



Liverpool Central Library & Record Office



Author, Steve Whitefield.

Local History Group 8's visit to Liverpool Central Library and Record Office tied in well with the members meeting talk the next week on William Brown, "the man who made Liverpool". Of course the library is on William Brown Street along with the World Museum and the Walker Art Gallery and it was Brown who funded the original library building. The building itself is well worth seeing: behind the original façade there is the very modern part, completed in 2013, with its splendid light rounded atrium and then there are the equally splendid original wood-panelled Picton Reading Room and Hornby Oak Room. The modern part had already been rebuilt once having been

bombed in the Liverpool blitz.

Contents

Page

Annual General Meeting	7-8
Coffee Mornings	4
Christmas Lunch	9
Draft Minutes 2022 AGM	8
Golf	5
Get Out a Bit More	11
New Members	10
Quiz	4
Sew Craft & Chat	3
SingMe Merseyside	6
St Peter's Church	3
Your Committee Members	11

The Oak Room contains a number of rare and valuable books. One of the most valuable is a book of beautiful prints of birds by the naturalist and illustrator John James Audubon. Only 120 copies are known to have survived in the world and another is in the Victoria Gallery and Museum in Liverpool, which our group also visited recently.

But the real highlight was the tour of the records office and archive by Carl, a qualified archivist. There is the public area, which seems pretty well

IMPORTANT: It is vital that our membership record is accurate and up to date.

Please ensure that changes to address, emails and telephone numbers are reported to the membership Secretary as soon as possible. Many thanks.

used, where there is free access to material such as family history websites, local newspapers on microfiche. People were even looking at real books! Then there is another archive room which the public can access by prior appointment so that staff can have prepared access to whatever material they have requested.



We were lucky enough to go behind the scenes to see some of the vast array of books, papers, letters, charts, maps, graphics etc. which make up the archive. The members of the group were very taken with the stacks of storage shelves and drawers which can be electronically moved up against each other or moved apart to give access. It seemed very easy to get lost amongst it all, but the storage areas are colour-coded so at least you'd know what floor you were lost on! The archive contains material mostly relating to the city of Liverpool but also some relating to the wider Merseyside area and other parts of Lancashire. Some of it is so precious and fragile that it has to be kept in temperature-controlled rooms, which we also entered, but briefly, brrrr!



As the final part of the tour, Carl had set out for us a number of examples of the amazing range of what is in the archive and the group found this the most fascinating part of all. There was a ledger relating to the trade in slaves showing the prices of individuals; illustrations and records of the workhouse which was one of the largest in the country, covering much of the length of Brownlow Hill; a letter from Queen Victoria; football programmes (one with a red banner, one blue) from the days when, we were amazed to discover, Liverpool and Everton shared them; the oldest document in the archive was the charter from King John which allowed Liverpool to hold a market.

Of course it's not much use having all the material unless you can retrieve it and make use of it. But archiving methods and systems change over time so it's a constant challenge to keep the database of what you have up to date and for all your material to be accessible. And developing technology makes all that even more of a challenge.

We ended the visit with walking on to the roof from which there are great views of the Liverpool skyline, and solving the riddle which comes from one of the large rare books in the Oak Room, the Genus Crocus by George Maw, which has a single eye in the binding. Next time you are in William Brown Street see if you can solve it by seeing what is spelt out by the red letters amongst the book titles which are set into the library's entrance-way.

I personally took two things from this fascinating trip, and I suspect other members did too. Firstly, I discovered that the whole business of archiving is much more interesting than you'd think it would be and secondly, the library and the archive is a great and precious resource for the city and we should all do our best for it to remain so.

Sew, Craft & Chat



Some of the seasonal products produced by members of the **sew, craft and chat** group. *Photos, Veronica Curtis.*



St Peter's Church

Author, Andy Dickinson.

Local History Group 16 were entertained to a tour around St Peter's Church and graveyard by Father Ted. The visit coincided with the Christmas Tree Festival which featured decorated trees sponsored by the local people and organisations. Local charities benefitted by visitor donations.

