

## Mr Hardman



**Author, Rodney Street.**

Mr Hardman's Studio, is a Liverpool city centre Georgian terraced house. **Local History Group 6** visited this National Trust property where photographer Edward Chambré Hardman and his gifted wife Margaret lived and worked. Unusually for a National Trust property, almost everything in this house was owned and used by the occupants as the couple, who had no children, were hoarders and never threw anything away, so that much of the house looks like it did when they were both alive, complete with unopened food rations and period clothing. Hardman was a talented

landscape photographer by vocation, although his business was largely dependent on portraiture, with both relying on black and white images. Portraits were hand tinted, with colours recalled from clips of hair and smears of lipstick taken at the time images were captured.

What under normal arrangements would have been the front lounge became the most

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*Your Committee would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members.*

impressive room intended to “wow” potential clients; the rear room became the clients’ changing room and the main first floor bedroom was his fully equipped studio. Hardman worked in the days when being photographed was an occasion and his photographs were developed and processed in a red lit back bedroom, using chemical concoctions still in their bottles, before they were “photoshopped” to remove clients’ blemishes to “bring out the best.”

Whilst stationed in India he met Captain Burrell and on their discharge, the pair established a business in Bold Street which, in the 1920s, was part of Liverpool's fashionable centre. Burrell was the silent partner, but had excellent contacts in the Liverpool business community. Even so, setting up the business was difficult and Hardman resorted to selling and repairing wirelasses as a side-line and many old radio parts remained in the property, “just in case.” Hardman won a contract to provide portraits and production shots of actors, including Margot Fonteyn, Ivor Novello, Michael Redgrave, Patricia Routledge, Robert Donat and Hugh Paddick all of which are displayed. The couple worked long hours in the studio, which partly explains their cluttered, sparse living quarters, yet they still found time for weekend expeditions when they strapped camera equipment onto their bicycles, or car and rode out into the countryside to shoot landscapes. Liverpool and the landscapes of the surrounding countryside were his favourite with his photograph of *The Birth of the Ark Royal*, becoming one of the most reproduced photographs.

Following his wife’s death, Hardman’s health declined. He became a recluse and worked less. He came to the attention of Liverpool's Social Services Department who were on the point of clearing the house when visitor Peter Hagerty, Director of Liverpool's Open Eye Gallery, intervened. Hagerty reported that people from Social Services were tidying up, had gowns on and were filling bin bags with rubbish. When he started to look in the bags, Hagerty saw photographs, negatives and magazines and was instantly aware that a historical record was about to be thrown away. Fortunately Hardman accepted Hagerty’s suggestion to set up a trust to conserve his work, the trust later bequeathing his estate to the National Trust which because of room sizes operates guided tours of 6 people per time.

*Hardman “photo-shopped” the gable end wall of the house in the foreground from white to black so that the Ark Royal was more prominent!*

## Annual General Meeting

**Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary.**

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held on Wednesday, 14th March 2018 in Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 2.00 pm.

All members of the Committee (the Trustees) are required to stand down at the AGM. However, the current Chairman, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Groups Secretary, plus one Committee member, are making themselves available for re-election, but these positions can be contested. Many others have served the maximum time permitted under the terms of the Formby U3A constitution and at present, there are no nominations for Secretary and five places for Committee members - new names would be most welcome.

A Nomination Form for any of the positions on Committee is printed on page 4 of this Newsletter or copies can be obtained from the Secretary at the Wednesday and Thursday meetings. Completed forms should be returned to the Secretary by 31st January 2018.

It would be appreciated if any Motions, proposed and seconded, for consideration by the AGM could also be returned to the Secretary by 31st January 2018.

## Monthly Speakers For 2018

Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Barrow to Baghdad & Back. Philip Caine worked as a chef and manager in the hotel industry, moved to North Sea oil rigs, before spending time in Kazakhstan, Russia and ended his career abroad in Baghdad, working for the American Military. He talks about his experiences with plenty of interest and humour.
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Yellow Gardening Book, Geoff & Margaret Fletcher
Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>	AGM followed by speaker "Tugboat Cathy" who will give a history of her tugboat and life at The Dock.
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sing Me Mersey, a choir/concert with some audience participation
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	What's behind the green Fence? Neil Blair & Wing Cmdr Hooton
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	"The Lettuce Line" story behind our local railway line, Keith Hick
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	History of the Atkinson Gallery, Southport , Stephen Whittle
	August - NO TALK
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bee Keeping, John Turner
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	The Magical Musical Tour, Chris Devereux
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	The Secret Life of a Tesco till receipt , Janice Atfield
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concert

**FORMBY U3A**  
**Nomination Form for the**  
**2018/19 Formby U3A Committee**

Nominee: .....

For the office of: .....

Proposed by: .....

Signature of proposer: .....

Seconded by: .....

Signature of seconder: .....

I agree to be nominated for the above office.

Signature of nominee: .....

**Nomination Forms should be returned to:**

Jack Ashworth, Secretary Formby U3A, 6 Trap Hill, Formby L37 2LU, e-mail:  
 secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk

**by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, at the latest.**

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.

**Polite Request**

***Author, Glyn Pike, Chairman U3A***

Whilst the majority of Formby U3A members are polite and a pleasure to deal with there is, as in all walks of life, a small number of people who can spoil things. Your Data, Website Manager, Newsletter Editor, and Group Leaders are all unpaid volunteers, as are all Committee Members. There has been a recent spate of abrupt and rude messages sent to some of these people by members. If Formby U3A members wish to retain these volunteers and enjoy all that they do on members' behalf, it would be much appreciated if **ALL members** could please remember to be civil and polite when sending them e-mails and messages.

## Liverpool University Colleges



### ***Authors, Ron & Barbara Marsh.***

**Local History Group 7** enjoyed a tour, led by Ann Marshall who is an excellent Blue Badge guide, around the Liverpool University colleges. The tour started with refreshments in the Waterhouse cafe which is inside the historical Victoria Building at the top of Brownlow Hill. This was followed by an introductory chat about the history of the building and the University buildings.

We then visited the many old red brick buildings of the University within the complex including the old infirmary. This was followed by a stroll around the newer buildings and a visit to Liverpool Heroes Memorial in Abercrombie Square. This commemorates Captain Noel Chavasse VC and Bar MC, the only man to be twice awarded the military's highest award for valour, the Victoria Cross, in the First World War and fifteen other Liverpool-born Victoria Cross recipients. The tour ended in Abercrombie Square, before we all returned to the Waterhouse Cafe for lunch.

Everyone enjoyed a very interesting and informative tour of the area around the University which continues to be a great asset to the City of Liverpool.

## Charity Carol Concert

Rotary Club of Formby is gearing up for its popular Carol Concert on Friday 15 December, at St Luke's Church Formby at 7:30. The excellent Aughton Male Voice Choir will be leading the singing of traditional Carols and festive songs. Tickets £5 include a mince pie and mulled wine during the interval. All monies raised will go to the Salvation Army who do sterling work with the elderly, disadvantaged families and homeless during the festive season. They ensure those who need it get a hot meal, have some company or ensure a child gets a small present during the Christmas period. Entry is by ticket only which can be obtained from Peter Connor, telephone 382349.

## **It's Nearly Time To Renew Your U3A Membership** **(£9 per member)**

Annual subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. In order to ensure that the insurance cover provided by our affiliation to the Third Age Trust is not compromised, all membership subscriptions should be paid by 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**How to renew your membership:**

### **Standing Orders**

If you have already set up a Standing Order to be paid during February, it would be helpful if you would alter it to January. If your current Standing Order is payable after the end of February, please arrange for it to be paid in January. If you wish to set up a new Standing Order, please complete the Form printed in this Newsletter and send it to your own bank for processing **or** use the details to set up a Standing Order using on-line banking. Membership Cards will be posted to those paying by Standing Order.

### **Cheques:**

**We ask that all other renewals should be by cheque only**, as there is too much potential for error in handling cash. Please make your cheque payable to **Formby U3A** and write your membership number (as on your current membership card) on the back. (If you do not know your membership number, please write your name and address instead).

**Where? When?** Payment can be made at the Wednesday afternoon meetings in Holy Trinity Parish Hall (10<sup>th</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup> February); or at the Thursday coffee mornings in Holy Trinity Workshop (11<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February).

**By Post** Cheques may be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer: David Manning-Fox, 53d Paradise Lane, Formby, L37 7DU. Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope to receive your Membership Card.

### **Collecting your 2018 U3A card**

**If you have a Standing Order in place**, your new 2018 Membership Card will be posted out once your subscription has been received from your bank.

**If you pay by cheque at the Monthly Meeting or Coffee Morning**, you can collect your Card at the same time.

**If you pay by post**, your 2018 card will be available for collection at the Monthly Meeting or Coffee Morning following receipt of your payment, unless you included a stamped addressed envelope with your payment.

**Please remember that from January onwards, you will need your 2018 Membership Card at all events, including group activities.**

## Standing Order Mandate

**Please ask a Committee Member if you require  
a Standing Order Mandate**

### Welcome To November's New Members

Patricia Bird

Richard Bird

John Burns

Robert Dover

Fred Essam

Wendy Essam

Josie Evans

Noreen Evans

Howard Flatley

Rachel Jones

Pat McCulloch

Susan Mullen

## Tatton Harvest Event

**Author, Glen Alison.**

The **Outings Group** was picked up by a Timewells coach for the first time; the journey took just over an hour. On arrival, there was plenty of time to visit the extensive gardens, cafés/restaurant, view historic vehicles including a beautiful horse-drawn carriage in a small museum that was used by royalty, and time to browse shops including one that sold produce grown in the walled garden. The Mansion was interesting as it had been kept as furnished by the last owner. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time to visit the house and gain information from the National Trust volunteer guides due to an error that Tatton Park had made regarding the proximity of Home Farm and the Harvest Festival service that was commencing at 1.30 pm when the house only opened at 1pm.

The coach took us to the farm where there was an opportunity to participate in the Harvest Festival service. It was very welcoming and a relaxed service in which there was a blessing for all the farm animals and any other pets that people had brought. We sat on hay bales, visiting children were given hens and chicks to hold or farm produce including honey, potatoes and jugs of milk. At appropriate times, the vicar encouraged the children to bring forward these items that we were giving thanks for. Thanks were also given for the births of the farm animals including a two months old foal and a young, rare-breed kid goat which amused the visitors with its antics including eating some vegetables from the large display and ran around with some flowers hanging from its mouth from the floral display! Visitors were handed a service sheet to contribute in the service and join in singing traditional Harvest Festival hymns, accompanied by a local brass band.

Afterwards, there were opportunities to visit the farm animals including a rare-breed sow with her eleven piglets! Other activities included: wood-turners making and selling their hand-made items, three ladies demonstrating how to spin wool, corn-dolly making, a talk from the farmer on animal welfare, a display with an explanation of historical farming methods, a large working steam engine to view and a playbarn where there was a vending machine for a hot drink.

Following a very varied and interesting day, we left Tatton Hall Park at 4pm and arrived in Formby an hour later. Despite some difficulties made by staff at Tatton, these were dealt with well by Ann, and we would like to thank her for yet another enjoyable outing.

**Editor's note:** *Although Glen first e-mailed this article before the deadline for the October Newsletter, one of the e-mail providers failed to send/deliver it. David Skelton's photographs, which accompany this Outing Group report were published in last month's Newsletter. No e-mail providers guarantee 100% delivery rate and if 7 days after submitting an article you have not received an acknowledgement one of the e-mail system failed, so please try again.*



## Martin Mere

*Photograph, Kit Robinson.*

The **Bird Watching** Group recently witnessed this fantastic murmuration during their visit to Martin Mere.

## CHET Christmas Events 2017

### Christmas Concert Sefton Ladies Choir

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm  
Ticket £7.50 - with mulled wine and mince pies



#### CHET

Crosby Hall Educational Trust  
Back Lane, Little Crosby, Liverpool, L23 4UA  
Tel: 0151 924 9099  
Email: [office@chetcentre.org.uk](mailto:office@chetcentre.org.uk)  
[www.chetcentre.org.uk](http://www.chetcentre.org.uk)

## 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

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

**Bridge:** There are many good bridge players out there who could teach bridge at beginner and intermediate level. Could a few of you get together to discuss running a short course to get new members playing and also a refresher course for ones that have forgotten!

**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.

**Card Making:** We would like to start a new card making group. Anyone interested, contact the Groups' Secretary.

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

**Mahjong:** If you can play rummy then you can play this interesting game of mahjong. There is a vacancy in the group which meets weekly on a Tuesday afternoon. Beginners welcome. Contact Dot Holmes on 834799 or e-mail 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 meet monthly to exchange experiences and to support each other. Contact Derek Thomas on 872671 or e-mail dlt391@sky.com

## Mersey Gateway

### The new bridge - Toll payments.

More than 2,000 drivers were each issued with a £20 penalty notice in the first week after the opening of the Mersey Gateway; 50,000 drivers had been charged a total of £1m in the first month. To ensure that any U3A members, or groups which use this crossing avoid a fine the standard crossing fee is £2.00 per one-way car journey.

**Blue Badge holders** can make unlimited crossings at no extra charge, **once they have successfully registered their vehicle** for the Blue Badge crossing scheme **and paid a registration fee**. You can register a vehicle driven by a family member, or friend as your designated "Blue Badge" vehicle, but can only register one vehicle per Blue Badge holder and, unless the Blue Badge holder is in the vehicle, the driver will have to pay the toll.

It is not possible to pay on the bridge. There are several ways to pay:  
go on-line to Merseyflow at: [www.merseyflow.co.uk](http://www.merseyflow.co.uk) (24hrs a day, 7 days a week),  
**or**

by phone on 01928 878 878 (available 8am-8pm Monday-Friday and 9am-6pm

● Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays), **or**

at any one of the Payzone outlets across the UK. There are 4 outlets in Formby

● (Formby Local, *Southport Rd*; Holly's Minimart, *Redgate*; Paper Stop, *Church Rd*; Village News, *The Cloisters*) plus others in Crosby and Southport.

● You will need to give your vehicle registration details when you pay.

## The Bluecoat

**Author, Jean Hatch.**

**Local History Group10** visited the Bluecoat in Liverpool where Samantha, a former pupil of Bluecoat's, gave us a conducted tour of this, Liverpool's oldest building dating from the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Celebrating its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, Bluecoat has a fascinating history as a charity school for nearly 200 years but subsequently became the UK's first arts centre.

"The school for orphaned children was founded in 1708 by Rector of Liverpool, Reverend Robert Styth, and master mariner Bryan Blundell. They built a modest building belonging to St. Peter's Church opposite the present Bluecoat (originally spelt as two words, after the school moved out the building is referred to as 'Bluecoat'). The coats worn by pupils were blue, denoting charity. Blundell, the school's principal benefactor raised funds for a larger building where children would live and learn to "read, write and cast accounts". A brick kiln was set up on the site in 1715, a foundation stone laid in 1716 and 2 years later the first 50 boarders moved in, two thirds of their time being taken up in tasks to generate income for the school, a third in

lessons. In 1722 almshouses were erected to the rear of the building and construction was completed in 1725 at a cost of just under £2,300.



The architect of the building has caused much speculation. Recent research has confirmed that Liverpool's dock engineer Thomas Steers, together with mason Edward Litherland, were responsible for constructing the building. They also worked together on other schemes in Liverpool, notably the Old Dock nearby, completed just before the Blue Coat in 1715. This connection to the world's first commercial wet dock, which would set the port on its course as a global trading power over the next two centuries, is significant. It positions Bluecoat as central to the birth of modern Liverpool. Many pupils were apprenticed to local employers involved in shipping, some becoming mates or masters of ships, many emigrating to the colonies. Funds to maintain the school came largely from merchants profiting from maritime trade. Many trustees and subscribers were engaged in the transatlantic slave trade and related industries like sugar, tobacco and cotton, in which Liverpool was the most prominent British port by the mid-eighteenth century. These merchants included Blundell's sons. It was an age of extraordinary contrasts when brutality and philanthropy often went hand in hand. In the next century old boy of the school, Richard Ansdell – a Royal Academician – painted the *Hunted Slaves* (1861) which now hangs in Liverpool's Slavery Museum. Several artists since the 1980's have interrogated the building's school history and its connections to mercantile trade including slavery.

A fine example of Queen Anne architecture (though actually built during George 1's reign), Bluecoat's distinctive features include Liverpool's oldest surviving liver birds, over the gate and doorways in the cobbled front courtyard. Also of note are a one-handed clock, cherubs' heads over the windows and oval windows above these.

Graffiti from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, carved into cornerstones in a secluded part of the courtyard, is a reminder of the building's school days. The cupola on the roof once supported a weathervane of a ship, symbolising the importance of maritime trade to the building. This features in a 1718 engraving, produced to raise money for the school, which includes other architectural details that have since disappeared: statues on the pediment denoting faith, hope and charity, balustrades and flambeaux, and checkerboard paving covering the courtyard, though it is doubtful this was ever realised. Apart from these differences, the building's front façade is little changed.

By the time of Blundell's death in 1756 the school housed 70 boys and 30 girls. His sons continued their father's work, further expanding the building to accommodate 200 pupils, with a new workroom, sick room, chapel and refectory (the present foyer). During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the school continued to grow with support from local people, including former pupils who had gone on to become wealthy. There were many alterations to the building during this period, the school expanding up School Lane and along Hanover Street.

Eminent Liverpool historian, abolitionist and writer William Roscoe's 1770 poem 'Mount Pleasant' which refers to Bluecoat, suggests a more liberal approach to the children's education had been adopted by this point, however in 1800 conditions at the school were still harsh. That year, perhaps in protest, 107 of the 320 pupils played truant after attending the Liverpool Fair, some not returning for days. As a consequence, they were not punished, but given concessions instead, including longer playtimes.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century education reformer Dr. Andrew Bell's Madras system of education was adopted, with abler pupils passing on their learning to other students. The St. Georges Day Parade, when the school band led a procession through the front gates observed by the Mayor, members of the Corporation and school trustees, became a well-known local event. In 1906 the school finally outgrew its premises and moved to a new building in Church Road Wavertree, where it remains today.

It seems strange that the future of a building as beautiful as Bluecoat could have been in question. However for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was never entirely free from the threat of destruction or financial insecurity. Its story over this period is one of struggle for survival. At the same time the arts flourished, with Bluecoat becoming a pioneering creative hub, whose impact was felt by the region's artists and spread far beyond the building.

In 1907 a group of artists, the Sandon Studios Society – disaffected former students who had broken away from the University of Liverpool's School of Applied Art and Design – rented accommodation for art classes and studios in the empty school building. This independent art school marked the beginning of an artistic community at Bluecoat that continues today."

The Group thoroughly enjoyed this visit, the above extract from Bluecoat's own literature is a mere fraction of what we saw and learned and the venue comes highly recommended.

**Crosby Capriol Singers**  
present their 2017 Christmas Concert

# An Afternoon of Christmas Cheer

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
at 2 p.m.

St. Luke's Church, Crosby  
Liverpool Road, L23 5SE



Conductor **Richard Pomfret**

Accompanist **Julie Oade**

**Tickets £9 (£8 concessions, accompanied under 19s free)**

available from

Pritchard's Bookshop (L23 2SE), Harmonics Music (L22 4QD) and on the door

Registered Charity No. 503870

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**A limited number of tickets remain  
£2.00 each**

These will be on sale in Holy Trinity Workshop between 11:00 & 12:00  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December.



## Chatsworth At Christmas



*Author, Jean Campbell, photos David Skelton.*

It was a fine dry, morning as the **Outings Group** set forth on our outing to Chatsworth House to see the Christmas decorations and Christmas market. After a comfortable and chatty journey we arrived at our destination and after listening to a “meeter and greeter” who gave us some information and left out a great deal, more we were let loose. Like school children we rushed eagerly along the path but most of us were heading to the toilet block after our coach ride.

As we entered the market we were treated to an unexpected surprise, our very own fly-by, as two aeroplanes flew so low the pilots could see the whites of our very surprised eyes! What a welcome, we felt like royalty. The market was very Christmassy with fir trees scattered around and merrily lit stalls exhibiting a good choice of novelty and speciality goods with interesting names like, Fun Fairies and Hot Pots. There were a good choice of places to eat, both indoors and outside. Some of us had tasty looking fish and chips others had brought their own lunch and contented themselves with a mulled wine or two to add a bit of Christmas cheer.



We all assembled at the entrance of Chatsworth House at our appointed time and began our tour. The theme this year is Dickens and his well read books. There many ingenious items made from books such as a huge archway and smaller things like stars and houses that were lit from inside . There were also scenes from Oliver, Little Dorrit and Great expectations with a scary scene of Scrooge



sitting up-right in his bed in terror after his visit from Marley's ghost amongst others.

As we left the house we made our way to the coach for our homeward journey: tired aching feet and empty pockets .

Ann had previously booked a table at the Cross House for those of us who wanted to have a meal there when we arrived back in Formby. It was a great way to round off the day.

## Music and Theatre Events

*Author, Eileen Jones.*

**Music & Theatre Events are open to all members of Formby U3A.** 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. ***The coach will leave The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.***

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that, for insurance purposes, anyone joining us on a music or theatre event is required to be a fully paid up member of Formby U3A.

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

**Thurs. 18th Jan "Jersey Boys" Liverpool Empire** *This is now sold out*

**Tues. 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Thurs 3rd May "Rhapsody in Blue," Liverpool Philharmonic.** An amazing night combining classical music and jazz. Enjoy the music of Gershwin and Duke Ellington, experience the extraordinary talents of composer Gary Carpenter, superb saxophonist Iain Ballamy, influential composer and musician Julian Joseph and the delights of the full orchestra. Tickets including transport £32.

**Thurs 28th June "Thriller Live," Liverpool Empire.** A magical tour through the 45 years of Michael Jackson's musical career brought to you by a superb cast and band featuring such favourite songs as, I Want You Back, Off the Wall, Beat It, Billy Jean, Thriller and many, many more. This is a spectacular show now in its record breaking ninth year. Tickets including transport £38.

## 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.**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

## **It's That Time Of Year**

**Answers on the next page**

Why did Santa put a clock in his sleigh?

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

What do you call an elf who sings?

What do you call Santa's helpers?

Why is Christmas like still having a job?

**Newly published outings:**

**Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, The Chocolate House Blackburn & Lunch at The Calf's Head.** Tickets £27.50 each include return coach journey and visit to the Chocolate House a family run firm who specialise in hand made chocolates and bespoke specialities. On arrival we will be treated to a chocolate plus a hot drink of

tea/coffee or hot chocolate. While seated we will have a demonstration of chocolate making, followed by time for questions. We will also have time to visit the shop and see the kitchen. We will then travel on to the Calf's Head for a three course lunch with coffee before returning to Formby mid-afternoon. Departure from Cross Green to be advised.

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Mill Hotel Chester and Canal Cruise.** Tickets £36.75 each include return coach journey. On arrival at the hotel we will have time for a morning coffee/tea before boarding the boat. As we sail along the Shropshire Union Canal we will be served a three course lunch. All food served on board is freshly prepared in the hotel kitchen. The boat is decked out with fresh line table clothes and serviettes adding to the ambiance of the environment. Please note we can only take 50 guests due to the size of the boat. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.

Because he wanted to see time fly!  
 A rebel without a Claus.  
 A wrapper!  
 Subordinate clauses  
 You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

## Formby U3A Committee, 2017/18

Chairman	Glyn Pike (2016)	0151 929 2996	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	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
	(co-opted) Ann Blackman (2015)	871127	3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Linda Howard (2015)	570141	4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	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

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**    **Christmas Show, at the URC Church Rd, Music from U3A Groups.**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**    **Barrow to Baghdad & Back, Philip Caine.**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**    **Yellow Gardening Book, Geoff & Margaret Fletcher.**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**    **AGM followed by speaker "Tugboat Cathy" who will give a history of her tugboat and life at The Dock.**

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

**COFFEE MORNINGS are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, December 14<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

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](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk)**

**Previous Newsletters**: If you are looking for previous copies of the Newsletter, these can be found on the Formby U3A website: [www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html)

**The next edition** of the Newsletter is due to be sent by e-mail and be on the website early January. 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. As a result of Christmas closures, **the deadline for receiving articles is midday Thursday, 7th December at the latest to:** the Editor, e-mail: **[newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk)** No e-mail providers guarantee 100% delivery rate and **if 7 days after submitting an article** you have not received an acknowledgement one of the e-mail system failed, so please try again.