

# Formby U3a Newsletter

U3a

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## Mendips & Forthlin Road



*Author, Kath Halpin.*

Way back in January **Local History Group 9** planned a visit to John Lennon and Paul McCartney's childhood homes concerned that if we didn't book early then the tours would likely book up.

The tour departed, by minibus, from Liverpool SouthParkway; firstly the driver took the group to John's home (Mendips), which is on Menlove Avenue and then on to Forthlin Road, which is the best known of Paul's childhood homes. A different tour guide welcomed the group at both houses and each provided a real insight into John and Paul's humble beginnings, their early friendship and their musical partnership. Both boys sadly lost their mothers when they were young and this was a catalyst that bonded their friendship and creativity.

Mendips, the childhood home of John Lennon, is a 1930s semi-detached house and is more luxurious than Forthlin Road. It was lovingly maintained by John's Aunt Mimi and you can still see the house and garden as it was when John lived there, it is neat and tidy, yet still cosy. John's mum Julia was run over in 1958 when crossing the road outside Mendips. Forthlin Road is a typical example of a post-war terraced council house, it is smaller and more basic than Mendips. Paul's mother, Mary, died in 1956 when he and his brother, Mike, were in their teens and they lived there with their father Jim until the Beatles became famous.

It is surreal to stand in these houses knowing that John and Paul wrote several of the group's earliest hits when they were sagging off school!! e.g. Please Please Me, I Call

Your Name, I Saw Her Standing There and She Loves You. You can even tinkle the ivories on Jim McCartney's piano, which obviously Paul has also played many times.

Both residences are under the ownership of the National Trust and this tour is the only way to see inside the houses where John and Paul grew up and the Beatles were born. This really is a trip down memory lane and photographs taken by Mike McCartney featuring John and Paul hang on the wall in Forthlin Road. Everyone was buzzing after the tour, which is a must do for anyone who has ever heard of the Beatles. When group members were asked if they had enjoyed the tour they responded Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!!!



## **Murder and Mystery**

**Author, John Adamson.**

Members of **Local History Group 7** visited the old business district of Liverpool for a Murder and Mystery tour. We travelled by train to Moorfields Station and walked to "Pret a Manger," in Old Hall Street, where we enjoyed coffee and cake. After a brief introduction from our Blue Badge Guide, Elaine Allen, we walked to our first murder location near Leeds Street. We were given details of the murder and a brief description of what the area would have looked like in the early 1900s. The tour continued to a few other locations in the old business district where other murders were either committed, or where the murderers lived/worked. One story even involved a connection to "Jack the Ripper." I won't tell any more but the Group found the tour to be very interesting and many questions were answered providing a mental image of times gone by. Because the tour ended in the lunch time period the group split up into smaller groups to enjoy a meal in one of the many restaurants in the busy business area of the city.

## **Northumbria 2024**

**Author, Evan Bale, Secretary.**

For the past two years Meols U3a in Southport have run group holidays for its members through Airedale Tours. This year they have arranged a trip to Northumbria and have invited Formby U3a members to join them. The trip starts on 22<sup>nd</sup> April for 5 days (4 nights) and will cost no more than £819 (depending on the number of singletons going a single supplement may apply). Further information is available on our website [formbyu3a.org.uk](http://formbyu3a.org.uk) and those interested should contact Tony Dalton at [hilarytonydalton@aol.com](mailto:hilarytonydalton@aol.com)

## **It's Nearly Time to Renew Your U3A Membership**

**(£9 per member)**

Annual subscriptions are due on 2nd January. In order to ensure that the insurance cover provided by our affiliation to the Third Age Trust is not compromised, **all membership subscriptions should be paid by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at the latest.** Formby U3A now has to pay bank charges of 40p on each cheque we receive. If you do pay your membership fees by cheque, we would be grateful if you could arrange to pay your 2024 fees by Standing Order or by Online Bank Transfer.

