

Skipton



Author, Geraldine Hughes.

The heavy rain did not dampen our spirits as 30 **Amblers Group One** members boarded the coach at Cross Green for Skipton. The scenic route was still beautiful: lush green with no sign of Autumn leaves: many fields with huge flooded areas: cows and sheep grazing: dry stone walls and magnificent changing clouds and occasional glimpses of blue. We welcomed our lunch break at Oswaldtwistle Mill with time for a retail therapy browse: several of us clutching bargain bags as we set off for Haworth. We arrived in sunshine and time to visit the Church with it's memorial brass to mark

the spot where the Bronte Family are buried, apart from Anne who died in Scarborough and is buried there. The views across the moors were very impressive especially as the weather had improved and we reached our hotel in bright sun! Several of our group had stayed at the Rendezvous on previous U3A holidays organised by Jean. We were welcomed by the Senior Hotel Manager. The hotel stands beside the tow path of the Leeds Liverpool Canal, one mile from the centre of Skipton. The Dining Room overlooks this too with wonderful views across to moorland. The food was good with a wide choice of menu each night and the breakfast buffet's full range was sufficient to satisfy everyone. The staff were all

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very friendly.

Our Tuesday visit was to Saltaire, the amazing village built between 1851 and 1876 by its founder Sir Titus Salt, who made his fortune in the Bradford woollen textile industry. He developed the entire village on classical lines to house his workers. Each house had a water supply, gas lighting, an outside privy and a good living space. Higher paid workers had better houses with small front gardens. There were allotments and areas for recreation, Almshouses and a Hospital. The United Reformed Church is now a Grade 1 listed building. Sadly this was not open for us to look inside. The Mill now houses the work of David Hockney who was born in Bradford, and also a vast range of Art Works, Ceramics, Books and Artist materials, Business Offices and of course a Coffee shop on the top floor. After a coffee break, two of us in the lift had a few anxious moments finding the level to exit! We followed the Town Trail and walked the streets of the Mill workers with the majestic Mill always a landmark. Sir Titus Salt, a man ahead of his time in caring for his workers, as was Lord Leverhume with Port Sunlight and Cadbury at Bourneville. In the afternoon we drove through Otley, famous for Thomas Chippendale and his Georgian furniture, to Ilkley, when Jean valiantly led us in singing "On Ilkley Moor B'ah Tat"! Never mind the rain again. We explored the town and time to shop.

On Wednesday to Skipton on Market day. Not many Stalls "due to the rain" one Trader told me as he stood back under his dripping awning. The Markets Charter goes back to Medieval times when the Castle granted the holding of a "fair" to trade sheep. Plenty to explore, especially the newly developed Craven Court shopping Arcade, a narrow cobbled street like the Shambles in York, dating back to the 16th century theatre. Now a glass roof covers rows of shops and cafes with a wrought iron gallery. The Town Hall, with its Craft Fair, The Church and Castle and the many little side streets with references to trades, Sheep street, the importance of the Canal and its Basin gave us lots of walking. On to Grassington and its steeply cobbled Square with its surprising Museum. Housed in two original cottages dated 1728 it is astonishing how much history can be packed in: Farming: Mills: Mining. We also discovered a shop displaying clothes and materials from the early 1900's and memories of "We had that" or "my parents wore that".

Our final day was to Harrogate in dazzling sunshine, with the option to spend the time at Harlow Carr RHS gardens and be picked up later. So much to choose in the lovely Spa Town. Several enjoyed a stroll through the Valley Gardens with its glorious trees, colourful flower beds and water features and a coffee house. The Royal Pump Room opposite the gates was well worth a visit. Then a very steep climb up Montpellier Hill, hoping for lunch in the famous Betty's to find the Queue way out of the door! No chance. But we did find a delightful Olde Worlde Tea Room in the Antiques quarter of Montpellier. Back to pick up the group at Harlow Carr. they had enjoyed the gardens in sunshine. back via Knaresborough and its Market Square with "Ye Olde" Chemist shop dating back to 1720 and finally closing as a Chemist in 1997. A very scenic route back to Skipton when the temperature dropped from 17 C down to 8 C with lashing rain and aquaplaning through deep puddles as we came over the highest moors. We reached the hotel in sunshine and those who had fallen

asleep missed all the fun!.

And so we headed for home on Friday with a coffee stop at Huntley Farm Shop. when Jean nobly got out to lead Paul all round the Outlet Buildings to find a suitable parking space. A voice from the front said Jean was doing a sponsored walk as she carefully picked her way round huge puddles!

As a group, we all say thank you to Jean for another carefully planned and interesting holiday. So many people have told me how lucky we are and such good company too. Thank you too Jean's helpers. Paul our Driver said how much he had enjoyed being with us and for making him so welcome. What more can I say but thank you again Jean.

