

Palm House



A pleasant afternoon was spent with other members of the **Outings Group** who travelled by coach to the Palm House to listen to a varied programme of musical items played by The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and solo vocals where performed by Danielle Louise Thomas and Steve Fazackerly (brother of John, who is a Formby U3A member). The programme consisted of a Medley of Battles followed by a Stevie Wonder medley and then lots of Christmas Carols and festive Christmas music. The journey home was delightful in that we were treated to a glimpse of the festive

Christmas lights in Liverpool, with Liverpool One being particularly breath-taking. A good time was had by everyone.

Thank you Anne for another successful Outing.

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Janice Watton, photos David Skelton

Harrock and Parbold



The December **Fell Walking Group** didn't include any actual fells, but we did a couple of hills: Harrock and Parbold. We started from the top of Parbold Hill and headed over to High Moor and then to the windmill on the top of Harrock Hill. We skirted the quarry and after crossing fields we headed for the church at the bottom of Parbold Hill. A walk along the canal and up the Fairy Glen brought us back to the parking place.

Marcia Thompson

St. Peter's Church Hall, Woolton



In the December Newsletter, members were asked to write in to say what their group had been doing and to share the U3A experience with others, so here goes!

Just before Christmas, a friend of Joan, one of the **Ukelele Group** members, invited us to play at a singalong at St Peter's Church Hall, Woolton. She had only recently started this, inspired by Joan's enthusiasm for the group. It has proved to be very popular with a steadily increasing membership; people making new friends, renewing

old acquaintances, lots of social spin offs and generally just getting out mixing and having fun.

It was a much bigger audience than we had imagined. They were very welcoming and hospitable, smiling and clapping in all the right places; all very encouraging. For any group that entertains, Woolton is the place to go! During the interval, we looked at all the Beatles memorabilia people had sent in over the years, marking the famous meeting 60 years ago, this year, a letter from Paul and one from Cynthia Lennon; lots of photographs of the fete. A lady I spoke to pointed out her photo, taken when she was a little girl in her frilly frock, bows in her hair, sitting with others on a lorry. Apparently they wanted to recreate the event but Health & Safety vetoed the idea as it is now considered dangerous to sit on the back of an open lorry. How did we survive? Another lady I spoke to eventually placed her hand on my arm saying, "I'm sorry love, I haven't heard a word you said as I didn't put my hearing aids in." I was puzzled as she had come to hear us play, but maybe she just forgot them!

With all the excitement of playing where the Beatle had, I was on a high when waiting to receive my Christmas 'phone call from abroad. You know the format, "Tell Nana what you did in the Christmas Concert; played the ukulele." My heart began to sink. I hadn't realised that this as the chat is usually about football. "How wonderful," I said. "What did you play?" "Silent night," came the answer. Now my heart really sank as I had experienced some difficulty with that piece. As I said, "how marvellous," I was really thinking "If I'm spared, I've another year to polish this one off!" The final downer was hearing him say "What's Beatles, Daddy?" There is an age gap, of course. He's 8 and I'm just had another birthday. Still he's a little love and I think the world of him. I also think that a little friendly competition acts as a spur and it's just the time when many of us need goals and aims. They don't have to be outlandish. Like the lady I was speaking to, if you are going out remember to put your hearing aid in; aim to take your tablets at the correct time on the right day. If you're going out with one of the Lunch Groups remember to take your teeth! All are useful and reachable goals which leave a feel-good factor. So onwards and upwards and best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Collette O'Neill

Table Tennis



The group enjoyed their Christmas gathering.

David Paton

Witton Weavers Way



Yesterday, January 4th, was the first walk of the year for the **U3A Fellwalkers**. The walk had been planned by Dave Poole and Jan Hutt, but Dave had a heavy cold and so Mike Williams stepped into the breach!

The walk started at Ryal Fold, near Abbey village and took us over Withnell Moor and Wheelton Moor to Great Hill where we had splendid views in every direction (we were lucky to have clear blue skies and sunshine all day). Descending from the hill, we picked up the lovely wooded path through Roddlesworth and Tockholes. We explored the ruins of Hollinshead Hall and were fascinated by an old building where people went to take the waters.

A great area for walking, if a bit wet underfoot at times!

Marcia Thompson

Royal Court



Members of **Local History Group 9** stepped into the limelight for a recent tour of The Royal Court Theatre given by David Brown, an enthusiastic theatre volunteer/tour guide.

The theatre started life in 1826 as Cooke's New Circus and together with the Liverpool Philharmonic, is one of the oldest entertainment buildings in Liverpool. It was remodelled and became the Royal Court in 1881, although it never had Royal assent (Scousers taking liberties). After a fire which destroyed the theatre in 1933, it was rebuilt and reopened in 1938 and acquired by Howard and Wyndham, a London based group, in 1941. Many may remember visiting as children to see a panto in the fifties and many a pre-West End productions started its run on these famous boards. All the seats were removed in the late '80s and how many of us, through our children of course, remember the rock concerts and Rocky Horror extravaganzas that shook the rafters?