### **How to renew your membership**

a) **Standing Orders:** Thank you to those members who have already set up a Standing Order for their membership fees. A Standing order mandate is available in the Formby u3a website under the membership tab or can be requested from the Membership Secretary by e-mailing [membership@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk) Forms can be collected at the Christmas Concert in December. Please ensure that your membership number is on the mandate.

b) **Online Bank Transfer:** The reference or description field of the payment **MUST** contain your membership number followed by your surname and initial. If you do not know your membership number you should contact the Membership Secretary (as above). Payment should be made to the following Formby U3A bank account:

**Account name:** Formby U3A **Sort code:** 40 21 20 **Account number:** 41365878

**Membership Cards will be posted to those paying by Standing Order or Online Bank Transfer once your subscription has been received from your bank.**

c) **Cheque Payment:** We ask that all other renewals should be by cheque. **If paying by cheque please make your cheque payable to Formby U3A and write your membership number on the back. (If you do not know your membership number, please write your name and address instead)**

Payments can be made in person at the January and February Speakers Meetings and coffee mornings and at the AGM on March 13<sup>th</sup>. If you pay in person at these

meetings, you can collect your card at the same time.

Payment can be made By Post: Cheques should be posted to:

Membership Secretary,  
Formby U3A,  
PO Box 216,  
Liverpool L37 1XQ .

**Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope to receive your Membership Card.**

**Please note we do not accept cash as payment for your membership renewal.**

**If you do not intend to renew your membership for 2024, please inform the Membership Secretary.**

## From the Chairman

Helen Lewandowska

**Coffee Mornings** have been well supported which is much appreciated. Of particular interest was our May coffee morning when Liverpool University attended to do health checks. We had people queuing from start to finish. have received emails from members saying how much they valued this event which is great.

Our first **outing** for a long time took place on 18<sup>th</sup> July to Llandudno. We had 48 people signed up which is fantastic. Some people came on their own so we agreed to have a small group for these people to go round together. The coach left the bus station behind Iceland promptly at 8am and returned from Llandudno at 5pm. We hoped for good weather and an enjoyable trip.

We have a number of **new groups** starting including Yoga on Tuesday's and Thursdays, Wild Water Swimming, running, beer appreciation and another Spanish group. If interested in any of these groups, please get in touch.

59 of us are looking forward to our **Christmas trip** to Harewood House and Harrogate Markets. We will be meeting at 7.50am to leave promptly at 8am. Any last-minute issues please phone Helen on 07548213496. Photographs in our next Newsletter.

The **December coffee morning** is now on the 7<sup>th</sup> December in the HT Workshop at 10:30 am as we have the concert the following week. This is our Christmas one so mince pies and other goodies will be available. We hope to see you all there.

The **Christmas concert** is on 15<sup>th</sup> December in the United Reformed church starting at 2pm. This is being led by our own U3a groups and will include a Christmas sing along. There will be wine, soft drinks and mince pies to follow. The event is a sell out which is fantastic and I'm sure we will have a great afternoon.

Our U3a **French Group** is looking for a new leader so if you can help, please give me a ring on 07548213496.

## New Members

**Formby U3A is pleased to welcome the following new members.**

Beth Bradley	Christine Crocott	Michael Crosbie	Andrew Day
Shirley Fisher	Stephen Griffiths	Ann Harrison	Nicholas Jinks
Sarah Jinks	Joanna Matthews	Ian McGowan	Bill McGuinness
Anne McKay	Pamela Mowat	Peter Reed	Sheila Ritchie
David Snape	Delyth Smith	Roger Smith	Ronald Smith
Alex Watson	Alison Webster	Sheena Wilson	



A busy October coffee morning. Thanks for your ongoing support.

**Please note December Coffee Morning is 7<sup>th</sup> December, 10:30am.**



The **Monday cycling group** on a sunny September day enjoying an essential break as they don't like to get too tired!

## Do You Know The Best Way To Outwit Fraudsters This Christmas?

If you use text messaging, or e-mails, or buy from websites you need to know how to beat fraudsters! Check out these tips and how to keep your bank card details safe.

Criminals can use fake websites, emails, and text messages to convince you to give them your card information. Once they've stolen your details, they can spend your hard-earned money, open new accounts and even apply for loans in your name.

So here's some tips for recognising when a website isn't all it seems, and how you can protect yourself online.

