had a wonderful day. The only downside was a lady fell at the Motorway Services and had to be taken to Lancaster Hospital. As we continued on our way to the Lakes, spring was really in the air, with many lambs, banks of daffodils in the villages and large clusters of gorse on the hillsides. We had a good

lunch at the Lodore Hotel and then motored to Keswick for a boat trip on Derwentwater. We then had some free time in the town. Coming home the sun suddenly came out and lit up the landscape in an amazing way, thus completing another of Ann's well run days. Many thanks to her for all her hard work arranging everything.

*Margaret Dalley, photos David Skelton*

### Welcome To April's New Members

John Allcutt

Margaret Lyons

Paula Mowat

Caroline Waller

Thomas Hayes

William Lyons

Lesley Orme

Sheila Kirk

Allan Mowat

Heather Salter

## Music and Theatre Group

When writing cheques please make payable to Formby U3A M&T Group (M&T stands for Music & Theatre). It would be a big help if you could also write your telephone number and the name of the event on the back of the cheque. As you know, events are open to all members of the U3A, but current membership is essential to address insurance issues. Dave Irving can be contacted directly, if necessary, 630192.

The coach will leave Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm for all visits.

Please see the April Newsletter for full details of **Thurs. 29<sup>th</sup> June**, Matthew Bourne's "**The Red Shoes**," Liverpool Empire; **Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> July**, "**Last Night of The Summer Pops**, Liverpool Philharmonic; **Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov**, "**War Horse**," Liverpool Empire.

*Eileen Jones*

## Group News

**All groups are only for current, paid up members.** If interested, please contact the Groups Secretary unless otherwise stated.

**Cycling for Softies** needs a few more names before starting this new group. This will be a lovely summer activity.

A new **Family History** group starts soon. If interested in joining, please contact the Groups Secretary.

**French Improvers 1** would like new members to join them at their weekly Tuesday morning meetings. Please contact Jean Wardlaw on 631102 or e-mail: [handjwardlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:handjwardlaw@hotmail.com)

**Golf Groups:** Beginner to experienced golfers can join U3A golfers.

**Guitar Group** goes from strength to strength, meeting once a fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon.

**Scottish Dancing** meets on Wednesday mornings every fortnight and would welcome new members. Contact Jim McMillan, 876094 or e-mail [jim@burnieboozle.co.uk](mailto:jim@burnieboozle.co.uk)

**Swimming Group** meets for the first time on Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May at 12:00 in Formby pool.

*Linda McAuley, Group Secretary*

## First Aid

Members may already be aware that St John Ambulance volunteers attend the monthly meetings, but what would happen at any other time to you, your family, or friends? A step by step guide exists that takes you through a sequence of questions and advises you what you need to do to help a person. If you have a smart phone or tablet and want further information, you can download the "app" "*St John Ambulance First Aid*" from your provider's playstore, appleshop etc. Alternately, if you would rather have a free pocket sized guide, these can be ordered on-line at:

[www.sja.org.uk/sja/first-aid-advice/get-a-free-first-aid-guide.aspx](http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/first-aid-advice/get-a-free-first-aid-guide.aspx)

## 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 May 12<sup>th</sup>, Trentham Gardens.** Designed by Lancelot Brown in 1759, the gardens extend over 725 acres and recently featured in Country File as 2015 BBC Garden of the Year. There is something for everyone including scenic gardens, lake, shopping village and cafes. Blue badge holders **may** qualify for a discount so please bring your Disability Blue badge with you on the day. Tickets £22.00 each include coach travel plus entrance to gardens and village. Depart Cross Green bus stop 8:30am.

**Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>, Portmeirion.** Tickets £26.75 each include coach travel and entrance to the village designed by Clough William-Ellis in the style of an Italian village. There are a number of cafes etc., or bring a picnic. Blue badge holders **may** qualify for a discount so please bring your Disability Blue badge with you on the day. Depart Cross Green 8:30am.

**Monday July 10<sup>th</sup>, Windermere Lake Cruise.** Tickets £45.50 include return travel, 2 course lunch with tea & coffee at the Lakeside Hotel, Newby Bridge, followed by a lake cruise from Newby Bridge to Ambleside, returning to Bowness and then Formby. Depart Cross Green 8:30am.

*Ann Blackman, Tel: 871127*

### Monthly Meetings

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

<b>May 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Growing Up with the Beatles</b>	Shelagh Johnston
<b>June 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fundraiser of the Year</b>	Ron Hutchinson has rubbed shoulders with the great and the good.
<b>July 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Life with Steeplejack Fred</b>	Sheila Dibnah
<b>August</b>	<b>No meeting</b>	

**Please remember to bring your current (2017 blue) membership card to all events, including group activities.**

**COFFEE MORNINGS are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, May 11<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.

### 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: 872862 , 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 mid 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 Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May at the latest** to the Editor, e-mail: [newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk)

### Formby U3A Committee, 2017/18

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\* year each Committee Member first took office