

## Bidston Lighthouse

*Authors Ken & Carole Bryning.*



**Local History Group 9** went to Bidston Hill. It is the highest point of the Wirral 58.97m above sea level. We were given a guided tour of Bidston Lighthouse by Dr Stephen Pickles and his wife who are the owners.

Bidston originally built in 1771, then rebuilt in 1873 was Liverpool's first lighthouse, and although 2 miles from the sea along with Leasowe lighthouse they were navigational aides, not warning lights. By setting a course between two leading lights straight ahead, mariners avoided the treacherous sandbanks of Liverpool Bay to find the safe Horse Channel. It was the breakthrough in the use of parabolic reflectors by Liverpool dock master William Hutchinson, that made the two light system work, as the Bidston light using coal or oil to fuel the lamp, then had a range of some 2.4 miles. Bidston was also a signal station, using flags as an early warning of approaching ships to

Liverpool. A system of semaphores was used between stations from Holyhead and along the Welsh coast to Bidston, who then displayed colour coded flags on the hill for the shipping agents in the port to know of the arrival of their ships and cargo. This was changed in 1826 to a telegraph system. Over the years the sandbanks shifted making the Wirral leading lights obsolete, Bidston ceased operation in 1913.

This was a fascinating piece of Liverpool History and Physics too, which the couple are trying to preserve, with minimum support. The lighthouse is open to the public every Saturday Easter to September, and well worth a visit.

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**Please Note:** As only 1 group report has been received, there is insufficient material to create 8 pages needed for a paper copy newsletter.

**Please remember that there is  
No Newsletter, Monthly Meeting,  
nor Coffee Morning in August.**

**All resume in September.**

## 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 12th July, "The Play That Goes Wrong,"** Liverpool Empire.

**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.

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> December, "Rock 'n' Roll Panto, The Snow Queen,"** Everyman. The hilarious anarchy of The Everyman Panto is back. Brace yourself for fun, music, dance, jokes, puns, special effects and water guns! Greg Last will lead the cast of extremely talented actor musicians, including the well known Francis Tucker and Adam Keast. Tickets including transport £40. Note: **The coach will leave at the earlier time of 5:45pm.**

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> December, "The Snowman and The Bear and the Piano,"** Liverpool Cathedral. The classic story, The Snowman, describes the magical adventure of a young boy and a snowman who comes to life. An animated film on the large screen is accompanied by live orchestra playing the original score and featuring the much loved, Walking in the Air. Also included in the programme is The Bear and the Piano by David Lichfield, with Festive Overture, The Sleigh Ride and the Snowman Waltz. Tickets including transport £32  
Dave Irving can be contacted, if necessary, on 630192

### Welcome To June's New Members

David Bell  
Jim Martin

John Burke  
Margaret Martin

Veronica Conway  
Patty Roberts

**Crosby Capriol Singers**  
 present their Summer '18 Concert

# SHOW thyme

**7.30pm Sat 14<sup>th</sup> July @ St. Michael's Church Hall**  
 Dowhills Road, Blundellsands, L23 8SP

## Featuring

Songs from shows

**Carousel**  
**Les Misérables**  
**Oklahoma!**  
**South Pacific**

## The Sprig of Thyme

a collection of  
 folk songs  
 arranged by

**John Rutter**

Musical Director  
**Richard Pomfret**

Accompanist  
**Liz Gladman**

**Tickets £8 (under 19s £4)**  
 available on the door & from

**Pritchard's Bookshop** (L23 2SE)  
**Harmonics Music** (L22 4QD)

Registered Charity No. 503870

## Group News

**Art Group:** This group has been going for 10 years. They meet on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 2 till 4pm. This is art for pleasure, no teaching involved, but there is help, if needed. We have art demonstrations and visit art exhibitions. Please contact Dot Owen on 879332.

**Beginners French Conversation and Grammar:** This new group will start in September. We need a few more names.

### **Bridge Groups:**

**A new group** will be starting shortly on a Tuesday at 1.30pm. Please contact Nikki Harrison on 871308 if you would like to join.

**Group 22:** A friendly informal group who meet on Monday afternoons and Thursday evenings would welcome 2 or 3 new members. They play in each other's homes each member hosting 1 or 2 tables once a month. Please contact Maureen Simpson on 877326 for further details.

**Group 25:** Meet on a Friday morning and would like a couple of new members to join them. Please contact Peter Dean on petedean1946@gmail.com

**Canasta Group:** We would like to start a new Canasta group. Please phone Kathleen Schofield on 809902 for information.

**Cycling for Softies Group:** is one year old. It has grown to 10 riders and has a few places available. Weather permitting, the group meets every Monday morning at 9:50am outside the Dove Nest at Formby Station, moving off by 10.05am. Rides are taken at the ability of the slowest rider. Where possible a coffee stop is always included. Dust off your bike and don your helmet and join them for exercise, fresh air, good fun and back home in time for lunch! What's not to like? Please contact Alan Thomas 'phone 871376 or e-mail: alanthomas200@msn.com

**Sunday Lunch Groups:** The 2 groups have merged. They still meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Margaret Hesketh is now the contact on 833176.

## 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. All departures are from Cross Green.

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 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., 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. **Departs 8.30am.**

**Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Whitby.** Tickets £18 each includes coach and gratuities. Enjoy a day walking along the harbour, or take the open top, hop on hop off bus to the Abbey and enjoy the views. **Refreshments not included** but you can visit the many restaurants along the sea front. **Departs 9:00am.**

**Friday September 14<sup>th</sup>, Saltaire.** Tickets £21 each include entrance and tour by guides in period costumes of this UNESCO World Heritage site model village created by Sir Titus Salt, including the Mill, Victoria Hall and church. Admire the beautiful architecture of the original factory opened 1853, the David Hockney Galleries, or stroll along the canal towpath or wander the nearby parks. This week there are additional attractions including the Saltaire Festival. **Meals are not included** as Saltaire has a great selection of places to eat and drink. **Depart Cross Green at 9:00am.**

## Formby U3A Committee

2018-19

|                 |                            |               |                             |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Chairman        | Glyn Pike (2016)           | 0151 929 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       |                            |               | 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.

|                             |                                 |                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>July 11<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Vikings</b>                  | Stephen Whittle |
| <b>Sept 12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Bee Keeping</b>              | John Turner     |
| <b>Oct 10<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>The Magical Musical Tour</b> | Chris Devereux  |

**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, July 12<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.

**Discounts:** Formby U3A has negotiated discounts for members with local firms. A list is on the website or available from the Secretary.

**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 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 September. 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 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.