### Suspicious messages will:

- **Addresses you by your email address, or as “customer,”** rather than using your proper name.
- **Demand that you act quickly,** otherwise you risk losing something.
- **Contain links that ask you to click on part of the message.** Don't click on it, even if the message appears to have come from a person, or a business you know. Instead go to the businesses website and log in.
- **Appear to come from a trusted source like a friend.** Your friend appears be in “distress”, such as “I've had my money stolen; please send me £”, or “my phone is broken and I need your help,” or could ask “do you recognise these people,” with a link to what is meant to be pictures but is actually a link to a system so that they can access your phone or computer or you could arrive on a site or form that looks OK but asks you to give personal information and card details, which may be used to steal your money.
- **Ask you to update your address,** pay a bill or fine (which you didn't even know you owed).
- **Prompt you to unblock, or unfreeze your account** (which you didn't know was frozen and if you check directly with the company isn't blocked).
- **Prompt you to reschedule a missed delivery,** often for a charge (which you didn't know was on its way).
- **Often contain spelling and grammar mistakes:** Genuine websites will have correct spellings a grammar. Scamming messages often start life abroad and are written by people who do not have English as their first language.

### How to spot fake online retailers

🔒 **Before you buy check for a padlock symbol in the address bar or browser**  
The padlock indicates that the site is encrypted, so what you do on it can't be intercepted. Looking for a padlock should always be combined with the other checks, as scammers are able to forge or buy these padlocks, so it isn't a guarantee that a

website is safe.

### **Control your card's security**

Banks and legitimate retailers will not ask you for full details of your security codes or pin numbers. They may ask you for e.g. 1st and 3rd letter/number etc. but NEVER the full password/PIN.

If you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money, or personal details, or you think your card details are at risk, or if your account is displaying transactions that you don't recognise - **stop the call, hang up and call 159**. 159 works in the same way as 101 for the police, or 111 for the NHS. It's the number you can trust to get you through to your bank safely and securely, every time.

Use the telephone number on your card. **DO NOT use the telephone number in any suspicious e-mail you receive.**

## **Christmas Quiz**

### **Of sorts!**

What kind of motorcycle does Santa drive? A Holly Davidson!

What is every parent's favourite Christmas song? Silent Night!

What is a vegan's favourite Christmas carol? Soy to the World.

What is Santa's primary language? North Polish.

What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum? A meltdown.

Which former US President planted the most Christmas trees? Wood-row Wilson

What do they sing to Christmas trees at their retirement parties? Fir he's a jolly good fellow, fir he's a jolly good fellow...

Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can "ho ho ho"!

How did Joseph and Mary weigh baby Jesus at birth? They had a weigh in the manger.

What did the English teacher call Santa's unruly helpers? Subordinate Clauses.

Who is a Christmas tree's favourite singer? Spruce Springsteen

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!

What did one Christmas tree say to another? Lighten up!

Why does Santa go down the chimney? Because it soots him!

How do Christmas trees get their email? They log-on.

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claus-trophobia!

What did the beaver say to the Christmas Tree? Nice gnawing you!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing, it was on the house!

## Newsletter Contributions

Let other members know what your group is doing, vacancies you may have, or where you need additional members by 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](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. 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 do not send more than 4 photographs and ensure that all people shown are aware that photographs are being taken for inclusion in the Newsletter.

**Previous Newsletters:** are available at: [https://formbyu3a.org.uk/?page\\_id=331](https://formbyu3a.org.uk/?page_id=331)

## Formby U3A Committee 2023-24

Chairman	Helen Lewandowska (2022 Co-opted)		
		07548 213496	chair@formbyu3a.org.uk
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Treasurer	Anne Rodmell (2019)	621835	treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
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Group Secretary	Graham Higley (2023)	0780 1261537	groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
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## Speaker Meetings

**There will be no Speaker Meeting on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Concert: – Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2pm**, at the United Reformed Church, 111 Church Road, Formby L37 3ND. Please note you needed to get a free ticket from the November coffee morning or Speaker meeting. **We look forward to seeing you all for a festive celebration.**

**Please note December Coffee Morning is 7<sup>th</sup> December, 10:30am.**