

**Important - Data Protection:** New Data Protection legislation comes into force later this month. The Committee is working to ensure that Formby U3A complies and has just received revised detailed guidance from the Third Age Trust. We will keep you informed.

*Frances Taylor, Vice Chairman.*



## Heartening Spin-Off

*Author, Nic Dickson.*

The **Vikings Skiffle Group** perform regularly in the Museum of Liverpool by the Pier Head. The picture shows us in the Atrium where we entertain locals and tourists to the skiffle music of the late 50s and early 60s. This music, spearheaded by the King of Skiffle, Lonnie Donegan, inspired lots of teenagers to form skiffle groups, and this then led on to the beat groups and pop groups of the 60s. The Beatles started out as the Quarrymen Skiffle Group, formed by John Lennon at Quarry Bank School.

When we play at the museum we hand out various percussion instruments, mainly to the children, who love to join in with this enthusiastic music. Last year a boy who was visiting Liverpool with his grandparents was very taken with us and spent lots of time with the group. When he returned home he decided to set up a skiffle group at his

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special school. In due course a tea chest bass, washboard and various percussion instruments were got together and along with a guitar and banjo and the necessary performers and singers, the skiffle group was formed. They performed for Children in Need, were very well received by pupils and parents, and raised nearly £200. He hopes to come and see us again this year.

## Chester



**Author, Josie Evans, photos David Skelton.**

The **Outings Group** set out from Cross Green on a bright morning - our destination the ancient Roman city of Chester. After a smooth journey we arrived at the Mill Hotel Spa in the centre of the City. We were greeted in a welcoming fashion and served tea/coffee in a comfortable bar/dining area. This gave us time for friendly chats and an opportunity to notice the brightly painted narrow boats gliding along the adjacent Shropshire Union Canal. We were then guided to our own dining boat for the forthcoming restaurant cruise. The dining area was beautifully prepared with tables set with snowy white linen table cloths, napkins and sparkling wine glasses and cutlery. Following pre-lunch drinks, our Captain came aboard to outline details of our trip. He soon had us even more relaxed and smiling with his witticisms and he also provided some both necessary (safety) and interesting information. We learned that the Canal (or the "Shroppie" as it is affectionately called) was constructed by vertical cutting of the local red sandstone and is only a mere 4.5ft deep in parts. This was commenced as long ago as 1774 and the waterway was later amalgamated with other canals to form the Union. We were advised that it would be possible to alight from the boat (under guidance) if desired for a few minutes on the first leg of the trip and some of our members took advantage of this offer.

The menu for the four course meal was wide and varied. "Starters" were consumed while sailing in a selected direction down the Canal. We then glided back to the Hotel where our pre-ordered delicious main meal and desserts were collected (all food is prepared in the hotel kitchens). Service was impeccable. Next was a short sail in the opposite direction whilst enjoying our chosen food, taking time also to notice the magnificent sandstone city walls which made a



beautiful picture, especially with the spring yellow daffodils carpeting the slopes beneath them. The afternoon continued with a trip to the local Grosvenor shopping mall - time for "retail therapy," browsing or just enjoying a coffee and watching the world go by.

Our driver collected us and we arrived back at Formby at about 5:15pm after another comfortable journey. This was a very happy day out enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Ann for her superb arrangements and to our careful, considerate driver.

## Lunch & Cruise



**Author, Jean Higson.**

It was quality not quantity when the **Outings Group** visited the Lake District. Only 17 U3A members were on this trip and it was good to see a few new faces.

We left Cross Green at 9 o'clock and the morning started off a bit grey and drizzly. We had a morning coffee stop on the way and sadly the weather did not improve. However, Spring is a lovely time to visit the Lake District and we enjoyed a scenic drive along Coniston Water. We saw tiny lambs in the fields and the daffodils were absolutely at their best.

We arrived at the Waterhead Hotel at noon and were ushered into a beautiful bright Dining Room for our two course set lunch with coffee. Those facing the large picture windows had a lovely view of the Furness Fells, with only the top of the Old Man of Coniston disappearing into the mist. The meal was delicious and piping hot. We all had Gammon, Egg and chips with peas, followed by a very generous portion of Sticky Toffee Pudding with Ice Cream.

The gardens at the hotel stretch down to Coniston Water and after lunch we were supposed to stroll through the gardens to the hotel's private jetty, to board the launch for a lovely cruise on beautiful Coniston Water. However, during lunch the Coniston Cruise Company phoned Ann to advise her that gales were forecast for the afternoon and they would have to cancel our cruise. Undaunted, Ann phoned the Windermere Cruise Company and they were still sailing because their boats are larger. Ann discussed the new itinerary with the driver, Billy, who agreed to the changes, so after

lunch he drove us all to Ambleside for our 30 minute sail to Bowness.

By this time it had stopped raining, so we boarded Miss Lakeland at 14:50 and I think we had the boat to ourselves. Needless to say, no-one braved the Upper Deck and it was nice and warm inside. We had a personal commentary from a crew member, beginning with the safety warning. He told us the advantage of having only 17 passengers on this large boat was that should the worst happen, we would have six life jackets each! This was very reassuring!



We heard that Windermere is England's largest lake, being ten and a half miles long and a mile and a quarter across at its widest point, where there used to be a car ferry. Windermere is fed by four rivers. We saw Wray Castle, a few intrepid walkers, some ducks and some swans. We also had lovely views of the surrounding mountains, especially looking back towards Ambleside. Only the tops of the fells were hidden in cloud. We arrived at Bowness Pier and had just over an hour to enjoy a drink or browse around the shops before travelling back to Formby.

Our day out to the Lake District was lovely despite the inclement weather. Ann Blackman, who organizes these excellent trips showed her ability to think on her feet, quickly arranging alternatives when things start to go wrong, making sure we all have a lovely and interesting day out. Well done Ann! On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank you. I know you have several more outings planned for this year and we will look forward to going on some of them too!



## Welcome To April's New Members

Patricia Ashcroft

John Bradley

Janet Farrell

Lilian Jones

Susanna McCulloch-Boggan

Patricia Mitchell

Angela Parry

Sheila Richardson

Janet Towse

Beryl Wood

Anthony Boggan

Susan Drury

Margaret Innes

David Killick

Hilary Miller

Margaret Parisi

John Richardson

Anthony Spofforth

Ruth Whittaker

## 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:**

**Arts and Craft:** An introduction to an understanding of Arts and Crafts in order to heal and understand yourself and others better. The equipment and mediums can be used in a way to express yourselves and your Arts. If you wish to have further information, please contact Angela Parry on 0151 706 0181 or e-mail: [angelaparry13@gmail.com](mailto:angelaparry13@gmail.com)

**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.

**Drama:** Names are now being taken for a new Drama Group. Plays and sketches will be read through and acted with the possibility of putting an act on Stage. Please contact Sue Birchall on [susanwent@gmail.com](mailto:susanwent@gmail.com)

### **There are vacancies in the following groups:**

**Golf:** There are currently vacancies on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings for members wishing to take up the sport. During the summer months, competitions are held. For more information please contact one of the Group Leaders: Tuesday Group, John Adamson, 871387; Wednesday Group, Bob Campbell, 872591.

**SOS Music Group:** Is there a keyboard, brass and/or harmonica player interested in joining the group which plays 60's music onwards. Must be able to busk. Contact Peter Connor on 382349 or [pjc7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pjc7@hotmail.co.uk)

**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.

## 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 leaves The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm and any variation on this will be specified with the event details.

**Thurs 28th June, “Thriller Live,”** Liverpool Empire. **This is now cancelled.**

**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 its 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.

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> September “The City of Liverpool Tattoo,”** Echo Arena. A spectacular, not to be missed event, featuring massed pipes and drums along with many international bands and dancers. Tickets including transport. £45.

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**. Whilst Ann can also be contacted by e-mail at [outings@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:outings@formbyu3a.org.uk) bookings will not be accepted by e-mail.

**Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>, Fleetwood Festival of Transport.** Tickets £9.50 include coach journey and gratuities. The festival is a day-long event, starting at 10am with a magnificent parade. There will be everything you can think of on wheels, including the wonderfully created art exhibits made from spare parts, as well as trams, cycles, prams and cars etc. There are bands plus street entertainers and professional acrobats brought in to entertain you. The event attracts thousands of visitors to see the parade and visit the many attractions including stalls along the streets. You are advised to bring a picnic, or purchase a meal from the many cafes. Depart Cross Green at 8.30am.

## Formby U3A Committee

2018-19

Chairman	Glyn Pike (2016)	0151 929 2996	<a href="mailto:chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk">chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Vice-Chairman	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	<a href="mailto:vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk">vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Keith Jacques (2018)	870906	<a href="mailto:secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk">secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Treasurer			<a href="mailto:treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk">treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Membership Sec.	Ann Gunstone (2016)	872879	<a href="mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk">membership@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Group Secretary	Linda McAuley (2016)	871890	<a href="mailto:groups@formbyu3a.org.uk">groups@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
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	Christine McIlraith (2018)		<a href="mailto:4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
	Derek Thomas (2018)	872671	<a href="mailto:5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
	Valerie Tibbitts (2016)*	577985	<a href="mailto:6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>

\* 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

- May 9<sup>th</sup>**                    **What's Behind The Green Fence?** Neil Blair & Wing Cmdr Hooton.
- June 13<sup>th</sup>**                **The Lettuce Line**, Keith Hicks            The 1878 to 1960s story behind the West Lancs., Southport & Preston Railways.
- July 11<sup>th</sup>**                **Vikings**, Stephen Whittle

**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, May 10<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, or now have an e-mail address and wish to subscribe to electronically receiving the Newsletter, or  
no longer wish to receive e-mails from Formby U3A, or  
have an enquiry about your membership card, or subscriptions,  
**please contact [membership@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk) or tel: 872879.** Please remember to include your full name and address, or membership number.

**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](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html)

**The next Newsletter is due** to be sent by e-mail and be on the website early June. 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, 24<sup>th</sup> May 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 systems failed, so please try again.