

Whitby



Author Pam Skelton; photos David Skelton.

On a grey morning members of the **Outings Group** boarded the coach for our trip to Whitby, hoping the better forecast for the East Coast would be realised. There was a half hour coffee/comfort stop at Hartshead Moor services before arriving in Whitby at about 1.30.

The weather **was** better, not sunny but light and with a warm breeze. After we had left the coach, we scattered. The open-top tour bus was a welcome option for some. On the top deck it was easy to switch sides to get the best views. I could not have

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got to the Whale bone arch under my own steam and when the bus made an extended stop beside the bandstand we were perfectly positioned to watch and photograph, the Morris dancers and the women's folk-dance group. Their skill and artistry were a delight and we realised this was part of the annual folk festival. We alighted at the Abbey, the highest point overlooking the harbour and town. Beside the Abbey ruins is the Parish Church of St Mary and en-route to Whitby, Howard, our driver, had talked enthusiastically about this old and unusual church, so we went in to look at the box-pews and unique three-decker pulpit. An unexpected feature of the Abbey complex was



the well patronised Youth Hostel in a grade-one heritage site!

Getting back into the town one could take the bus, walk down 199 steps, or walk down the precipitous cobbled slope, not recommended! There, the cafes had been well patronised. Coffee, chips, and good meals were to had in abundance. Down every narrow street can be found antique and jewellery shops, many specialising in the famous Whitby jet, and places devoted to Bram Stoker and his creation. Capt. Cook, probably Whitby's most famous son, is also part of the Whitby experience. However, we had to meet our coach at 5.00pm so much had to be left until another time.

As we returned in worsening weather, we were denied some of the lovely moorland views we had enjoyed in the morning. This however did not detract from the pleasures of the day and the bus buzzed with chatter. Whitby, we'll be back! Thanks Ann, it was a great day.

Third Birthday

Author, Audrey Silvester.



Our happy **Uno Group** of 8 card players recently celebrated their 3rd Anniversary. We meet each week and enjoy friendship and fun. In fact we do not let the cards get in the way of our laughter. This group is currently full but we can recommend Uno as a good way of meeting new people and putting the world to rights. If anyone

would like to start another Uno group please contact the group leader, 873466.

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

Teggs Nose



Author, Marcia Thompson.

The Fellwalking Group were on Teggs Nose, near Macclesfield. We then followed the Gritstone Trail to Wildboardclough and climbed Shutlingsloe, also known as the Cheshire Matterhorn. Our walk was led by George and Joanne and was through beautiful countryside and on good paths through the Macclesfield Forest, up and down hills and alongside reservoirs. Perfect weather too.

Daniel Adamson



Author, Irene Morgan.



Having first been told Daniel Adamson would be at Albert Dock and then at Acton Bridge for their recent visit, **Local History 6** members had to travel over the new Runcorn Bridge to Sutton Weaver where the Daniel Adamson was moored. We were

welcomed aboard with a hot drink by a very friendly crew of volunteers who gave us a very interesting tour of the 'Danny' as she is affectionately known. Tired after climbing up to the wheel house, down into the working boiler and engine room and marvelling at the opulence of the Art Deco interior, we enjoyed an on-board lunch consisting of Danny Scouse and beer with "seconds" available for those with a hearty appetite.

The Danny, first named the Ralph Brocklebank after a Chairman of the Harbour Board, appeared on the Mersey when sailing ships, steamships and ocean liners of the Edwardian era crowded the waters. She is a survivor from the steam age, originally constructed as a powerful canal tug to tow barges along the canals from the inland towns of Cheshire and the Potteries to Liverpool. As the Brocklebank, she also carried passengers between Ellesmere Port and Liverpool and during the First World War, she was used by the Royal Navy as an unarmed patrol boat around Liverpool. As a coal-fired steam tug, The Danny is now unique, being the last surviving steam-powered tug to be built on the Mersey and is believed to be the oldest, operational Mersey-built ship anywhere in the world.

The Manchester Ship Canal was built to allow the city to bypass the high taxes levied by the Port of Liverpool and the Brocklebank was one of several tugs purchased by the Canal Company. As well as her towing duties she was used to take visiting VIPs around Manchester's docks and along the ship canal, hosting a succession of eminent visitors including King Fuad of Egypt, King Faisal of Iraq, King Amanullah of Afghanistan, and the Sultan of Zanzibar. In 1936 she was chosen as the official director's launch, given a radical refit and her name changed to that of the Ship Canal's first chairman, Daniel Adamson. The wheelhouse and bridge were raised and she acquired a new upper deck and two saloons. The directors requested a roomy and artistic effect and local companies were invited to come up with designs for the remodelling. Furniture makers Waring & Gillow were consulted about the interior design and décor, but the contract went to a rival company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the shipbuilders Harland & Wolff, experienced with fitting out the interiors of some of the grandest Atlantic liners in the world. The new interiors had bold lines, geometric patterns and block colours of the modern Art Deco style in a miniature version of the Atlantic liners, such as the Liverpool registered Cunard-White Star flagship, RMS Queen Mary. Visitors were protected from the wind and rain in the stylish lower saloon where they could imagine themselves to be in the cocktail bar of a glamorous ocean liner. The Danny declined along with the ship canal as



supertankers became too large for the canal and containerised ships could not easily and quickly reach Manchester, the docks closing in the 1980s. She was towed to the boat museum at Ellesmere Port but fell victim to funding cuts so that by the early 1990s she was starting to show signs of neglect and deteriorated, becoming both vandalised and partly set alight.

By 2004 she was earmarked for scrapping. However, Dan Cross, a Mersey tug skipper, purchased her for £1 and founded the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society to try and save her. Aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Danny has been restored to full working order, joining the ranks of the maritime equivalent of Grade I listed building status, alongside other vessels of national significance such as Cutty Sark, HMS Victory and SS Great Britain. The Danny is now used for private events, short cruises, including gin tasting experiences, educational and family events. We were very grateful to visit the Danny for a fascinating, memorable visit as well as the opportunity to observe the dedication of the many volunteers who had worked so hard to lovingly restore her and bring her beautiful interiors back to life and make the ship functional again.



The U3A stokers were fascinated by the engine room and boilers

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: A new group will meet on a Tuesday afternoons. It is for members who have played in the past and wish to brush up their skills. Beginners are also welcome. Please contact Nikki Harrison on 871308.

Gardening Group 3: have vacancies. They meet fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon. Please contact Jean Toms on: tomox@talktalk.net

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.

Christmas Show

Author, Susan Birchall.

This years Christmas show will be a short Pantomime by the U3A Drama group. We are well into rehearsals and already having fun. Will Aladdin be brave enough to go into the cave and retrieve the lamp? Why not come along to **The United Reformed Church, Church Road on December 12th** and find out? We aim to entertain, oh and there's also wine and mince pies at the interval. Tickets are £2 each and will be on sale at the meetings. We are looking forward to seeing you all, "Oh yes we are."

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. 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. Anthea has a vivid and anarchic imagination which she uses with hilarious results. Tickets including transport £24. *If you would like to go to this, tickets will need to be bought quickly as time is short after the summer break.*

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! Tickets including transport £40. *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. 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.

Formby U3A – Changing the Rules

Author Keith Jacques, Secretary.

Following the decision to align Formby U3A with the Third Age Trust, the committee have been working to ensure we comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission and that we reflect the best values of the U3A generally. This has resulted in some changes to our rules which may be of interest:

Membership – membership used to be restricted to people “residing in Formby and its surrounding locality”. This was interpreted as restricting membership to people with an L37 postcode – something which will be removed if the EGM motion is passed with membership becoming open to anyone in their “third age”.

Attendance at group activities – There are certain restrictions on attendance at U3A activities as required by the U3A Insurance Policies and as agreed by Formby U3A committee:

- i) Non-members can attend groups, meals and outings on two separate occasions.
- ii) A member can be accompanied by an assistance dog or a carer with the proviso that the carer would not normally be expected to take part in the activity.
- iii) Children are not allowed to attend U3A activities.
- iv) A member may be accompanied by a dog on walks with the agreement of other members of the Group.
- v) Members of other U3As may occasionally participate in an outing or other organised trip if there are vacancies and it is to the advantage of Formby U3A that the places are filled
- vi) Group Leaders must ensure that all members of their group, with the exceptions mentioned above, are fully paid up members of Formby U3A i.e. that they are in possession of a current membership card.

It should also be noted that you can be a member of more than one U3A – so members of Southport U3A for example, could join Formby U3A as well.

Welcome To September's New Members

Rodney James

Steve Jones

Liz Mills

Jennie Jarvis

Denise Liptrot

William Jarvis

Margaret McDowell

Volunteers needed for a PhD Research Study: Malar Selvaraj is looking for people 65 and over and who can climb stairs on their own. The study aims to develop a stair fall risk detection system to aid people who have a high risk of falling to avoid future stair falls. The study will entail using wearable sensor shoes. If you are able to help please email: M.Selvaraj@2016.ljmu.ac.uk

Announcements

Author, Keith Jacques, Secretary.

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.

U3A DIARIES 2019: Diaries will be available at our October and November coffee mornings and speaker events. These are £2.50 each. If you wish, you can reserve one by emailing: secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk

The Empty Helmet



How you would like to fill the empty saddle and get back on your bike again? The **Cycling for Softies Group** recently went to Mecycle in Ainsdale after starting off from Formby Station, total distance approximately 12 miles. We always keep to slowest paced rider, no leaving any one behind. If you don't want to cycle home, there's always the train. We

meet every Monday weather permitting, at 9.50 at the Dove's Nest on Formby Station, riding off 10.05 to allow for any late comers to join us. Our rides are based in and round Formby and we always try include a coffee stop half way round or at the end of our ride. So, if you would like to get back on your bike or try for the first time, we do have a few vacancies.

Contact information: e-mail: alanthomas200@msn.com or mobile 0795 689 4878, or land line 871376.



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.**

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.**

Tuesday, 20th November, Leighton Hall: Tickets £29.00 include return coach travel via Morecambe allowing time to visit the indoor market or promenade. Arriving at Leighton, we have a guided tour of the hall decorated for Christmas prior to a sumptuous afternoon tea. **Depart Cross Green 9:00am.**

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, lots of music, dancing, fun and laughter. **Depart Cross Green 11:00am**

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.

Oct 10th EGM & The Magical Musical Tour Chris Devereux . The tour is a play-on-words of the Beatles' famous album, a live, interactive selection of Chris's favourite songs including Sacred Music, Early Music, Plainsong, the great Traditional Music of these islands and good old Rock'n`Roll. Each song is preceded by historical background information.

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, Oct 11th 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: are available at: www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html

The next Newsletter is due to be sent by e-mail and be on the website early November. 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. 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.

The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is midday Thursday, 18th October at the latest to: the Editor, e-mail: newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk