

St James Church, New Brighton



Author, Alan Roberts.

After travelling by train to New Brighton, **Local History Group 7** were greeted by Steven Cottam, outside the church. He led us into the church where we were given tea/coffee and cake and biscuits in their hospitality area. Steven opened with a very interesting resume about the history of New Brighton. A church in New Brighton had been envisaged in James Atherton's Prospectus of 1832. The land for the church was a gift from Atherton's son-in-law, William Rawson. The architect appointed to design St James was Sir George Scott. The foundation stone was laid on 16th February 1854. The building is constructed from sandstone which is very porous. This has resulted in some erosion and damp and the restoration work is ongoing and this included the re-building of the spire. Inside, the church contains some lovely wall paintings, a beautifully carved pulpit and stained glass windows.

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Just inside the church is a small heritage centre with a painting and photographs of New Brighton in the past which brought back a few memories. It is well worth a visit to the church which was enjoyed by all.

Wild Boar Fell

Author, Marcia Thompson.



The **Fell Walking Group** on Wild Boar Fell. Only a few of us braved the heat but had a lovely day out with a gentle breeze, great views and good company. The walk was led by Dave Purdy – a good path up and then a rougher descent from Sand Tarn. Good to walk in a different area but one which I'd love to re-visit.

Llanberis and Snowdon

Authors, Sue Young and Trish Cusack.



The **Outings Group** set off in bright sunshine from Cross Green on our trip to

..... continued on page 4

WANTED

TREASURER

FOR U3A

Our Treasurer, David Manning-Fox, completes his tenure at the end of this year. We are extremely grateful for the many years work that David has done on behalf of all our members. As yet, we have no replacement.

The office of Treasurer is vital to the continued existence of Formby U3A. Without a Treasurer Formby U3A would have to close.

With over 1,300 members I would hope that there are some with financial experience or ability who would be suitable for the position and willing to take on the role of Treasurer. I would be grateful if any such people could contact me to discuss the duties entailed in the position.

REWARD

THE CONTINUATION OF FORMBY U3A

GLYN PIKE, CHAIRMAN

www.formbyu3a.org.uk

Snowdon. The weather was unbelievably warm, no rain forecast and that's how it stayed all day. Ann Blackman was away on a cruise but she had organised a fantastic day for us and the weather couldn't have been better. Jean and Ian Higson kindly stepped in to assist on the trip and Jean very ably kept us informed of our itinerary on the way and kept us all in line.

Once we reached Wales after travelling for just over an hour, we passed through the second smallest city in the UK, St Asaph, passing the cathedral en route to the Tweed Mill, where we made a stop to stretch our legs and have some refreshments and a browse. We then set off for Snowdon and our driver took us on a wonderfully scenic drive through such places as Denbigh, Moel Famau and Betws-y-Coed with some great views of the Snowdonian mountain range on the way.



Our train to the summit was booked for 2:30pm and we arrived at Llanberis station about 1:20pm where we were able to view a short 15 minute film about the history of the railway and how it was built. It opened in 1896 and has been described as one of the most unique train journeys in the world. Switzerland, at that time, had some trains taking passengers safely up and down mountains, so the trains were bought from them. The famous rack and pinion track of eight miles up Snowdon was constructed by 150 men with picks, shovels and dynamite in only 14 months. Single carriage trains are pushed up the mountain by either steam or diesel locomotives.

We boarded our train, which was pushed by a diesel locomotive, at our allocated time and set off up the mountain. The journey takes an hour each way with a 30 minute stay at the top. The scenery was fantastic and even more spectacular once we reached the top. Despite the heat haze, we were able to admire the views in all directions. Looking at the huge brooding mountains, land and expanse of sky surrounding Snowdon, the sense of mystery and legends is almost tangible. The Welsh name that it is known by these days, Yr Wyddfa, (The Tomb), is said to mark the tomb of the fierce giant Rhita Fawr who made himself a cloak from the beards of all the kings that he had killed. He was finally killed by the legendary King Arthur and buried deep in the mountain, Eryri being the other, much more pleasant name (the abode of eagles).

Even though we only had half an hour to spend at the top, some intrepid members of the group managed to make it up the 100 steps right to the cairn on the summit.



Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales, at an elevation of 1,085 metres above sea level, and the highest point in the British Isles outside the Scottish Highlands.

We all made it in time to board the train back down again. The warnings were very clear; if you miss the train, it's a long walk down! After our descent from the mountain, we again boarded our coach for the journey home.

