Nordic Church

Author, Patrick Parkes.



Local History Group 9's visit to the Nordic Church in Liverpool promised to be interesting and entertaining on the basis of reports from previous visitors. After a brisk walk in a hailstorm from Central Station we arrived slightly early to find ourselves locked out. After ringing on the bell however we were admitted to a welcoming cup of tea or coffee and the opportunity to look at various craft items on display in the cafe.

Our guide for the day was Stan Royden from the church, who had spent time in

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Norway and was married to a Norwegian.
Before going into the church itself Stan told us something of the background to its building which was in the late 19th century. It was built to enable Scandinavian seamen to worship while in the port of Liverpool. The Norwegians set up a separate church elsewhere in Liverpool for a time in the early 20th century before reuniting with the Swedes and Danes in the current

Stan then led us up some flights of stairs to the Church itself which interestingly is built above the cafe, meeting room and office. The church is hexagonal with a high tapering roof being

both attractive yet clean and simple. The walls and roof were white while pews were traditional, but portable and painted a clear bright blue. The altar table was wooden in a clean Scandinavian style without ornate decorations, but to its right was a table top sculpture of the Risen Christ, an original by Arthur Dooley. Arthur Dooley had associations with the Church and also on display was a sculpture of the Virgin Mary sculpted by him. Other interesting items on display were two models of ships, one intriguingly named "Rufford Hall" and a ship's bell which is used to bring the congregation into the service as



apparently they enjoy a coffee and cake before the service. Ringing the bell we could see how effective this would be.

Stan took up a position at the lectern to tell us more of the Church and how it operates today. Worship is essentially Lutheran but there is some control from the Swedish State Church. Sailors no longer spend long periods ashore, due to modern cargo handling methods and the congregation is small. Much is done to raise funds however and the building is used most evenings for some kind of activity including craft and music groups. Much of what parking they have is let out for daytime parking Monday to Friday for people working in Liverpool. They also have overnight accommodation which is often used by Scandinavian Liverpool football fans of which apparently there are many.



Returning to the cafe we enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch which included the inevitable Scandinavian herring. The food was prepared by two ladies, one of whom, was Stan's wife. After the buffet we were entertained with Swedish Folk songs and Sylvia read us some of her poems. After this the refreshment continued with a choice of excellent cakes and some of us bought craft items and copies of work by Sylvia. An interesting and instructive visit with the added attraction of good food and entertainment all at a very reasonable price.



The Chocolate House

Author, Audrey Clare.

The last day of February dawned like the rest of the country to freezing temperatures.

Meteorologically, the next day 1st March is the first day of spring, but spring was far from evident.

Everywhere had had snow fall. However the weather did not deter 35 Outings Group members boarding our bus at Cross Green for a really interesting and jolly day. The snow capped hills on route looked beautiful.



On arrival at the Chocolate House, Blackburn, we were greeted by Cliff offering us a sample of their chocolate, followed by Susan, who offered us hot drinks and truffles. A small family business with just three staff, everything is hand made. No machinery is used. Susan demonstrated how she rolls chocolate, flavoured with liqueurs into truffles, which are then dipped



into melted chocolate and decorated. The numbers she makes per hour are mind boggling. A fascinating variety of chocolate model toys and presentation gifts were on display. Then it was time to shop in a chocoholics paradise.

After shopping we went to the Calf's Head for a delicious hot carvery lunch. Everywhere was extremely slippery and snowy, but our super driver manoeuvred the coach so we could alight and more or less step right into the hotel. He drove through snowy, windy weather safely back home to Formby.



Many thanks to Ann for arranging another super trip. Many thanks also to our very kind and attentive driver.

Announcements

Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary (Retired).

Science: Deeside and Wirral U3A Network is hosting a Science Day on 30th

April. Details on u3asites.org.uk/north-west or u3asites.org.uk/deeside-wirral

Free first aid instruction: as advertised in the February issue but presumably because of lack of take-up, British Red Cross have repeated their offer. More information is available on our website, or from the Secretary.

