

Cycle Ride to Sefton Park Field of Hope



Timing a cycle ride to coincide with the daffodil display in the Field of Hope, Sefton Park, has always been a bit hit and miss. However, this year the Cycle Group was very lucky to see a beautiful array of flowers. We took the train to Sandhills and then cycled to the Pier Head where the Bolette, Fred Olsen cruise ship, was in port.

The ride continued along the riverside to the Festival Garden site and on to Sefton Park. After lunch the return journey was via Princes Park and then a cycle route down to Liverpool Central station for the journey home.

Christine Hosie and Frances Taylor

Monday Cycling Group to Sefton Park

The Monday morning cycling group like to get out and about – so once we heard that the daffodils were in bloom in Sefton Park, we had to go. We were formally “Cycling for softies” and still like to lean into our “softies” side occasionally – so took the train to Sandhills.

Then we cycled across the Pier Head and onto Otterspool prom where we glided along the side of the Mersey – wind assisted by a briskly north westerly.

We left Otterspool prom and cycled up Lark Lane, resisting the temptation of the many cafes as we had something better in mind – the Palm House in Sefton Park, where we had scones and tea. Refreshed and refuelled we cycled amount the hundreds of daffodils, which were well worth the visit. Brilliant morning out!

We generally cycle 15–20 miles along a variety of gentle routes – off roads as much as possible.

We’re a friendly, sociable group where no one is left behind. If you fancy joining us contact Alan Thomas 07956 894878.



Here is a photo of some of the Recorder Group playing this afternoon. We meet every Monday, 1.45pm – 4.00pm, with a short tea break.

We really enjoyed playing for the Christmas Concert and were delighted to hear so many complimentary comments!

Our aim is to improve the reputation of Recorders. We are very pleased to welcome new members but you do need to be able to read music and play two sizes of recorder.



U3A Padel Groups

In February we started two u3a Padel groups at Formby Lawn Tennis Club on a Monday and Tuesday. Both groups are going very well. We have a brilliant coach Anna who coaches us for the first hour and then we have an hour's practice. Both groups are mixed gender and most of us are beginners. We pay £6/7 per session which covers the court and coach. Whilst waiting to go on court members can play table tennis and help themselves to a tea/coffee. The Monday group which is now being run by Alison Giblin is presently full. The Tuesday group which will be led by Simon Feltham from May probably has a couple spaces if anyone is interested. Our thanks go to Formby Lawn Tennis Club for accommodating and supporting us.





U3A Bowls (Formby Village)

Restarts on Thursday 26th March 2026! Why not come and join us?

Crown Green bowling will be back at Formby Village Sports Club (behind Holy Trinity Church) for the 2026 season from Thursday 26th March. All of last season's members and anyone else who would like to give it a try will be welcome from 10am to 12 noon on Thursday 26th March and each week thereafter.

Crown green bowling is a great way for men and women to do a little gentle exercise, meet people and to learn a new sporting skill in a friendly atmosphere. No prior experience is required as everything you need to get started (bowls, mats and some basic instruction) will be provided – although those with experience are also very welcome. The bowling green is located behind the Beauford Hall next to Holy Trinity Church in the centre of Formby.

The cost (which covers use of the green, clubhouse and equipment) will once again be £3 per session including some free tea and biscuits! Please contact Keith Jacques on keithjacques01@gmail.com or by telephone on 07713 068312 and come along if you can.

Local History Group 7 visit to The Reader Mansion House in Calderstones Park, Liverpool.

On Friday 27th February Local History Group 7 visited The Reader Mansion House in Calderstones Park, Liverpool. This is a Grade II listed building, built in 1828 for Joseph Need Walker, a lead shot manufacturer. It is a neoclassical mansion with a separate stable yard and coach house, which was originally set in 93 acres (38 hectares) of parkland.

In 1875 the house and estate were bought by Charles Maclver, co-founder of the Cunard Shipping Line. In 1902 the Maclver family bequeathed the estate to Liverpool City Council, and it was made into a public park. The mansion housed a tea-room and cafe and was used for wedding receptions and other functions. The building also contains a neo art deco open air theatre. The Neolithic Calderstones were removed for restoration and preservation and are now in a permanent exhibition, which tells the 5000 years of their history.