The church at its current site was built in 1746 to replace a former chapel located



nearer the sea and destroyed by a storm in 1739. The new church was of Georgian design with an extension, including the Formby Chapel having a Gothic style added in the 1870's. This leaves an interesting building with two contrasting architectural styles. Father Ted explained the history of the church, especially the influence of the Formby family.



Outside we were treated to stories about some of the local people buried in the graveyard. After a very informative and entertaining talk the group retired to the Bier House for refreshments. Many thanks to Tricia for organising the visit.

Coffee Mornings

Author, Andy Dickinson.



Thursday 1st December saw the return of the Formby u3a Coffee Mornings to the Workshop in the Village. Members Kitty Malloy, Kate Palmer, Maureen Skelly and Trish Gregory laid on a lovely seasonal spread with mince pies, stolen and biscuits. As a thank you for their efforts in the past each was presented with a flower bouquet by Formby u3a Chair, Helen Lewandowska, on behalf of the Committee. This inaugural meeting was well supported and appreciated by the members who attended. Future coffee mornings take place at the Workshop on the second Thursday of each month except during August between 10.30 and noon providing a great opportunity to meet fellow members with new members especially welcome.



Quiz

Author, Steve Whitefield, Quiz Group.

- 1) Which of Henry VIII's wives had their family home at Hever Castle?
- 2) What is the main ingredient of the Russian soup borscht?
- 3) Who designed Liverpool's Metropolitan cathedral?
- 4) In the acronym LASER, what does the R stand for?
- 5) Wrote the books on which the TV series Vera was based?
- 6) The first railway line opened in 1825 ran from Stockton to where?
- 7) In which river was Jesus baptised?
- 8) Who was the cartoonist who drew and wrote the Snowman?
- 9) Which day of the week is Prime Minister's question time?
- 10) Which television presenter and campaigner started Childline?

- 11) Which two Old Testament books have names beginning with the letter P?
- 12) What Latin phrase means time flies?
- 13) What title is given to the wife of a Viceroy?
- 14) In the British army which officer ranks above a captain and below lieutenant?
- 15) Which two colours make up the flag of Portugal?
- 16) What name is given to the lines on a map connecting points with equal atmospheric pressure?
- 17) Which Scottish engineer built the Menai Bridge?
- 18) Van Diemen's Land is the former name of which island?
- 19) Who is the only British prime minister to be assassinated?
- 20) What is the den of an otter called?

Answers on page 6

Golf



Author, Bob Campbell Wednesday Group.

The **U3a Golf Group** got together for their Christmas event at Formby Hall. Before the meal some of the more intrepid golfers managed to play the nine-hole course. This was despite the frost. They managed to complete the course without disaster. Skimming off the frozen water was permitted. Luckily for some when their ball landed on the green or Fairway. Not mentioning any names but there was at least two of us.

They then joined the rest of the group for a very nice meal and we could not fault the service. Everyone got what they had ordered a few weeks ago and we were delighted to be given complimentary coffee and minced pies. It was nice for everyone in the various golfing groups to get together after the long delays due to Covid and enjoy each other's company.

Thanks to Formby Hall for letting us host this event.

SingMe Merseyside

Author, Andy Dickinson.



SingMe Merseyside returned to entertain members at the December Speakers Meeting. Despite the cold weather those members who attended were treated to an entertaining seasonal performance by the SingMe Merseyside choir led by the enthusiastic musical director Billy Hui. The choir

meet weekly at a number of venues across Merseyside and provides an opportunity for members to learn and perform with the emphasis on having fun, somewhat akin to the aims of the u3a, and this was clearly evident during the performance! Following the performance all were able to enjoy seasonal refreshments. Many thanks to the committee for organising a lovely afternoon.

Quiz Answers

- 1) Ann Boleyn
- 2) Beetroot
- 3) Frederick Gibberd
- 4) Radiation
- 5) Ann Cleves
- 6) Darlington
- 7) River Jordan
- 8) Raymond Briggs
- 9) Wednesday
- 10) Esther Rantzen.
- 11) Psalms & Proverbs
- 12) Tempus Fugit
- 13) Vicerine
- 14) Major
- 15) Green & Red
- 16) Isobars
- 17) Thomas Telford
- 18) Tasmania
- 19) Spencer Percival
- 20) A Holt

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A

2pm on Wednesday 8th March 2023, Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Formby

Author: Evan Bale, Secretary.

All members of the Committee (the Trustees) are required to stand down at the AGM.

Although some, including the Chair and Treasurer, have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election, these positions can be contested and there are several vacancies for committee members – new members would be most welcome.

A Nomination Form for any of the positions on Committee is available on page 8, the website (www.formbyu3a.org.uk), at either the Wednesday and Thursday meetings or by emailing secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk. Completed forms should be returned to the Secretary by **22nd February 2023**, either by post to the address given on the form, or via email. Forms may also be handed to any Committee Member in person.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive and approve the Annual Report
5. To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and Independently Reviewed Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022
6. To appoint an Independent Examiner
7. To receive and approve submitted Resolutions. *Members wishing to propose any additional items for consideration at the AGM were requested to submit these in writing to The Secretary by 22nd January 2023. Copies of submissions received can be viewed on the AGM 2023 page of the website.*
8. Elections of Officers and Trustees.
The following trustees have been nominated and have agreed to stand for re-election:

Secretary	Evan Bale
Treasurer	Anne Rodmell
Groups' Secretary	
Membership Secretary	Andy Dickinson
Trustees	Martyn Rodmell
	Nikki Harrison
	Helen Beaver

The following have been nominated for election as trustees in specified roles:

Chair	Helen Lewandowska
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FORMBY U3A Nomination Form **For The 2023/24 Formby U3A Committee**

A Nomination Form (overleaf) for any of the positions on Committee is also available at either the Wednesday and Thursday meetings. Completed forms should be returned to the Secretary by **22nd February 2023**, either by post to the address given below or via email. Forms may also be handed to any Committee Member in person.

Nominee:

For the office of:

Proposed by:

Signature of proposer:

Seconded by:

Signature of seconder:

I agree to be nominated for the above office.

Signature of nominee:

Completed nomination forms should be returned to: Secretary Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool L37 1XQ, e-mail: secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk by **22nd February at the latest**, but nominations for posts still vacant after that time will be accepted up until the start of the meeting.

Formby U3A Draft Minutes Of The 2022 AGM

Held On Wednesday 9th March 2022

The draft minutes of the March 2022 AGM were previously published in the April 2022 Newsletter and are also available on the website.

Bridge for Beginners and “Lapsed” Players

Author, Nikki Harrison.

Bridge Group 1 offers an opportunity for anyone to learn how to play bridge, and also for anyone with some experience who has not played for a long time, and would like the opportunity to regain old skills before joining a more experienced group.

For complete beginners the group aims to teach the basics of bridge and allow new

players to learn by experience in a relaxed social group.

If there is sufficient interest from members with previous experience a separate "Improvers" meeting would be offered.

This Group meets on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon in members' homes.

Group Leader - Nikki Harrison. 01704 871308 (answerphone); or 0771898 5509 (texts welcomed but please do not leave voicemail on the mobile number); or e-mail: nikki@nikki101077.plus.com

Christmas Lunch

Author, Paula Parker.



The recently formed **Local History Group16** enjoyed Christmas lunch in early December after their quarterly planning meeting. A good time was had by all as trips for this year were finalised .



New Members

Formby U3A is pleased to welcome the following new members.

Joy Bishop	Christine Broom	Judy Brown
Janet Burgess	Yvonne Day	Anne Ennis
Jacqui Insayef	Paul Jennings	Shirley Jones
Stephen Lawler	Stewart Naim	James Singleton
Beverley Smith	Stephanie Swain	Marie Wilson

Get Out a Bit More!



Author, Eric Baker.

Early last year Alison and I decided that we needed to “get out a bit more” given the threat from Covid had receded. With this in mind we decided to join Formby U3A, principally with the hope of joining a line dancing group. We had previously attended a start-up line dancing class for about a year before the first lock-down however the group had folded. Of course, as is the way of things, the class we hoped to join was full and the waiting list significant. What to do? Join the waiting list and hope or what?

The committee explained to us that the usual U3A approach is “if you want to do something then organise it yourself” however our line dancing skills are far from making this possible. On the credit side we were still in touch with our former dance teacher who was more than happy to lead a group in Formby if we could organise a venue and find some dancers. We proposed this unusual solution to the committee prompting some debate about whether this approach respected the U3A DIY philosophy. In the end though the committee was fully supportive, even offering seed funding, if needed, to equip the group.

Line Dance Group 2 has been running now for 10 months and has a core of determined dancers who make up the numbers most weeks. The hall is not full so

there is space for one or two more members if anyone is looking for a fun and challenging way to shed those extra Christmas pounds. My contact details can be found in the Groups section of the U3A web site.

Theatre and Sunday Lunches Groups

Author, Helen Lewandowska.

Formby U3A are still looking for people to lead the Theatre Group and Sunday Lunches Group. If any members are willing and able to do so, please contact me if interested, chair@formbyu3a.org.uk or 07548 213496.

Christmas Leftovers

A U3A member told their friend, "I feel like my body has become totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my leotard on, the class was already over."

You're not old, you're 30 (plus p&p).

Modern times A youngster was staring into his phone when I saw a U3A member help them to cross the road.

You know you're getting older when you have a party and the neighbours don't realise it.

I told my doctor I broke my arm in two places. They told me to stop going to those places.

Pastry chefs know that old age crepes up on you.

Why do seagulls fly over the sea? If they flew over the bay, they would be bagels.

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common? They have the same middle name.

"You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake." *Bob Hope*

You're not getting older, you're just becoming a classic!

Formby U3A Committee 2022-23

Chairman	Helen Lewandowska (2022 Co-opted) 07548 213496 chair@formbyu3a.org.uk		
Secretary	Evan Bale (2020)		secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Anne Rodmell (2019)	621835	treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec.	Andy Dickinson (2022)	643971	membership@formbyu3a.org.uk
Group Secretary	Gill Brady (2022)	643745	groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
Officers	Helen Beaver (2022)	07771 717387	1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Nikki Harrison (2021)	871308	2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Martyn Rodmell (2021)	621835	4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meetings Speaker Meetings

Martin Rodmell, Speaker Organiser.

Speaker meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in **The Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Formby**. The meetings start at 2.00pm and last about an hour.

Access: There is ramp access to the hall.

Parking: Please remember to enter your vehicle registration number on the electronic pad in the hall foyer each time you park. There is no charge for parking but failure to enter your number will almost certainly result in a heavy fine. If you are unsure what to do please ask for help.

8th February, Fran Sandham – “DR LIVINGSTONE, I PRESUME?” The story behind the legendary meeting in Africa in 1871 between the missing explorer Dr David Livingstone and the fame-hungry journalist Henry Morton Stanley. How their meeting proved to be the newspaper scoop of the century, bringing Stanley world fame and notoriety; the widespread controversy, hostility and personal ridicule Stanley faced on his return to Europe and America after finding Livingstone; why their meeting was such a sensational news story and why Stanley’s four words became the most famous greeting in history.

Remember to bring your current membership card to all U3A activities. The 2023 card is YELLOW. (If paying by Standing Order your 2023 card is being issued once payments have been received, but may be delayed in the post)

Coffee Mornings are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, Feb 9th and each second Thursday of the month, 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.

Newsletter Contributions informing members of your group and its activities are always welcomed. **Contributors’ names should be given.**

Please send contributions 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. 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.

Photographs submitted must be members’ own photos as copyright of third parties’ photos remains with the owner and the Newsletter cannot publish such photos.

Please ensure that all people shown in photographs are aware that photographs are being taken for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Previous Newsletters: are available at: https://formbyu3a.org.uk/?page_id=331

The deadline for articles for the next (May) Newsletter is midday Thursday, 20th April at the latest.