U3Aplus: this is a new initiative giving guidance on impaired Mobility, Sight and Hearing. Further information on plus3a.org.uk

Forthcoming events, North West Region:

The Vikings, a British Museum Touring Exhibition, at the Atkinson Gallery, Southport with lecture. April date to be confirmed and discounted entrance fee for U3A members. Further information from Maggie Simms by e-mail: members.buryu3a@gmail.com (subject Vikings).

Big Sing Concert: Greater Manchester U3A Network is organising this event, open to all U3A members, at the Royal Northern College of Music, September 2018. A programme of popular songs will be rehearsed and performed under a Halle conductor. Cost between £15-£20. Register online interest by visiting: u3asite/org.uk/north-west then go to events page.

Learning Resource: Advice newsletters are now available on a variety of subjects which are being added to monthly, e.g. Creative Writing, Maths and Stats, Play Reading, Russian and Welsh. Further information: u3a.org.uk Go to home page, then About and then Newsletter Archive.

China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors

Author, Elizabeth Goodwill.



This prestigious and fascinating exhibition at Liverpool's World Museum is open until October and was enjoyed by a full complement of **Local History Group 6** members, some of whom posed next to a modern replica. There are currently 9 large warriors on display in Liverpool along with chariots and other artefacts, Liverpool being home

to the oldest Chinese community in Britain.

The Terracotta Army depicts the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China who became king aged 13, taking full control at the age of 22. Using massive armies, he conquered neighbouring kingdoms and unified China, claiming the "Mandate of Heaven" whose authority came from the gods. As his power grew he became obsessed becoming immortal and in trying to fulfil his wish he organised expeditions to bring back herbs and plants at the same time as drinking morning dew and jade powder from a jade cup. Strict laws and severe punishments meant he had a ready supply of convict labour to build defensive walls, which eventually formed the Great Wall of China, as well as a major road network which allowed his army to quickly move across the country whilst being supplied with food. 700,000 convicts were put to work preparing his mausoleum and burial site, designed to represent an imperial garden, complete with cranes, swans, musicians and geese for the emperor's enjoyment in the afterlife. Over 8,000 sculptures, each different, were created 2,300 years ago to protect the emperor in the afterlife. Their original home, amongst a landscape made up of 100 flowing rivers of mercury with a ceiling decorated with heavenly bodies near the city of Xi'an, China, is thought to cover over approximately 38 square mile, the main army now being displayed in an enormous complex in the city. The tomb itself, roughly the size of a football pitch, appears to be a hermetically sealed and remains unopened. There are concerns over preservation of the artefacts, as, after the initial excavation of the Terracotta Army, the painted surface on figures began to flake and fade,

The figures were discovered in 1974 by a local farmer when digging a well. For centuries there had been reports of pieces of terracotta figures and fragments of roofing tiles, bricks and chunks of masonry and the farmer's discovery prompted archaeologists to investigate, revealing the largest pottery figurine group ever found. The statues include generals, warriors, 130 chariots, nearly 700 horses and non-military figures such as officials, acrobats, strongmen and musicians.

with lacquer covering the paint curling seconds after exposure to dry air and flaking off in just

minutes.









The figures are life-sized and were originally equipped with real weapons, never used in battle, but specially made for battle in the afterlife. Many are inscribed with the date of manufacture, serial number and craftsman's name. All were sharpened using a spinning stone, this being the earliest evidence of using a rotating wheel to sharpen weapons on such a large scale. Armour similar to that worn by real soldiers distinguished the soldiers' rank. They were originally painted with bright pigments and whilst still impressive, much of the colour has now sadly vanished. Chariots were buried with the emperor so that the he could carry on touring his empire in the afterlife. One represents the chariot used by first emperor when travelling around. It was driven by a kneeling charioteer armed with a sword. When the emperor died at the age of 49, probably as a result of taking mercury to give him eternal life, he was a long way from the capitol and mausoleum so the actual chariot was secretly used to carry his body back for his funeral being followed by a cart filled with salted fish to conceal the smell of his decomposing body.

Tickets are popular, but visiting this exhibition is a once in a lifetime opportunity and well worthwhile!

Latterbarrow

Author, Marcia Thompson.

The walk was led by Frances
Taylor and Marcia Thompson
and, having crossed over to
Claife Heights, we walked
along the lakeside path to
Belle Grange for coffee. Then
an ascent up into the woods
and along a good track, before
the ascent of Latterbarrow –
not a high peak but with good



views of the surrounding snow covered fells. We dropped down to find a sheltered spot for lunch and, as it was my birthday, I had brought along my Chocolate Shortcake (an age-old family recipe) to celebrate. After lunch the path meandered down through tarns and meadows to Far Sawrey. Our final ascent was up to the Station – a Victorian viewpoint with a fine outlook over Windermere – and then back to the ferry. We took a photo at the summit of Latterbarrow but, unfortunately, it disappeared so have instead sent one of group members crossing the Chain Ferry from Bowness.

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:

Beginners French Conversation and Grammar: We would like to start up a new group.

Bridge: This will be a new group for Rubber Bridge, for members who used to play in the past and would like to play again and willing to accept varying standards of play. The group will take names of inexperienced players in case it attracts players with sufficient experience and willing to help others.

Card Making: A new monthly group which will offer the opportunity to try out a range of products and learn new techniques. Supporting both beginners as well as more experienced card makers who would like to extend their paper raft skills. Each month members will make two projects with all the materials and equipment provided. Further details are available from Ann Knowles, tel: 872333 or e-mail: theknowlesfamily@btinternet.com

There are vacancies in the following groups:

Scottish Dancing: meets on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10 to 12 at the Methodist, Elbow Lane. All levels are very welcome. You don't need a partner and we enjoy dancing and having gentle exercise. To give a flavour of what we do, see Shiftin' Bobbins on YouTube. Contact Mary Wishart on 879914.

You should show your <u>red 2018 membership cards</u> when you attend group meetings. All groups are only for current, paid up members. If interested, please contact the Groups Secretary unless otherwise stated.

Welcome To March's New Members

Lynda BarronJane ChambersJoan GarstonNikki HarrisonKate Heath-HartAnn KnowlesPeter MurtaghJane Nelson-WoodsViv RathboneRoy RedmanMaureen RichardsonAnne RodmellLinda TrollopeGail WaltersLynne Webster

Rachel Wilson Roy Worthington

Formby U3A Draft Minutes Of The 2018 AGM Held In Holy Trinity Hall On 14th March At 2 PM

- **1 Apologies for Absence:** Mr & Mrs R J Gibbons, Linda Howard, Ann Gunstone, Mr & Mrs Noel Blundell and Keith Jacques.
- **2 Minutes of 2017 AGM:** Draft Minutes have been published in the April 2017 and the January 2018 Newsletters. With the addition of Ann Blackman's name in the list of Committee members, the Minutes were approved nem con by a show of hands and were signed by Glyn Pike as Chairman.
- 3 Matters Arising from the Minutes: None.
- **4 Annual Report:** 2017 saw the membership of Formby U3A increase to 1312 members attending 125 group activities.

The committee has met on a regular basis and dealt with matters placed before it. We have acted upon a request at the 2017 Annual General Meeting to provide the Monthly Newsletter in audio form and thanks to the hard work of Noel Blundell and David Goodwill the first edition was made available in July of that year. Should any member require the newsletter in this form please contact Noel Blundell or any member of the committee who will arrange it on your behalf.

We have also managed to activate the loop sound system in Holy Trinity Church Hall for our monthly meetings and I am informed that it is working satisfactorily. (We plugged it in)

The past year has required the committee to deal with routine matters but that is about to change as we are now facing legislation that will require our attention.

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) requires that any organisation which holds personal information such as addresses, both e-mail and postal and telephone numbers for their members are required to have written consent to hold and use that information. Formby U3A holds such information in order that they and group leaders may contact them for membership purposes. It will be straightforward for new members as we can add this consent to the membership application form, but we are required to obtain that information from current members. To that end we will

shortly be sending each member a form of consent to sign and return to us. If we do not receive consent neither we or group leaders will be able to contact you.

We have recently received new instructions, from The Third Age Trust, regarding financial matters for all U3A organisations which will change fundamentally the way we produce our annual accounts. The Charities Commission require that all Income and Expenditure of the Charity be recorded and included in the accounts submitted to them on an annual basis. This now means that we will need to ask individual groups to record and submit to the treasurer a summary of their financial information for each year.

Your committee has contacted all group leaders to establish their groups' income and expenditure and we will shortly be calling a meeting of group leaders to listen to their views on how the new regulations will impact on their activities as they and the treasurer will bear the brunt of these regulations.

Although these new requirements may seem daunting, with a positive attitude and an initial concentrated effort it will become the norm.

The Charity Commission, after extensive consultation with the Third Age Trust, have directed that all activities including those hitherto classed as "social", must be charitable. They seek to impose on us and all U3A's a revised Objects clause which will be put to an EGM in due course. This removes territorial restrictions from joining a U3A and makes no reference to a minimum age for membership.

At the conclusion of my report for last year I commended the committee on their dedication to ensuring the continued smooth running of Formby U3A and stated that in return they asked that others do the same for them when their term of office expired. It seems that those words were not fully understood as we still have vacancies on the committee and in particular, a Treasurer for 2019 onwards. May I suggest that these positions are regarded, as I do, as membership of another U3A group. It is an opportunity to meet other likeminded members and to engage in conversation for the benefit of the organisation as a whole. I have always found that the members are very supportive of new recruits. Without a full committee Formby U3A will not be able to function, a situation that does not benefit anyone. May I urge you to put your name forward for the most important group in Formby U3A.

Jack Ashworth, Ann Blackman, Rosemary Thomas, Linda Howard and Susan Birchall retire today as committee members, they have served you well, and on your behalf I thank them. Three of those positions have been filled but three still remain to be filled.

Please re read the previous paragraph.

May I on behalf of the committee wish you all a successful year in your U3A activities.

Glyn Pike

5 Treasurer's Report: Copies of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017 were available to all who attended. The Treasurer gave an explanation of the major entries. The Capitation Fee paid to Third Age Trust which provided inter alia third party insurance cover was unchanged at £3.50. Administration had increased due to the purchase of a supply of stamps (for the issue of membership cards etc)

shortly before there was a price increase. The Newsletter is more expensive because it was now in colour and there is still a difficulty in anticipating the size of the print run. Meetings costs included the presence of St John Ambulance personnel at the monthly Speaker event and Speaker fees were greater as a result of a policy to engage better quality which, by and large, had proved successful.

The deficit for the year £1,649 was readily absorbed by reserves, the amount of which was moving towards the Charity Commission advice of no more than 6 months' anticipated expenditure and stood at £14,217 at the end of the year. The Accounts had been audited and found correct and it was proposed by Andrew Hoare and seconded by Derek Thomas that they be accepted. Approval was given by a show of hands nem con.

- **6 Appointment of Auditor:** Alan Thomas, after many years of much valued work, was standing down after auditing the Accounts year ended 31st December 2018. There was no response to a request for someone to come forward to succeed him.
- **7 Election of Trustees:** Christine McIlraith had volunteered recently and her name was to be added to those of Committee members. There remained 3 vacancies and, in response to an earnest plea from the Chairman, Andrew Hoare allowed his name to go forward. This was approved by the meeting. There being no other proposals, it followed there were no contested positions and those names were confirmed en bloc by a show of hands.