We arrived back at about 7.15pm and some of the group decided to finish the day off with a meal in the Cross House. A great day was had by all.



Victoria Gallery and Museum



Author Maragret Mottershead.

After a welcome coffee in the unique entrance hall with its colourful tiling and brickwork, our guide took **Local History Group 9** through the history of the University, its transfer from a college with 45 students in 1882 to its status as a University 1892. Local benefactors financed each major building project. Being Biennial Year there were displays from artists, sculptors and craftsmen throughout the Art Gallery. Originally built as the library, the beautiful Tate Hall has an intriguing collection of scientific curiosities, including a complete Victorian dentist's surgery! The Leggate Lecture Theatre, now used by students and the public for lectures, talks and concerts etc. is a handsome semi-circular building and seeing it marked the end to our "wish for more time" fascinating tour due in no small measure to our very informative guide Sue. Lunch at the Piazza at the Metropolitan Cathedral was a very pleasant ending to our trip.

Hesketh Park Observatory

Authors, Jeanette Smith & Richard Tyers.



Fifteen members of the **Science Group** were invited to visit the Hesketh Park Observatory by the Southport Astronomical Society this summer. It was a very hot day when members climbed the outside staircase to the first floor of the Victorian grade II listed observatory housing an 1869 six-inch Thomas Cooke refracting telescope. Bob Mount, Observatory Manager, helped by Ray Bennion, explained how the telescope manufactured by Thomas Cooke & Son in 1869 worked, pointing out its mechanics and

describing its capabilities. Bob explained how it was possible to view the Moon, Planets and even the Sun safely when fitted with a special solar filter, whenever daytime or nighttime skies were clear.

Fortunately, over the years the Society has been able to carry out the specialist repairs and routine maintenance needed to keep this unique Victorian telescope in working order, thanks to a member with the specialist skills needed. Since the mid 1990's its use has been severely limited due to problems with the observatory structure, now successfully resolved following a refurbishment in 2017 carried out on behalf of Sefton MBC. Following a recent reorganisation within Sefton MBC, the Society has been advising new staff responsible for the observatory, what its educational potential is for both the public and the



science syllabus of local schools.

The timber part of the observatory and Cooke telescope it houses were originally donated by the polymath and philanthropist Thomas Sebastian Bazley to Joseph Baxendell Snr., who was the first Superintendent of a meteorological station in Hesketh Park that later became known as “The Fernley Observatory.” This name has often been mistakenly ascribed to the astronomical observatory. When donated, Baxendell was living in Birkdale where his observatory and telescope were installed in the back garden of his house in Liverpool Road (now demolished), close to today’s Birkdale railway station.

Following Joseph Baxendell Snr death he was succeeded as Meteorologist by his 18-year old son Joseph Baxendell Jnr. whose main interest was meteorology rather than astronomy. Consequently he decided to donate his father’s observatory and telescope to the then Southport Corporation who in 1901 installed it in its present location in Hesketh Park. Following this donation members of the Southport Scientific Society began using this new facility for private observations of the night sky. Interest grew and in 1927 an Astronomical Society was formed that became the forerunner of today’s “Southport Astronomical Society.” The current Society was formed in 1983 and has a membership of around 40, ranging from beginners to those with more experience and knowledge of astronomy.

To complete a very interesting trip, Richard Tyers, a member of both the U3A Science group and Southport Astronomical Society gave a short PowerPoint presentation in the ground floor room of the Observatory. This presentation focussed Joseph Baxendell’s principle astronomical interests, namely the study of stars whose brightness varied periodically and temporal changes in the number of sunspots on the Sun, together with the science behind them. As Southport’s official Meteorologist Baxendell Snr. was trying to establish if there was any connection between the number of sunspots and the Earth’s weather.

The Southport Astronomical Society has as one of its principle constitutional objectives, public education in Astronomy and related Sciences through its Outreach programme, which was a requirement of Joseph Baxendell Jnr. when he donated his father’s observatory to the former Southport Corporation. To that end, now that the observatory has been returned to working order, the society plans to provide viewing opportunities to the general public, and also supports the Fernley Observatory



Heritage Group’s summer weekend open days, the next being Saturday September 29 from 10:30am–4:00pm. For more information on additional openings of the observatory, Astronomy, or the Society, visit the Society’s website <https://southportastro.org/>

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.

Bridge group 25: We are looking for a few more reserves for our Bridge Group. We are a friendly, experienced group who meet in members homes weekly on a Friday morning, with usually three tables. Reserves are not expected to host and lifts can be arranged. Contact Pete Dean on petedean1946@gmail.com or phone 834081.

Card Making: A new card making group has recently started. At present the group is full but names of interested members will be put on a waiting list. Please contact Ann Knowles on 872333 or email: theknowlesfamily@btinternet.com

Floral Art 1: welcomes new members. Contact Pauline Hall, 879820.

Gardening Group 3: This group would like a few more members to join them. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm. Contact Jean Toms on 871540 or email: tomox@talktalk.net

Swimming group: Swim on Monday at 12:00 at Formby pool. Members pay individually, receive a reduced entrance fee and swim as little or enthusiastically as they wish followed by coffee and chat.

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.

Fri 14th 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. 1st Nov, “They Don’t Pay We Won’t Pay,” Playhouse 7.30pm. A political satire set in Brexit Britain. What will one woman do when out of work and in debt. An opportunity arises and she desperately grabs it with both hands but of course there are consequences. Anthea, however has a vivid and anarchic imagination which she uses to justify her position to husband and police, with hilarious results. Tickets including transport £24.

Thurs 20th 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 29th 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.

Thurs 21st March 2019, “The Full Monty,” Liverpool Empire 7:30pm. Writer Simon Beaufort has many screen credits including Slumdog Millionaire and The Hunger Games. This is his first stage production which is set in Sheffield after the decline of the steel industry. With a cast of well known tv actors he tells the story of six men with no work prospects who decide on a desperate and daring course of action. Brace yourselves ladies! Tickets including transport £30.

Fri 14th June 2019, “Great Directors and Composers: Steven Spielberg and John Williams,” Philharmonic Hall, 7.30pm. Conducted by Vasily Petrenko together with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the wonderful digital effects, special lighting and cinematic visuals, the programme includes some of the best

known and much loved film music from the last five decades. This will be a memorable experience. Tickets including transport £40.

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

Announcements

Book & Jigsaw Exchange: There is now a Formby U3A book and jigsaw exchange at the monthly coffee mornings and speaker events. Please bring a book you have read or a jig-saw you have done to exchange for a different one. ***Keith Jacques, Secretary.***

Privacy & Data Protection: The Committee has agreed Privacy and Data Protection Policies in order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation. These can be found on the Formby U3A website under the Admin tab. Copies have also been sent to Group Leaders and are available from the Secretary. ***Frances Taylor, Vice Chairman.***

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held at 2:00pm on **Wednesday 10th October 2018** in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Rosemary Lane, Formby.

Agenda

Approval of a replacement Charitable Purposes Clause in the constitution of the Formby University Of The Third Age. (This is the only item for consideration).

Current Clause: CHARITABLE PURPOSES: The charitable purposes of The U3A are: To advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in FORMBY and its surrounding locality. In this constitution “people in their Third Age” has the meaning set out above

Proposed Replacement Clause: CHARITABLE PURPOSES: The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.

Background: The parent body of U3A's nationwide, the Third Age Trust, have been advised by the Charity Commission that all activity carried out by a U3A must be charitable and within the object clause of its constitution. They have agreed with the Charity Commission that the proposed replacement clause is acceptable and should cover our activities and have requested that all U3As adopt this replacement clause.

The Chairman identified this issue and the need to remove territorial restrictions on

membership at our AGM in March. The Committee of Formby U3A believe that adopting the proposed replacement clause will not impact on our activities and are therefore happy to recommend it to our members for adoption.

Proposer: This proposal is made by Keith Jacques, Secretary of Formby U3A and is seconded by Glyn Pike, Chairman.

Welcome To July & August's New Members

Laura Ahmady	Jane Bienias	Mary Boothroyd
Desmond Byrne	Nola Cullen	Paul Cullen
Debra Doherty	Janet Fanning	Pat Foulkes
Joy Gamez-Calderon	Kath Halpin	Peter Halpin
Sue Hartley	Susan Hyland	Doreen Jackson
Susanne Jones	Rob Kemp	Karen Liggett
Pamela Maddocks	Alison McArdle	Hannah Mills
Jean Scraggs	Linda Sharratt	Joan Talbot
Janet Williams	Sheila Wise	

Next Season's Speakers at the Monthly Meetings

Sept 12th **Bee Keeping**, John Turner. As well as talking about local bees and the benefits of honey, John will bring honey to sell.

Oct 10th **Emergency General Meeting** to consider changes to the Constitution, Proposed Replacement Clause: Charitable Purposes: The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development (*see page 10 for full details*).

This will be followed by **The Magical Musical Tour**, Chris Devereux. The Tour is a play-on-words of the Beatles' famous album. It is a live, interactive selection of his favourite songs including Sacred Music, Early Music, Plainsong, the great Traditional Music of these islands and good old Rock'n'Roll. Chris likes the "talk" to be interactive and educational and each song is preceded by historical background information giving the audience the opportunity to question or to comment.

Nov 14th **The Secrets of Your Tesco Till Receipt**, Janice Atfield. Just when you thought you were safe to go shopping. Find out what your till receipt discloses about you.

Dec 12th **Christmas Concert.**

Jan 9th **Life Experiences**, Roger Blaxall. Roger is a freelance journalist. He started his career in 1974 as a Junior Reporter on the Ormskirk Advertiser and was appointed Editor of the Greater Manchester Police Force magazine "Brief" and later joined the Lancashire Constabulary as News Editor for the force magazine "The Journal."

Feb 13th **Confessions of a Registrar**, Carol Codd.

Mar 13th **AGM** followed by **Percy Throter to The Rescue**, Alan Foxall. Alan is the retired Head Gardener of Southport's Botanical Gardens.

Apr 10th **Herbs for Health**, John Taylor. Looking at helpful herbs and how they may benefit you as you struggle with colds and infections.

May 8th **The Rhymes and Ramblings of a Performance Poet**, Ian Kenyon. Ian has performed with Ken Dodd and been on Radio Merseyside.

June 12th **Sing Me Mersey**. This is their 3rd visit and they have previously been lively & well received.

July 10th **Tales of Traditional Family Business of Cowkeeping in Liverpool**, Liverpool Cowkeepers.

If you wish to contact the Speakers Organiser you can speak to them at the monthly meetings, coffee morning or e-mail: speakers:formbyu3a.org.uk

Accessibility For All & Appropriate Communication

1

A letter is not always the right answer – All information provided should be in the format that the individual

requires: **Easy-read, audio, braille, large print**, right colour paper and video. And when any request is made, this should be recorded and acted upon.

2

Do not make assumptions, not everyone is the same – does your approach or message still make sense to those who communicate differently?

3

Verbal communications – when starting a face to face conversation or on the phone **always start with "hello my name is ..."** talk slowly and clearly

Accessibility & Communication

TOP 10 TIPS

Don't put words in my mouth, **don't finish sentences for me**. If I am struggling to find a word or talking slowly, be patient and let me finish – I might take longer but I will get there. If you are not sure, please ask me.

4

Promote alternative formats: publicise and encourage people to use all of the alternative formats available

5

All council departments need to understand and meet the needs of disabled people. People with disabilities are part of the general public – It is not only specialist disability services that have to work in an inclusive way – we all do!

8

6

See the person not the disability – physically hearing someone and listening to what they are saying are different: **listen to understand**.

Online is not right for everyone:

electronic resources are great for those who can afford, and understand computers. But for some this is not something they can access – a reliance on this can mean people are missing out.

7

Follow plain Language

and avoid jargon or acronyms. If it is necessary for these to be used then explain their meaning.

9

When giving information out to people about a service, **inform the person if things change** – keep us informed.

10

Co-produced with the 'Improving Information' group



Accessible Information Standard

Sefton Council 

Sefton
2030

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.**

Friday September 14th, 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.**

Monday, October 15th, Haunted Inns: Tickets £30 each include a scenic drive through the Ribble Valley with our excellent guide Simon who will travel with us describing the ghost stories and legends associated with each inn.

We will stop for lunch at one of your favourite eateries, The Calf's Head, before continuing our scenic journey on our returning to Formby early evening. **Depart Cross Green 9:00am.**

November: still to be finalised.

Friday, December 14th, Christmas Party at Briars Hall:

Tickets £25.75 include a short drive to the lovely Briars Hall for an excellent three course Christmas lunch plus tea or coffee.

This is followed by entertainment by your favourite entertainer Tony Ravel. Join us for lots of music, dancing, fun and laughter. **Depart Cross Green 11:00 am.**

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
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	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.

Sept 12th	Bee Keeping	John Turner
Oct 10th	EGM & The Magical Musical Tour	Chris Devereux
Nov 14th	The Secrets of Your Tesco Till Receipt	Janice Atfield

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, Sept 13th 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 or tel: 872879.** Please remember to include your full name and address, or your 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

The next Newsletter is due to be sent by e-mail and be on the website early October. 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 articles for the next Newsletter is midday Thursday, 20th September 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.