U3A Music Groups

Author, Margaret Hesketh.

The music groups of the U3A give a great deal of pleasure to so many people in Formby when they entertain them. They always seem to enjoy performing, which adds to the pleasure for the audience. Time is very precious and they are all so very generous in giving their time for our enjoyment. Many, many thanks to all of you and please don't stop performing.

Tuesday Group Golf Competition

Author, John Adamson.



During the summer months the U3A Golf Sections organise 7 golf competitions each year. The competitions are held at various golf clubs within Merseyside and Cheshire. The Tuesday Golf Group organised a Stableford competition at Frodsham Golf Club, in Cheshire. This is a lovely course situated on the hills above the village of Frodsham. There are wonderful views from the course overlooking the Mersey Basin and on towards Liverpool. It was a perfect

day for golf, and was enjoyed by all.

After the game there was time for a drink in the sunshine, followed by and a very tasty meal in the club's restaurant prior to the presentation of the prizes.

Prize Winners:

Stableford competition: Winner Men, Pete Connor, (2nd was Keith Ayles and 3rd was Gordon Cowen).

Stableford competition Winner: Ladies, Ruth Adamson (2nd was Chris Hanson and 3rd was Bruni Jones).

Longest Drive Men, Mike Heverin

Longest Drive Ladies, Linda McAuley

Nearest the Pin Men, Mike Brady

Nearest the Pin Ladies, Sandra Cowen

The Men's and Ladies winners of the Tuesday Group Stableford Competitions will also receive a trophy at the golf presentation evening in October.

If anyone would like to join one of the U3A Golf Groups, and there are vacancies in the Tuesday and Wednesday Groups, please contact: Beryl Perrin, or John Adamson, or enquire through the U3A Group Secretary, Linda McAuley, contact 871890.

Llandudno



Author, Gwyn Jones.

Walking Group 4 again spent our 3 night break at the Merrion Hotel in Llandudno. This hotel comes highly recommended for their friendly staff and very good food. For the first of our walks we took the bus to Llandrillo-yn-Rhos. From there we climbed to the summit of Bryn Euryn before descending and making our way back to Llandudno via The Queens Head at Glanwydden. The weather was not very kind on the second day. We took the bus to Conwy where we walked in the foothills between Conwy mountain and the Conwy river. Once again we give our thanks to Bill and Kay Farr who organised a very enjoyable break.

Moel Famau



Author, Marcia Thompson.

The photograph shows **U3A Fellwalkers** October outing on top of Moel Famau. Some decided to stay at the bottom of the Jubilee Tower because of strong winds. Frances Taylor and I led the walk from Loggerheads, along the river and up to the summit via Brithdir Mawr. Then a ridge walk to Moel Dywyll before descending into the valley and to Pentre where we crossed a bridge back on to the river path for the return to Loggerheads. We were blessed with fine weather and good views. This walk was a last minute decision because the Lake District forecast was dire – so the Claife Heights route we had planned will have to wait for another day.

Announcements

Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary.

- 1) Committee is pleased to report that Frances Taylor, already a Committee member, has agreed to stand as Vice Chair and has been formally co-opted in this capacity.
- 2) The Liverpool Mathematical Society, based at the University, is seeking to establish links with local U3As in order to encourage "an across the generations appreciation of the role of maths in life". Membership is available at a reduced annual subscription rate and the benefits include free entry to all public events. Further information is available on www.livmathsoc.org.uk also on www.formbyu3a.org.uk
- 3) North West Region U3A have organised a Music Makers event in the Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool on 11th December. There is a full programme for the day, including workshops led by U3A members for Recorders (improvers), Ukulele (improvers), Singing (no experience necessary) and Music Appreciation. Further information is available on www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west or from Gill Russell on 0151 633 2796.

4) The Third Age Trust (HQ) produces a U3A Newsletter and have asked that members be encouraged to sign up to receive it directly. This can be accessed at www.u3a.org.uk/email

5) There are still a few 2018 U3A diaries available. These cost £2.50 each and can be purchased at the Wednesday Speaker Meeting and the Thursday Coffee Morning.

Paradise Mills

Author, Wilma Slowe.



Paradise Mill demonstrates the early 20th century, when Macclesfield possessed the only working Jacquard silk hand looms in the country. **Local History Group 6** members drove to the mill which continued working until 1981, when the firm went into liquidation. Work subsequently began to restore the machinery to working order with the idea of opening a working museum where silk is again woven on the old handlooms. The Grade II listed building now contains 26 restored Jacquard looms, along with designers' and managers' offices and our guides demonstrated various pieces of mill machinery, including the Jacquard loom, as well as telling us much about the industry and the people who worked in it.