Liverpool Council eventually took it over but was sold for £1 to Liverpool Royal Court Theatre Foundation. Together with the people of Merseyside, the Foundation with a grant from The Lottery Fund restored the building to its former glory and it reopened in 2001 as a theatre with the stall seats replaced with tables and chairs so that theatre goers could dine prior to a performance. This initiative was only the start of an ongoing process to bring this beautiful Art Deco building back to its former glory. The Queen Mary Lounge, where we met, is in the original Art Deco style.

The tour of the theatre included a visit to the upper circle, for those who could stand the height, to view the new feature, "love seats," a number of double seats on back row, where else? Anyone up for booking one of these as a Valentine's Day treat?

We were taken backstage and shown the prop table with all the props laid out for the current production of "Scouse of the Rising Sun" but under pain of death and warned that under no circumstances to touch any item on the prop table as the actors only have seconds to pick the prop they need before going on stage, so moving them would be a BIG mistake.

David entertained us with numerous ghost stories connected with this theatre but we won't reveal any as this would spoil the tour for any other Formby LHG who want to experience this most enjoyable tour, as we would recommend that you too "step into the limelight". The tea and biscuits were enjoyable too!



Rosemary & Alan Thomas

Lighting Equipment

Various items of lighting equipment, described as "a whole lighting rig" for use on stage could not conveniently be stored by Formby U3A. This has now been handed over to Jim Crawford of United Reformed Church in Church Road, but is available for loan to U3A Groups. Anyone interested in availing themselves should make their own arrangements but please bear in mind the responsibility for its safe keeping and its prompt return in good condition.

Jack Ashworth, Secretary

Carols by Candlelight



Yet again another enjoyable **Outings Group** evening at the Palm House, Liverpool. Not your traditional carol concert, but with the Director Jay McWinen you can always expect something different. A mixture of carols, Christmas songs and other arrangements.

All three choirs performed brilliantly, considering they all sing separately under the direction of Jay. They rehearse all of the concert separately then come together on the night for the final performance. There were also performances by Hannah Prince, Danielle Graham and Jack Alistair. At the end of the concert, the audience were invited to join in with the Gondaliers song including all the actions, getting everyone into the festive spirit. A nice ending to the festivities was to drive along the river front taking in the Christmas lights.

Once again our thanks to Ann for organising the trip.

Sylvia Smith & Pam McIntosh, photo David Skelton

North West U3A Region News

You have the chance to give your views about **the future structure of the U3A** in one of the Consultation Meetings to be held in the North West.

8th February, Crewe Arms, 10:00 am -12 noon.

13th February, Lancaster Quaker Meeting House, 12 noon -4:00 pm.

14th February, Manchester Cross Street Chapel, 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

NW Regional Summer School: 29th Aug. -1st Sept., Newton Rigg College.

Understanding Tomorrow's World: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 8th March Lancaster

Registration details and further information available on u3asites.org.uk/north-west

Regional Committee Positions: There are vacancies for Chair & Treasurer which, if not filled, will mean this Committee cannot continue. Anyone interested in this potentially rewarding work can obtain further information from the Regional website.

Group News

You should show your **blue 2017 membership cards** when you attend group meetings. All groups are for current, paid up members, so please remember your 2017 subscription was due on January 1st, £9 per annum. Any members who do not renew their subscriptions by 28th February will be removed from membership lists and should not attend any U3A activities or groups.

Beginners/Improvers Guitar Group is now underway and meets fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon. If you are interested in please contact the Groups Secretary.

Darts Group: The new group has started and meets at the Bay Horse every fortnight on Wednesdays at 2.30pm. For more details contact Sheena Eden on 876335 or sheena@oceanassociates.co.uk

Family History Group 3: meets monthly on the 4th Monday at St Peter's Parish Hall from 10 'til 12 There is currently one vacancy. Contact David Poole on 872284.

Floral Art 1: This established group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am. Each month a different topic is chosen using flowers and greenery that are in season. Members learn about conditioning plant, foliage and flower material. In June the group will be entering the Special Flower Festival in the Liverpool Catholic Cathedral. This lively and sociable group has vacancies. Please contact Pauline Hall on 879820.



Painting Group: This group, run by Dot Owen, has changed premises to St Peters Hall. The Group meets on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Dot would welcome new members, tel. 879332, or e-mail: davidowen@sky.com



Thursday Afternoon Bridge Group has vacancies for players who have a reasonable knowledge of the game. They are a sociable and friendly group who meet in members' houses every Thursday, from 2:15 till 5:00pm. They play duplicate Chicago. Please contact Mike Belshaw on 874940 or e-mail: mikebelshaw1@gmail.com

Walking Group 6 meets on the 4th Thursday of the month and has vacancies. Contact Bill Farr on 870448, or e-mail scottfarr@talktalk.net

Wine Appreciation Group 5 has vacancies. The group meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month. They sample different wines, hoping to recognise and remember particular wine characteristics, learning what is good value, and most importantly, having fun. Contact Bill Farr, as above.

The full list of group vacancies is on the website. Contact group leaders if you are interested.

To all Group Leaders

Please remember to let the Group's Secretary know if you have any vacancies in your group.

Linda McAuley, Groups Secretary
Tel: 871890 or e-mail: groups@formbyu3a.org.uk

Panto Time



We were not able to find a volunteer for the usual musical Christmas show and there was a distinct possibility of there not being any show at all when Susan Birchall volunteered to arrange a performance of the Pantomime “Cinderella”.

The first problem she encountered was the unsuitability of the Holy Trinity Church Hall stage. It seems all patrons of the hall use the stage as storage area for their equipment which meant that movement on and off the stage was an obstacle race fraught with danger. The decision was made to transfer to the United Reformed Church and our thanks go to them for allowing us to do so.

The choice of Cinderella was an inspired one as it is probably the best loved and most classic panto of all. Director Susan worked tightly within all the strict panto parameters of audience participation, ad-libbing (at our age one is a tad forgetful) and fun for all. There was no messing with form and it ran on strictly panto lines. The script was not lacking in local references, bringing Formby into the world of pantomime and it contained a batch of fresh pantomime jokes one of which was heard on a Christmas night TV programme putting Formby U3A two weeks ahead of the game.

Although there was a cast of ten people there did not seem to be a division between stage and audience as the audience were very vocal giving the impression that it was a collective performance, which is the essence of pantomime. It therefore achieved all that it set out to do with the wonderful cast leading the way. Great credit should be given to Susan Birchall for ensuring that all was ready on the day, this being made very difficult as last minute replacements for some of the parts were required.

At the close of the performance the Chairman thanked Jim Crawford who was ever present at rehearsals to allow access to the hall, and also for his stage management and sound engineering abilities. He also recognised Susan's contribution in rescuing the 2016 Christmas show as, without her volunteering to do so, there would not have been one. He presented her with a bouquet of flowers as a token of gratitude for all her work for the Formby U3A

Ann Onn

Monday Bridge Group



enjoyed their seasonal gathering at the Bay Horse.

David Taylor



Theatre and Music Group

(Events are open to all members of Formby U3A)

Please pay for tickets when the initial booking is made. This enables us to ensure that you get the best possible deal, including transport to and from the event. If you are unable to attend the event, could you notify us as soon as possible. Dave Irving's phone number is always included at the bottom of this article.

Thurs. 2nd March, “Rhapsody”, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, 7:30pm. Gilbert Varga conducts Bartok's The Miraculous Mandarin, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody with Leeds international Piano Competition winner Louis Schwizgebel preforming Ravel's dreamy Piano Concerto. Tickets including transport £30, rear side stalls seats, with the **coach leaving Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.**

Thurs. 6th April, “Gabriel” (a drama), Playhouse, 7:30pm. Set in Nazi occupied Guernsey and starring Paul McGann, widow and mother, Jeanne, does whatever it takes to keep her adolescent daughter Estelle and daughter in law, Lily, safe on an island filled with danger and fear. Her toughest test comes in the terrifying Commander Von Pfunz who's romantic advances may be the only way to keep her family alive. But tensions intensify when a mysterious young man is washed ashore with no memory of who he is. The stakes are high and getting it wrong means certain death. Tickets including transport £28.00, rear stalls seats, with the **coach leaving Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.**

Fri.19th May, “Elvis World Tour” Echo Arena Liverpool, 7:30pm. The world's most successful Elvis tribute artist, Shawn Klush, returns, this time in the main arena with a show bigger, better than ever before. The show includes the original Elvis band members, “The Sweet Inspiration,” who performed with the King on more than 1,000 shows from 1965 – 1977. Tickets, including transport cost £38 with **the coach leaving Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.**

Thurs. 23rd Nov, “War Horse,” Liverpool Empire, 7:30pm. At the outbreak of World War I Joey, young Albert's beloved horse is sold to the Cavalry and shipped to France. He's soon caught up in enemy fire and fate takes him on an extraordinary journey serving on both sides before finding himself alone in no man's land. Albert who remained on his parents' farm in Devon cannot forget Joey. Though still not old enough to enlist he embarks on a treacherous mission to find him and bring him home. The multi award winning show tour coincides with the Centenary commemorations of the end of World War I. It features ground breaking puppetry work by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company which brings breathing, galloping horses to life on stage. Tickets, including transport, £55,centre rear stalls, **with the coach leaving Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.**

Dave Irving can be contacted directly, if necessary tel: 630192.