In 2013 the house was acquired by The Reader Charity, and after obtaining funding extensive restoration work took place and the building was reopened in 2019. "The Reader" is a national charity and The Reader Mansion is the world's first public building dedicated to literature and wellbeing. Our party was shown around the house by two knowledgeable volunteer guides. They described the history of the house; the original use of rooms and provided details of the 1820s building architecture.

The Mansion House is now a vibrant, thriving hub of activities including group reading, arts, crafts and education. There is a popular Story barn for children, ice cream barn, cafes and a bookshop.

Organisers: Jan & Mike Williams.



Local History Group 5 – Concorde at Manchester Airport Ringway Visitor Park



In March, 21 group members visited Concorde at Manchester Airport for a guided tour. The visit was hosted by Steve and Carole from the visitor centre, and started with a short British Airways film from the 1970's. We then went into the hanger housing Concorde and sat in the luxurious leather seats. Steve gave us a detailed and amusing talk on the history of the development of the plane, where it operated, the kind of person who flew on it and what happened to end its service. We had a good informative Q&A session.

In groups of 4, we went to the cockpit where Carole explained the use and operation of the controls, those that were generally standard for planes at that time, as well as those specially developed for Concorde. We ended the tour with a visit outside, under the fuselage where Steve pointed out some of the systems unique to Concorde. The first test flight was in 1969, the first supersonic flight in 1970 and the first transatlantic flight in 1973. 20 Concorde's were built, 6 for test and development, and 14 entering commercial service in 1977, British Airways and Air France having 7 each. The plane flew at Mach 2 (twice the speed of sound) 1350 mph, and an altitude of 60,000 ft. The outside of the plane heated up to around 100C during supersonic flight and expanded up to 10 inches in length, this was predicted during the design stage and was incorporated into the construction of the fuselage. It carried 119,000 litres of fuel and had 4 Rolls-Royce Olympus jet engines as used on the RAF Vulcan Bomber.

It took around 3.5 hours from Europe to New York, because of this, the majority of the passengers were on business trips. With the short transit time, business personnel could do a return trip in one day, no doubt using this as the justification for the cost, which was twice that of 1st class! Other passengers included Queen Elizabeth, prime ministers, presidents, cabinet ministers, but also with plenty of show biz and sports passengers.

Concorde ended its service following a disastrous crash in Paris in 2000, which was the result of a chain of operational failures, not caused by any failure of the plane itself. Modifications were made to a number of parts of the plane to get it flying again but the additional weight made it uneconomic in commercial service and it was retired in 2003. There are a total of 18 planes still in existence, located at museums in UK, France, Germany and USA. The one at Manchester is G-BOAC, which was the flagship of the BA fleet, and is well preserved within its own hangar.

The venue has a good facilities including a cafe and shop. It is adjacent to the runways, giving opportunities to view aircraft landings and take-offs. This visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all in our party and is highly recommended to other groups.

Walk in wild February weather to Silverdale



The weather was cold, the wind was really gusting, the forecast was for rain, but nevertheless 13 walkers from Group 6 headed to Leighton Moss RSPB reserve to begin our walk to Silverdale and Arnside. Jeff, our walk leader, took us on a great hike which included going through Eaves Wood to Arnside Tower, a 15th century ruined peel tower in an impressive location by Arnside Knott.

Our picnic lunch was overlooking a very grey Morecambe Bay after which we walked to the Cove and then back through Silverdale to the café at Leighton Moss for tea and cakes. Believe it or not it did not rain until we were travelling home!

Christine Hosie and Eileen McManus.

Local History Group 16, Ince Blundell Hall



Local History Group 16 visited Ince Blundell Hall in April for a fascinating behind the scenes guided tour of the grounds and buildings. This was followed by lunch in the beautifully presented dining room of the Hall.