The adjacent Silk Museum is housed in the original School of Art. The School was founded with the original aim of educating practical designers for the manufacture of silk, but it later went on to offer a more general art education and gained a reputation for producing high quality work. Today the museum examines the properties of silk, how it is woven, printed and coloured and introduces visitors to some of the well-known Macclesfield silk manufacturers and their looms, along with silk escape maps and parachutes which helped to win World War II.



Silk weaving was introduced into



Macclesfield when Huguenot weavers were brought into the area. Hand silk weaving prospered when Britain was at war with France at the end of the 18th Century. The power-driven looms were perfected in the 1830s and were incorporated into existing buildings, but were only suitable for coarse broad cloths. Hand looms continued to be used for the finest silks and the complex Jacquard work. By 1850 Macclesfield had become known as 'the silk town' and local firms exhibited calcees, bandanna handkerchiefs, velvets, satins ribbons and shawls at the Great Exhibition. The prominent silk families were also prominent in civic and religious life and were keen non-conformists, building chapels for their workers and paying for the education of the poor.



Macclesfield Sunday School was founded and the large building that now housing the Heritage Centre formally taught 2,500 children each year on their one-day off from work. The technical skills that an apprentice required were provided by a Technical School.

After an excellent and informative visit the group adjourned to a nearby eating establishment.



Formby's U3A Music Groups
have kindly agreed to entertain you in:

Formby U3A Christmas 2017 Extravaganza

at

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

Wednesday 13th December 2017.

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.*

Street parking is on Church Road.

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

There is limited seating for 144 U3A members.

Tatton Festival, Outings group



Pendle Witches

Author, Helen Grimes.



The **Outings Group** recently enjoyed a very informative morning thanks to our excellent guide Simon. We drove through the beautiful Lancashire countryside passing many quaint little villages on the way. We heard about the many trials for witchcraft in the 1600's when 7 poor souls were duly executed for this crime! We heard that Dick Turpin was put on

trial for highway robbery at nearby Hodder Bridge. There were many ghostly tales about former locals who come back to haunt their old homes. The atmosphere was added to by an unusually red sun which apparently was caused by hurricane Ophelia. We passed former Wings and Moody Blues singer Denny Laine's mansion with fantastic gardens. Penelope Keith also lives in the area. It was then time for a fish and chips lunch at Benny's Restaurant in Boundary Mill, after which we then had about 3 hours free time for shopping! Back on the coach at 5pm and home in Formby by 6.20pm. A very enjoyable and varied day out was had by all.



Welcome To October's New Members

Jean Haseldine
Geoffrey Welch

Susan Leech
David Woodfine

Patricia Sutcliffe
William Wright

AN EVENING OF FOLK MUSIC

WITH

THE U3A COUNTRY FOLK & GUESTS

AT

THE GILD HALL, FORMBY



ON



WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER 2017

Bar open at 7.00 pm

Tickets: £6 / person (including light supper)

Tickets obtainable from Sue Sanderson.

Tel: 01704 834497

And members of the U3A Country Folk Group

Guest Performers:

- ***The Gild Country Folk***
- ***The Shanty Kings***
- ***The Folk Routes***
- ***Brian Knight***

Proceeds to Cancer Research UK, & U3A Country Folk for Audio Equipment

Group News

Author, Linda McAuley, Group Secretary.

You should show your blue 2017 membership cards when you attend group meetings. All groups are only for current, paid up members. If interested, please contact the Groups Secretary unless otherwise stated.

There are vacancies in the following groups

Book Club 1: We now have vacancies in this group. We meet in members' homes (in rotation) on the first Thursday of each month 10:30 to 12:30. The books are selected by each member and it is a very informal friendly meeting with tea/coffee and biscuits provided by the host. Contact Anne Sixsmith on 875742 or Phyl Frankland on 831974.

Bridge: Would anyone be interested in teaching Bridge at either or both beginner and intermediate level.

Cookery: Are you interested in food? Then this is the group for you. We swap tips and suggestions and each meeting we pick a certain food to talk about. It is not a cooking group. Contact Mary Bale on 878368 or Carol Robinson on 879675.



Guitar Group: The group meets once a fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon, learning a mixture of skills.

Mahjong: There is 1 vacancy in the Mahjong group which meet weekly on a Tuesday afternoon. Beginners welcome. Contact Dot Holmes on 834799 or dotholmes105@gmail.com

Scrabble Group: We would like to start a new Scrabble group, preferably in the afternoon. Anyone interested contact the Groups Secretary.

Sight & Hearing Group: This new group for those with full or partial visual and/or hearing impairment is to exchange experiences and support one another.

Sunday Lunch 1: We meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month in a local restaurant. Contact Janet Kemp on 876745.