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary

Membership Secretary
Group Secretary
Committee Members

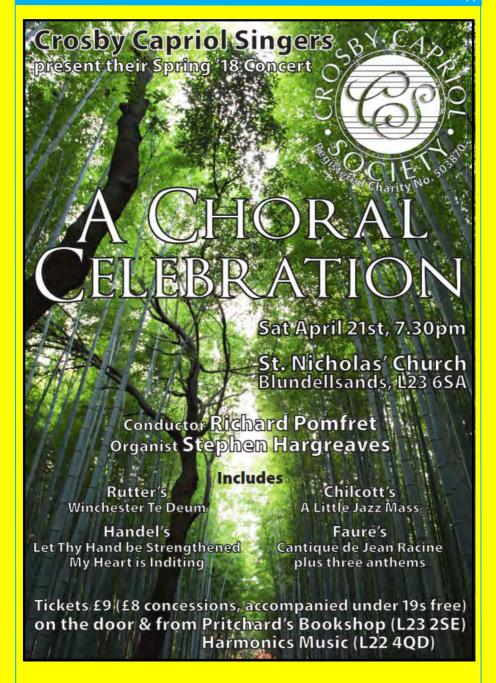
Glyn Pike
Frances Taylor
David Manning-Fox
Keith Jacques
Ann Gunstone
Linda McAuley
Valerie Tibbitts

Derek Thomas
Christine McIlraith
Andrew Hoare
Two yacancies

8 Any Other Business: Ann Blackman, from the floor, felt we should not immediately accept the Charity Commission imposing its financial rules on us. She thought a representative from the Charity Commission should be invited to meet us when the opportunity would be taken to illustrate how these rules designed for all charities, but inappropriate for local U3As, would impact adversely and make so many aspects of our work unnecessarily difficult. The Chairman agreed Committee would give this due consideration.

Derek Thomas, from the floor, graciously thanked Noel Blundell and Dave Goodwill for their skill and hard work in producing the audio Newsletter which was so much appreciated.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm and was followed by a highly amusing and well received talk by Cathy about her adventures owning a tugboat.



Music and Theatre Events

Author, Eileen Jones.

These events are open to all paid up U3A members. Can I remind you to please 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. This is extremely helpful to us. 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.







The songs of Donovan

with guests Chris and Siobhan Nelson Bill Hackney Mike Huddart Clive Pownceby.

Formby Little Theatre 123 Lonsdale Road Formby L37 3HF



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* <u>each booking.</u> 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*. Whilst Ann can also be contacted by e-mail at outings@formbyu3a.org.uk bookings will not be accepted by e-mail.

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Tuesday April 17th, Coniston Cruise and lunch. Depart Cross Green 9am.

Saturday May 7th, Harrogate. Tickets £18.50 include return coach journey to Harrogate with morning coffee at Hartleys Farm Shop. Those who wish to visit the RHS Gardens and Spring Festival which is open on that day will be dropped off and picked up at an agreed time on the day. Entrance and lunch is **NOT** included in the ticket price. Depart Cross Green 9am.

Tuesday June 26th, Llanberis and Snowdonia. £41 each includes return coach journey with a brief stop at Tweed Mills. On arrival in Llanberis we will have reserved seats on the train to travel up to the top of Snowdonia with allocated time for sight seeing before we return to Llanberis. We recommend you take a packed lunch, or use local eateries as refreshments are not included. We will ensure we allow time for you to access cafes etc. Depart Cross Green 9am.

Formby U3A Committee

2018-19

Chairman	Glyn Pike (2016) 0151 92	9 2996	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk	
Vice-Chairman	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk	
Secretary	Keith Jacques (2018)	870906	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	Andrew Hoare (2018)	877650	1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk	
	Christine McIlraith (2018)		4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk	
	Derek Thomas (2018)	872671	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

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.

If you wish to contact someone about the Speakers, please contact Valerie Tibbitts (see inside) or Rosemary Thomas, tel 871376 or e-mail: speakers@formbyu3a.org.uk

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

COFFEE MORNINGS are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, April 12th 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, or now have an e-mail address and wish to subscribe to electronically receiving the **Newsletter** 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 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 May. 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. *Members submitting photographs must ensure that all people shown in photographs are aware that photographs are being taken for inclusion in the Newsletter.*

The deadline for receiving articles for the next Newsletter is midday Thursday, 19th April 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.

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