The majority of us had never visited before and some were not aware of its existence although having driven past the boundaries on the A565 towards Switch Island many times.

Ince Blundell Hall itself is tucked away in fifty acres of gardens, woodlands and shrubbery within a red brick wall which is two and a quarter miles long. It is extremely secluded and this was deliberate so that the original owners did not flaunt their wealth.

The tour was split into two groups with one starting in the garden and the others in the main buildings. We were fortunate to be shown around by two very informative and knowledgeable guides who gave us details of the history and current usage.

We would certainly recommend this tour to other Groups and those interested should contact them on 0151 929 2596 to arrange a time to enjoy it for themselves and appreciate all the valuable and hard work that goes on here.

Author/Photographs: Paula Parker

History G9, Smithills Hall



Our tour this month was to Smithills Hall just outside Bolton, it is set in land on the edge of the West Pennine Moors. The Hall is one of the oldest and best preserved manor houses in the North West of England and houses fine examples of architecture through the ages, from Medieval and Tudor right through to Victorian times.

Our tour guide Steve was extremely knowledgeable and made the tour very interesting. We finished off in the 'Bake & Roast' cafe for lunch which was in one of the panelled rooms and looked out onto the grounds. Unfortunately the weather was not good so we were unable to venture outside.

Ready for a friendly discussion? – Linda Sharratt

If you enjoy a good conversation and like hearing different points of view, the Discussion Group might be just the thing for you.

We're a friendly, informal group who meet to chat about a wide range of topics – sometimes serious, sometimes lighter, but always interesting. Recent discussions have included questions such as: should people be more responsible for their own health? We've also talked about pets, the pros and cons of working from home, cryptocurrencies, whether social media is a threat to democracy, and even the idea of bringing back National Service. As you can see, nothing is off limits!

What makes the group work so well is the atmosphere. Everyone is respectful of differing opinions, and there's no pressure to "perform" or win an argument. Some people like to contribute a lot, others prefer to listen – both are absolutely fine.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2.30pm at the Freshfield pub. Each session has a topic to get us started, suggested by a group member, but the conversation often takes its own interesting twists and turns.

We now have space for a couple of new members. You would be made very welcome, so do contact me if you feel it suits you. You might find it becomes a highlight of your month.

For more information or to join the group, please contact

Linda Sharratt: Telephone: 01704 878232 Email: [indigo4943@gmail](mailto:indigo4943@gmail.com)

Local History Group 16, Altcar Training Camp



Local History Group 16 recently visited Altcar Training Camp, a military base in Hightown for a long awaited visit. We were not disappointed.

The visit started with a really interesting slide show highlighting the history and activities held on the beaches, marshland, fields and small woods on the site. We learnt that Altcar Training Camp is owned by the North West Reserve Forces' & Cadets' Association (NW RFCA). It is identified as a top UK facility for small arms training. The site is used by regular, reserve and cadet forces as well as civilian groups. We were amazed to learn they host around 110,000 overnight visitors per year (120,000 in 2025) as well as 12,000 day visitors. They have 720 beds available on site and function as a self-sufficient village. Conservation on site is highly important to them.

We are all aware of the live firing and they were kind enough to apologise for the noise. Interestingly, there is generally no live firing on a Friday to allow for site maintenance although in certain circumstances this can take place at short notice.

After the slide show we travelled in a convoy of cars around the site avoiding the numerous wandering pheasants. Our first stop was at the Pod area where shepherds style huts, fire pit and hospitality area are housed and used as rehabilitation facility for soldiers etc. We continued our tour viewing the various firing ranges and sports facilities.

A really interesting outing so close to home and we would recommend to other groups.

Author: Paula Parker

Photographer: Jacqueline McMillan

Walking Group 6

Who knew that Bidston hill boasts a Grade-II listed observatory and a windmill plus great views of Liverpool and the Wirral?

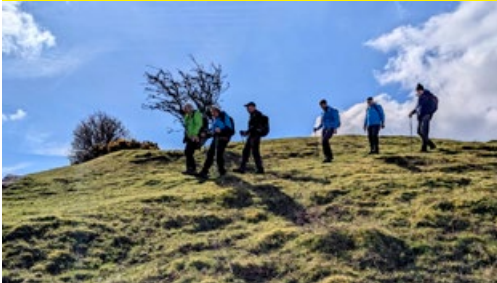
On a mild day in March walking group 6 explored the shore near Moreton station before completing a wide circuit of the area including Bidston and a couple of local golf courses too. Unfortunately it proved impossible to get everyone plus the windmill in the photo.

According to the noticeboard up there "Bidston Observatory was deemed of national importance during the Second World War and predicted the tides for the D-Day landings amongst other things".

The extremely precise time-keeping equipment which was invented to help navigation at sea is now housed in the Liverpool museum.

We got back to Bidston station just as the threatened heavy rain started to fall - perfect timing.

We continue to be lucky with the weather for our April walk in North Wales with a light breeze and intermittent sunshine.



We hiked in a wide circuit around Halkyn and Rhesy-y-Cae, successfully avoiding numerous mine shafts, quarries and other evidence of its important industrial history.

Accompanied by blue skies and a light breeze we took in views of the beautiful Clwydian Hills to the south, and views to the north taking in the Dee estuary, parts of Liverpool and even, in the far, far distance, signs of Formby beach.

After a leisurely lunch we continued the route through some woodland before climbing back to the cars. By unanimous agreement we then adjourned to the Pet Cemetery near Hollywell where Ken had the "biggest piece of cake he'd ever seen" and Jan celebrated getting across several very unfriendly stiles with the help of her friends!

Local History Group 7, Visit to Silcocks.



U3A Local History Group 7 visited the Silcocks Amusement Company at the entrance to Southport pier recently. We were given a talk by the manager Justin about the history of the company from the turn of the 20th century to the present day.

The talk was very interesting and entertaining and featured the beginning of the company at the wire works in Warrington where Herbert Silcock set up a coconut shy in his spare time and found this was more lucrative than making wire.

From this he and his family developed a travelling fair for the next 60 years until setting up a permanent site in Southport Pleasureland in 1960. They remained there until 1989 when the current site was developed as amusement arcades, restaurant and other food outlets. The only ride they now have is the carousel which was built in 1902.

The majority of our group enjoyed a ride on this followed by a lunch of fish and chips. A very enjoyable visit was had by everyone.

Barbara and Ron Marsh

Group 4 Fisherman's Path Walk

Group 4 recently walked from Freshfield Station to Ainsdale.

As you can see, it was a glorious day which ended for lunch at Dolce Vita where we were joined by other retirees from our group.



Group 5 Walk Wednesday March 25th



The walk started by the mill in Parbold and there were seven of us, led by Stuart Tyfield. The forecast was "mixed" and proved correct. We had hail, wind, rain and even a short snow shower – but – lots of sunshine too. It was good to be out facing the elements and enjoying the emerging Spring with some good company and fine views.

We started off along the canal and then crossed fields and lanes (some a bit muddy!) to reach Ashurst Beacon. After that it was downhill all the way down to Appley Bridge and then along the canal back to Parbold for tea and cake.

Thanks to Stuart for leading a truly enjoyable walk (finding a sheltered spot and picnic table for lunch with the sun shining too) and to the drivers who got us safely there and back.

Marcia Thompson

Local History Group 5 to RAF Burtonwood.



Burtonwood and Beyond!

A bright and sunny April 22nd saw 18 members of Local History Group 5 head to RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre, near Gulliver's World Theme Park, Warrington.

The base was opened in 1940 and was home to 18,000 US service personnel during World War II. Our group was divided into two and shown round by Centre Manager John Cotterill and volunteer guide Bob. There were a couple of films to watch, lots of interesting displays both inside and out, and even a plane to sit in.

Our guides told us several fascinating tales that really helped us to understand what it was like on the base during the War and also during the enabling of the later Berlin Airlift.

One of the outside exhibits was dedicated to the numerous GI weddings that happened throughout the time the Americans were based at Burtonwood so there were a few stories about those too! We were there for over 2.5 hours but still left plenty to read and look at on another visit.

Sonia Greenyer





Formby U3A AGM 2026

Draft Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 11th March 2026

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee. There being 99 members attending, the AGM was quorate.

- 1) Apologies for absence
 - i) Andy Dickinson, Ian Robertson, Linda Sharratt, Sonia Greenyer, Andrew Greenyer, Noel Blundell, Kathy Robinson, Kit Robinson, Val Tibbitts, Ken Jones, Shirley Jones, Mike Hastie, Jane Nelson-Woods, Susan Parkes, Patrick Parkes, Les Page
- 2) The Minutes of the 2025 AGM were approved.
- 3) There were no Matters Arising from the minutes.
- 4) The Annual Report was received and approved (see Appendix 1).
- 5) The Treasurer's Report and Independently Reviewed Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 were approved.
 - a) The Treasurer reported on the financial statement highlighting the principal sources of income (membership subscriptions) and expenditure. Accounts were prepared on Receipts and Payments basis. She ran through the figures in the report, highlighting the significant areas of expenditure.
 - b) The accounts for the year show a deficit of £234 (cf. 2024 surplus of £41) and reserves carried forward of £18,398 (2024 £18,632). Bank and cash balances at year end are £18,398 (2024 £19,117).
- 6) The appointment of an Independent Examiner was to be confirmed later.
- 7) The following Amendments to the Formby U3A Constitution were agreed following a unanimous vote in favour:
 - 16. Officers and trustees:** (5) The number of trustees shall be not less than 5 and not more than 12.

16. Officers and trustees: (8) No-one may hold any specific officer position for a continuous period in excess of 6 years without an interval of at least 1 year between the periods of service.

17. Proceedings of trustees: (7) The quorum shall be 4 or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the trustees.

1) Elections of Officers and Trustees.

The following Trustees were re-elected unanimously:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Chair | Helen Lewandowska |
| b) Treasurer | Sue Robertson |
| c) Secretary | Graham Higley |
| d) Membership Secretary | Christine Hosie |
| e) Groups Secretary | Veronica Curtis |
| f) Trustee | Andy Dickinson |
| g) Newsletter Coordinator | Ian Robertson |

The newly nominated Member was unanimously elected as a Trustee :

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| h) Trustee | Bill Russell |
|------------|--------------|

2) There was no further business, and the meeting was closed at 2.28pm.

Appendix 1

Formby u3a Annual Report for the year 1 Jan to 31 December 2025

Membership

The membership as of the end of December 2025 was 1078. 93 new members joined during the year.

Achievements and Performance

Formby u3a committee meetings have taken place monthly other than August when we have a summer break. The Committee has remained stable this year although we sadly lost our volunteer Newsletter Editor Dave who had completed years of loyal service. We are now paying for the Newsletter to be produced as no volunteer has come forward to take his place. We have during the year had some switching of roles on the Committee to ensure our skills are best placed. It has been difficult to recruit new Committee members, and no one has come forward to replace Helen as Chair. For this reason, we must change the constitution to allow Committee members to serve longer than the usual 3 years. The AGM will take place on the 11th of March when this matter will be addressed.

Coffee Mornings have continued monthly. These have been very successful and are regularly attended by 50+ members. At times these have included short presentations by local organisations which members appear to find interesting. Our thanks go to Kitty and her team who do a great job serving refreshments.

Speaker meetings have been held monthly; 10 events having taken place this year. Attendance at these is generally good and feedback positive. Book and Jigsaw exchange has continued as part of these meetings, thanks to Keith.

Trips have continued this year and are very popular. We went to Conwy and Bodnant Gardens on 27th May, Ambleside/Bowness in the Lake District on 15th July and Lytham Hall and Blackpool Illuminations on 15th December. Everyone reported enjoying the trips although we have been plagued by bad weather.

The Lytham trip was particularly good, and people said the best yet!! We are planning a further 3 trips this year to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens and Shrewsbury, Llangollen/Betws-Y-Coed in the Summer and Haddon Hall and Bakewell for Christmas. The Theatre group has continued, and we enjoyed another trip to the Royal Court to see Scouse Christmas Carol. We would like more theatre trips and if there is anyone willing to take on leadership of this group it would be much appreciated.

We have been looking into a few events for this year including a possible meal at Himalayan Spice, another Cheese and Wine evening and possibly a 10-pin bowling afternoon. The Committee is relatively few in number and this limits the number of activities we can offer to members so new Committee members are always welcome. We currently have a vacancy for a Speakers Secretary and if anyone is interested, please come forward.

Our own u3a music groups again hosted the 2025 Christmas concert at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall Formby which was very successful. They again worked very hard to ensure this went well and feedback was positive. Refreshments were provided and our thanks go to Pam for organising these. We enjoyed a very successful Christmas meal which about 50 people attended at the Grapes in Formby on December 19th with a Michael Bubl  tribute act and bingo.

There are 70 groups presently running and members seem to be happy both with the choice of groups and access to these. We would like to remind members that new groups are always welcome either in relation to an existing subject or new and some start-up funds are available if needed.

The Chair continues to enjoy a good relationship with Southport and Meols U3as which benefits members as Southport have invited us to events, they have organised and Meols have included us in trips they have held this year. Southport again kindly arranged a discount for u3a members to the flower show this year which we are grateful for.

Newsletter and Website

The quarterly newsletter has continued and remains popular. 250 copies are printed and distributed around the local area in the library and leisure centre as well as being available at coffee mornings and speaker meetings. Four Newsletters have been produced this year which have included many interesting articles and photographs from different groups. The committee continues to encourage members to put material forward for Newsletters. The website continues and is utilised by members seeking information about Formby u3a. Group information has been kept up to date to ensure it accurately reflects the organisation and our activities.

Members have been kept up to date with activities through regular emails, thanks to Frances Taylor for all her help with these. Formby u3a continue to use the Beacon system as their electronic recording device. Beacon is an online management system designed by u3a for u3as. It provides a simple interface for managing members, groups and finances. Our thanks go to Noel who is our Beacon/Data Manager and Webmaster, despite living in Plymouth!

Groups

The number of active groups at the end of December 2025 was 70. 3 new groups have started during the year and 2 have closed.

A new members meeting was held on 13th November which new members said was helpful.

Newsletter Contributions

Articles informing members of your group and its activities are always welcome. When submitting Newsletter reports could authors please ensure all article have: A title (not the group name/number) to reflect the activity (please feel free to be creative/attention grabbing). The author's name. The group name/number is included somewhere within the report. Photographs (no more than 3, please) relevant to the report, showing some or all members on the activity. Please ensure that all people shown in photographs are aware that photographs are being taken for inclusion in the Newsletter and may be shown on the Formby U3a website.

Photos sent as one of the common picture format attachments (jpeg, png, tif etc) to the report and not embedded in the text for the report. Please do not send photographs as a separate message as there is a risk they will not be identified as part of the group's report, nor embed them within the writing but send as an attachment to the submission. Photos submitted must be members' own photos as copyright of third parties' photos remains with the owner and the Newsletter cannot publish such photos.

Please send submission to the newsletter editor asap after the event occurred and, where possible, are not sent within the final few days before a deadline. Please remember, it is contributor's responsibility to check articles for grammar, spelling, punctuation etc, not the Newsletter Editor's.

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

Next (September '26) Newsletter

The next Newsletter can be viewed found at: https://formbyu3a.org.uk/?page_id=331 from 1st of September. Paper copies can be collected at the monthly meeting & coffee morning.

Formby u3a Committee 2026-27

Chairman	Helen Lewandowska (2022 Co-opted) 07548 213496 chair@formbyu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Graham Higley (2023) 0780 1261537 secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Sue Robertson (2023) 0749 5413860 treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec.	Christine Hosie (2022) 882903 membership@formbyu3a.org.uk
Group Secretary	Veronica Curtis (2025) 07505 310662 groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
Officers	Andy Dickinson (2022) 643971 1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk Sonia Greenyer (2025 Co-opted) 2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk Ian Robertson (2023) 07922 424924 5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk Bill Russell 3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meetings Meetings are at 2.00 pm in Holy Trinity Parish Hall.

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. Please remember that from January onwards you need to show your **2026 Membership Card** at all events, including group activities. **Coffee Morning** will be from **10.30am to 12 noon** on the 2nd Thursday of the month, except August. They are held in the Workshop, Holy Trinity Church & offering free coffee, they give a chance to pick up information about other groups and meet your Committee.

Speakers

10th June: **Songs of The Sixties.**

July is Julia Clayton who will be talking about ***"From the Parthenon to the Monument: The Architecture of Lord Street, Southport."***

September is a talk by two volunteers from the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society who are going to tell the remarkable story of the Danny ***"The Tug that Survived to Sail Again."*** The Daniel Adamson is coal fired steam tug tender launched in 1903 from the golden age of British engineering and had a career ranging from towing humble barges to entertaining Kings and Queens on the famous Manchester Ship Canal. After a working life of over 80 years, she was eventually abandoned and destined for the scrap yard. At the 11th hour in 2004 she was rescued by a dedicated group of volunteers and after many trials and tribulations was returned to her former working glory, sailing the waterways of the North West for the enjoyment of all.

October is ***"The Assassination of Lady Diana Spencer"*** as she was not a royal at the time of her death. Pete will commence with a timeline of Diana's life from her engagement to Prince Charles in 1981 to her arrival in Paris on August 30th 1997. He will then follow events from her arrival at Le Bourget airport with Dodi Fayed to the fateful journey from the Ritz Hotel to the crash in the Alma Tunnel. Utilising witness statements from the Diana Inquest, the presentation will refute the French & Scotland Yard verdicts that the crash was caused by a drunk driver being chased by paparazzi. He will submit that Diana had only minor injuries after the crash, and was mistreated in the ambulance, causing her death. He will further claim that this was an assassination run by British & French intelligence services.

November: **John Joyce – Grenfell Tower**

January 2027: **Paul Hughes – Medical Memories Roadshow**

February 2027: **Roger Browne Concert**

March 2027: **Fran Sandham – In the Forbidden Land**

April 2027: **Brian Topping – Tales of a Customs Officer**

May 2027: **Jean Finney – Nursery Rhymes Part 2**

June 2027: **Alan Williams – Australian Romance Novelist**

Trips

19th May: **Wollerton Old Hall Gardens and Shrewsbury—bookings being taken first week of May.**

29th July: **Llangollen railway to Corwen and then on to Betws-y-Coed**

Hello to all members old and new!

Future articles for the newsletter need to be sent to Ian Robertson who will check the content and send to us at the Print Quarter to print. Keep up your excellent contributions and your membership will flourish.

Ian Robertson 07922 424924

5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

New Members

Formby U3A is pleased to welcome the following new members

Alan Toms	Gail Walters	Mike Grek
Alan Pritchard	Geraldine Peers	Mythili Ravindran
Alison Giblin	Ian Smith	Nicky Sutton
Andrew Curtis	Ivy Chapple	Patricia Bird
Anthony Sawyer	James Giblin	Pauline Rice
Betty Carter	Janet Farrell	Peter Byrne
Brenda Culshaw	Janet Greenwood	Peter Seddon
Caroline OHare	Jean West	Ruth Swift
Catherine Manson	John Hughes	Sabina Jenkins
Chrissy Guizzetti	June Doggett	Stuart Heylings
Colin McLennan	Katherine Brown	Sue Hammond
Denise Nunn	Kathleen Taylor	Tara Pritchard
Dinah Vaux	Laurel Byrne	Theresa Hanlon
Donald Gordon	Lesley Barton	Veronica Fahey
Elizabeth Kubicka	Lynne Webster	Victoria Rawlinson
Frances Horne	Mairi Whittle	
Frances Colbron	Margaret Gambon	

Formby u3a