Sunday Lunch 2: We meet on the 4th Sunday of the month. Contact Margaret Hesketh on 833176.

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

The Harry Whitehouse Players

Present two more short plays:



In the Mood

by Frank Gibbons

and

All by Myself

by Robert Scott



Both plays are by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts



Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th and

Saturday 25th November 2017



At 7:45pm

In the Fisher Hall, Formby United Reformed Church,
111, Church Road, Formby, L37 3ND

Tickets £5 including refreshments from Sheila – 01704 879998

Music and Theatre Events

Author, Eileen Jones.

Music & Theatre Events are open to all members of Formby U3A. We have chosen what we hope will be an exciting selection of events for you to brighten the long Autumn and Winter evenings. Please pay for tickets when the initial booking is made; cheques should be made payable to Formby U3A M&T Group and please write the event name and your telephone number on the back. If you are unable to attend the event, could you notify us as soon as possible. Dave Irving can be contacted directly, if necessary tel: 630192. ***The coach will leave The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.***

Thurs. 23rd Nov. "War Horse," Liverpool Empire. *This is now sold out.*

Thurs. 7th Dec. "Crazy for You," Liverpool Empire. *This is now sold out.*

Thurs 18th Jan. "Jersey Boys," Liverpool Empire. Combining evocative music and true life drama. Enjoy the story of four boys who succeeded against all the odds to write such memorable songs as, Sherry, Bye Bye Baby, Girls Don't Cry, Can't Take My Eyes Off You to become superstars, selling millions of records world wide. Tickets centre rear stalls £51, including transport.

Tues. 27th Feb. "Tango Moderno," Liverpool Empire. They're back! Dance champions, Flavia Cacace and Vincent Simone, one of the most successful Latin American, Ballroom and Argentine Tango performers and choreographers present their, show for your enjoyment. Tickets centre rear stalls £43, including transport.

Outings Group

Author, Ann Blackman, Phone 871127.

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 reserved 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, November 17th, Chatsworth Christmas Event. Tickets £33.00 include return coach, entrance to Chatsworth House and grounds. The House will be decorated for the Christmas theme 'What the Dickens'. depicting Charles Dickens stories. A Christmas Market will be open during our visit. Refreshments can be purchased but are **NOT included** in the price. Depart Cross Green 9am

Sunday, December 10th, Palm House Military Band concert. Tickets £10 each include return coach journey, reserved seats for concert, refreshments including tea/coffee, or mulled wine can be purchased (not included). Depart Cross Green at 12:00 midday.

Friday, December 15th, Outings Christmas Party, Briars Hall. Tickets £27 include coach, two course Christmas meal, live entertainment with Tony Ravel who was so popular with you all at our last visit to Briars Hall. Depart Cross Green 11am

Tuesday, January 23rd, Liverpool Beatles Tour. Tickets £22.00 include morning coffee at the Adelphi Hotel, guided coach tour of Beatles attractions, three course lunch with tea/coffee at the Adelphi Hotel. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.

Formby U3A Committee, 2017/18

Chairman	Glyn Pike (2016)	0151 929 2996	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
Vice-Chair	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk
	(co-opted)		
Secretary	Jack Ashworth (2016)	874847	secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	David Manning-Fox (2014)	833124	treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec.	Ann Gunstone (2016)	872879	membership@formbyu3a.org.uk
Group Secretary	Linda McAuley (2016)	871890	groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
Officers	Susan Birchall (2015)	201240	1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
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	Rosemary Thomas (2015)	871376	5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Valerie Tibbitts (2016)*	577985	6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

* year each Committee Member first took office

Monthly Meetings

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

November 8th Fire Service, Danny Murphy, Merseyside Fire Service Museum/ Heritage & Education Centre. The talk will illustrate the pathway to the fire and rescue service over the years, the development of machines and equipment.

December 13th Christmas Show, at the URC Church Rd, Music from U3A Groups

January 10th Barrow to Baghdad & Back, Philip Caine

February 14th Yellow Gardening Book, Geoff & Margaret Fletcher

March 14th AGM

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, November 9th 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

An audio version of the Newsletter is available for members who are visually less able and is distributed through the post. If you are aware of any Formby U3A member who would prefer to receive an audio version of the Newsletter, please let a member of the Committee have their details.

If you have changed your address, telephone number, or e-mail address, please inform datamanager@formbyu3a.org.uk or tel: 872862. Please remember to include your full name and address, or membership number.

To ask about your 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 early November. Paper copies can be collected at the monthly meeting & coffee morning.

Contributions are always welcomed. 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. **The deadline for receiving articles is the penultimate Thursday of each month; midday Thursday, 23rd November at the latest** to the Editor, e-mail: newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk