

Hordern Stoops



Author, Marcia Thompson.

Last Wednesday the **Fell Walking Group** was led by Tony Smith and were lucky to have good weather. It only started raining when we were back on the M6. We walked from the Lower Barn at Rivington and followed a variety of paths to Hordern Stoops and then over to Belmont. From there we walked up to the top of Winter Hill and down to Two Lads Cairns for lunch. After that it was downhill all the way (almost) to Liverpool Castle and a pleasant path along Rivington Reservoir; about 10 miles and 1800ft of ascent. A perfect winter walk. We were back in Formby before it got dark.

Are You Wanting To Keep A Monthly Newsletter?

Do you e-mail people? Are you competent using a computer? Can you use, or are you willing to learn to use Microsoft Publisher?

If you can answer "yes" to these three questions, then you may be the person that Formby U3A needs. There are times when the Newsletter Editor is not available to prepare and circulate the Newsletter and Formby U3A urgently requires one, or more people who can occasionally deputise. Without a deputy there is a risk of some months without a Formby U3A Newsletter.

If you would be interested in helping your U3A keep in touch with its members, or would like more information about what the voluntary work entails, please e-mail newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk with your details and/or any questions you may have.

Palm House

Author, Janet Greenwood.



The **Outings Group** was treated to a most enjoyable afternoon of music and Christmas items performed by the Duke of Lancaster's regiment, with solo vocals by Danielle Louise Thomas and Steve Fazakerley at Sefton Park's glorious Palm House on Sunday 10th December. The beautiful and fragrant surroundings and the snow falling outside made for a magical atmosphere, only slightly marred by a temporary problem with the sound system. The varied mix of popular music and traditional carols were a joyous introduction to the Christmas festivities. An enjoyable outing for everyone and thanks to Anne for considerate arrangements. Many thanks to the staff at the Palm House for their care in making sure members were safe while descending steps and to Steve, the equally helpful driver, who meandered through Liverpool to show us the lovely illuminations on the way home.

Welcome To January's New Members

Evan Bale	Lilian Coop	Wendy Kendrick
Peter McConomy	Rosie McConomy	Colin Motteram
Elisabeth Motteram	Cathy Munford	Joe Munford
Kathleen Schofield	Valerie Thomas	Valerie Wingfield

Briars Hall

Author, Pam McIntosh.



How quickly the year goes. Once again it was time for the **Outings Group** annual Christmas meal. This year it was held at Briars Hall. We were treated to a three course meal, followed by mince pie and tea or coffee. For a bit of fun we had a couple of lively games of bingo, the winners each receiving a bottle of wine. After this we were entertained by singer Tony Ravel. He sang songs from different era and also took requests. We were able to get up and dance, good way to work off some of the lunch! Many thanks to the staff at Briar's Hall, who were friendly and efficient, also thank you to Ann Blackman for organising the event.



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Swimming



Author, Jim Crawford.

Some members of the new **U3A Swimming Group** enjoyed a Christmas meal together in December. The group meet at Formby Pool each Monday at 12:00 when the pool is usually fairly quiet. Like all U3A members, we enjoy a discounted admission price (£2.52) on production of our U3A membership card. If you park in the pool carpark the cost is deducted from the admission price. Everyone swims at their own pace and there is no pressure. After our swim we meet in the café area for refreshments and a chat. New members of the group are welcome to come along and make themselves known. For more information contact Caroline Waller, e-mail: caroline_waller@hotmail.co.uk

Singing For Pleasure

Author, Paddy Taylor.



I attended St Joseph's as a member of the Friends. This is the second year that the

U3A choir has entertained the residents and day centre members of St Joseph's. It was a very successful morning which was well received by all.



Your U3A Membership Should Have Been Renewed

Author, David Manning-Fox.

A big thank-you to all those who have already renewed their membership which was due in January. **If you are reading this and have not yet renewed your 2018 subscription you need to do so before 15th February.** This will ensure that you are still eligible to attend U3A Group Activities and Monthly Meetings without compromising the insurance cover provided to you and other members by our affiliation to the Third Age Trust.

Any outstanding payments should be made by cheque (*please write your name, address and U3A membership number on the back of the cheque*) for £9.00 per member, payable to Formby U3A, together with a stamped self-addressed envelope and sent to:

The Hon Treasurer
53d Paradise Lane
Formby
L37 7DU

Thank you.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary.

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held on Wednesday, 14th March 2018 at 2 pm in Holy Trinity Parish Hall.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 AGM as published in the April 2017 and January 2018 Newsletters.
- 3 Matters Arising from the Minutes.
- 4 To receive and approve the Annual Report.
- 5 To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017.
- 6 Appointment of Auditor.
- 7 Election of Trustees. We still require nominations for up to 4 Committee vacancies. A nomination form for these positions is printed on the following page, or can be obtained from the Secretary at the Wednesday and Thursday meetings. The following have agreed to stand for re-election/election but, of course, any of these positions can be contested. At the time of writing, there is no requirement for a voting procedure but in the event of this changing, proxy forms will be available from the Secretary.

Chairman	Glyn Pike
Vice-Chairman	Frances Taylor
Treasurer	David Manning-Fox
Secretary	Keith Jacques
Membership Secretary	Ann Gunstone
Groups Secretary	Linda McAuley
Committee Members	Derek Thomas; Val Tibbitts
- 8 Any Other Business.

Announcements

Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary.

1) Formby U3A Constitution states that nominations for Committee posts close "at least 28 days before the meeting", i.e. this year, 14th February. As there remain so many vacancies, your current committee wish there to be every opportunity for people to come forward as potential committee members, even at the last minute and the nomination form is printed again, below. As a last resort and in the event of there not being nominations for all the vacancies, the Constitution provides the AGM may proceed by a simple majority to appeal for any willing member present to agree to

stand.

2) **Correction** to the invitation for members wishing to register for an electronic newsletter from the North West Region or the National U3A. The National Newsletter can be accessed at u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter and the North West Region Newsletter is available at u3asites.org.uk/north-west

3) The Third Age Trust Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the final version of the revised Articles of Association will take place on 21st March at the University of Birmingham.

4) The British Red Cross is inviting applications for groups to attend free first aid instruction sessions to take place in Liverpool. More information is available on our website, or from the Secretary.

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 14th February 2018, at the latest.

Music and Theatre Events

Author, Eileen Jones.

A very happy new year to everyone. We have some great events planned for 2018. **These events are available to all U3A members. but please ensure your membership has been renewed for this year.** Can I remind you to pay for tickets when the initial booking is made and to write the event name and your telephone number on the back of the cheque. If you cannot attend an event let us know as soon as possible and we will attempt to sell your ticket to someone on the waiting list. ***The coach will leave The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.***

Thurs 26th April, Agatha Christie's "Love from a Stranger" Playhouse. An unexpected love affair with an attentive, good looking stranger leads Cecily Harrington to impulsively embark on a new life with him, in a remote cottage in beautiful surroundings. What could possibly go wrong? Brace yourself for the twists and turns of this spine tingling thriller. Tickets including transport £26

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.

Thurs 12th July "The Play That Goes Wrong," Liverpool Empire. This is a smash hit comedy not to be missed. Following rave reviews for all of it's four years run in London, it is now on tour. A 1920's murder mystery that goes hilariously wrong at every turn, despite the valiant efforts of the unfortunate cast. Tickets including transport £32.

Dave Irving can be contacted, if necessary, on 630192.

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.**

Wednesday, February 28th, 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 Cross Green 9:00am.

Thursday, March 29th, 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 linen 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.

Bootle Town Hall

Author, Colette O'Neill, photo Margaret Edwards.

It was a lovely sunny day and to our surprise we were greeted by the Mayor, Councillor Dave Robinson who proudly showed **Local History Group 14** around the imposing at Bootle Town Hall. He is a local man and his knowledge and pride in Bootle's history was evident throughout our tour. He recalled local philanthropists, notably William Poulson, twice Mayor of Bootle, who together with his wife, Mary, was

very involved in improving social conditions. Bootle's former great days and achievements were severely damaged during the last war, including the Town Hall, parts of which were rebuilt and redesigned. The hospital and the swimming baths are long gone whilst the museum which contained Anne Goodison's Egyptology Collection, now in the Atkinson, Southport, is no longer in use.



We saw the impressive Council Chamber and other meeting rooms where beautiful silverware was on display, as well as plaques and flags linking Bootle's ties with sea trade and its involvement in the last war. The Mayor was particularly proud of the Royal Naval Commander, Johnnie Walker, stationed locally during the war, whose mission was to protect the convoy from attacks by enemy submarines. Apparently his success was due to sometimes bypassing the rules. Numerous items honouring his memory were on display and his former colleagues and crewmen organised an association, meeting annually, until inevitably the years took their toll. It was impressive that the Mayor, years younger than most of us, was so aware of the war years, the devastation from the unavoidable danger of the surrounding dockland area and the indomitable spirit of the times. His work as a Councillor and his enthusiasm to ensure Bootle will continue to thrive was infectious.

The Town Hall facilities, the lovely ballroom and the theatre are in regular use by local schools and various groups with fundraising events for the Mayor's fund held throughout the year.

The current Mayor seems unstoppable and I felt inspired to make the most of the coming year. Finally may I add a personal thank you to Margaret Edwards who kindly took care of the last minute arrangements for the visit because I was unable to.

Group News

Author, Linda McAuley, Group Secretary.

We encourage and are always on the lookout for new activity groups and we strive to tempt out members with any talent or skill, which they might be prepared to share with other members. This is the philosophy of the U3A. If you are able to lead any groups, or suggest any activities, please contact the Groups Secretary.

To all Group Leaders: Please remember to let the Group's Secretary know if you have any vacancies in your group. **If you are advising the Group Secretary that you have vacancies in your group**, it would be helpful if you could e-mail a photograph showing some of your members involved in your group's activity. The group name doesn't always make it clear what you do and potential members would appreciate seeing how friendly you are.

New Groups:

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

There are vacancies in the following groups:

Bridge 24: This friendly and welcoming group have a vacancy. They meet every Friday morning. Please contact Ann Urmston on 834344 or ann@urmston1.eclipse.co.uk

Floral Art 1: At present we have 4 vacancies in our friendly group. We meet monthly on a Wednesday morning and have a variety of topics. Please contact Pauline Hall on 879820.

Needlecraft: A very friendly group, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month between 3 and 5pm at the Bier House, St Peter's Church. We do all types of Needlecraft: patchwork, quilting, cross stitch, embroidery and knitting. For more information please contact Carol Robinson on 875676.

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

You should show your red 2018 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.

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

February 14th **Yellow Gardening Book**, Geoff & Margaret Fletcher.

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

April 11th **Sing Me Mersey**, a choir/concert with some audience participation.

May 9th **What's behind the green Fence?** Neil Blair & Wing Cmdr Hooton.

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

COFFEE MORNINGS are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, February 15th 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

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

The Newsletter is published monthly (except for January & August). **The next Newsletter is due** to be sent by e-mail and be on the website early March. 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 for the next Newsletter is midday Thursday, 15th February at the latest to:** the Editor, e-mail: 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 systems failed, so please try again.