Eileen Jones

It's Time To Renew Your U3A Membership ***(Yes; just £9)!***

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 28th February.

How to renew your membership:

Standing Orders

If you have already set up a Standing Order to be paid during February, there is no need to alter it to January. If your current Standing Order is payable after the end of February, please arrange for it to be paid in January. If you wish to set up a new Standing Order, please complete the Form printed on the next page of this Newsletter and send it to your own bank for processing **or** use the details to set up a Standing Order using on-line banking. Membership Cards will be posted to those paying by Standing Order.

Cheques:

We ask that all other renewals should be by cheque only, as there is too much potential for error in handling cash. Please make your cheque payable to **Formby U3A** and write your membership number (as on your current membership card) on the back. (If you do not know your membership number, please write your name and address instead).

Where? When? Payment can be made at the Wednesday afternoon meetings in Holy Trinity Parish Hall (11th January and 8th February); or at the Thursday coffee mornings in Holy Trinity Workshop (12th January and 9th February).

By Post Cheques may be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer:
Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope to receive your Membership Card.

Collecting your 2017 U3A card

If you have a Standing Order in place, your new 2017 Membership Card will be posted out once your subscription has been received from your bank.

If you pay by cheque at the Monthly Meeting or Coffee Morning, you can collect your Card at the same time.

If you pay by post, your 2017 card will be available for collection at the Monthly Meeting or Coffee Morning following receipt of your payment, unless you included a stamped addressed envelope with your payment.

Please remember that from January onwards, you will need your 2017 Membership Card at all events, including group activities.

Standing Order Mandate

Your Bank details:

Name of your bank:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Sort Code: -- Account Number:

Instructions to your bank

Please make payments as follows to: **Formby U3A**

Sort Code: **40 - 21 - 20** Account Number: **41365878**

Reference: (Your U3A number and your surname, e.g. 9999 JONES; or if for 2 people 9998; 9999 JONES)

Amount: £..... Date of Payment: **Immediately**
£9 per person

Frequency: **Annually on 2nd January until further notice**

Signed: Date:

Please sign and date this mandate before sending it to your Bank.

Welcome To January's New Members

Angela Baron	Rita Clayton	Jennifer Cowley
Lynda Davies	Marion Davies	Paul Evans
Gerard Fletcher	Moyna Fletcher	Mary Gallagher
Owen Gallagher	Ann Gorman	Maureen Gosling
Jacqueline Hoard	Kenneth Jackson	Maurice Kilshaw
Ann Morrish	Angie Mullen	Ann O'Brien
Ann Parker	Norman Parker	Shelagh Prescott
Mary Thompson	Patricia Uprichard	

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held on Wednesday, 8th March 2017 at 2 pm in Holy Trinity Parish Hall.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM as published in the April 2016, January 2017 and February 2017 Newsletters.
- 3 Matters arising from the Minutes.
- 4 To receive and approve the Annual Report.
- 5 To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016.
- 6 Appointment of Auditor.
- 7 Election of Trustees. We still require a nomination for the post of Vice-Chair and there are other Committee vacancies. The following have agreed to stand for re-election but, of course, any of these positions can be contested. At the time of writing, there is no requirement for a voting procedure but in the event of this changing, proxy voting forms will be available from the Secretary.

Chairman	Glyn Pike
Treasurer	David Manning-Fox
Secretary	Jack Ashworth
Membership Secretary	Ann Gunstone
Groups Secretary	Linda McAuley
Committee Members	Linda Howard
	Rosemary Thomas
	Susan Birchall
	Valerie Tibbitts

- 8 Any Other Business.

Jack Ashworth, Secretary

Formby U3A

Annual Group Leaders Meeting

Formby U3A Committee wishes to invite all Group Leaders to the annual Group Leaders Meeting which this year will be held at 3:00 - 4:30pm on Friday, 24th March at Holy Trinity Church Hall .

I shall be sending individual invitations to Group Leaders on our list, together with an agenda, but if you've passed the job on to someone else (or hear of a leader who has missed an invite) please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Glyn Pike, Chairman

Outings Group

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.

Owing to increased demand, we cannot reserve tickets: **Tickets will be allocated on a first come and paid for – first served 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**.

Wednesday, February 22nd, Cabaret, Briar's Hall. Tickets £25.00 each include return coach, three course meal with tea/coffee and afternoon entertainment. Depart Cross Green 11:00am.

Friday March 17th, Skipton Canal Cruise. Tickets £30.00 each include return coach travel, cruise The Pennine Way, with a commentary whilst cruising and being served a two course cold lunch with tea/coffee followed by free time in Skipton. Depart Cross Green (time to be advised).

Thursday April 6th, Lake District Drive to Keswick. Tickets £43.00 each include return coach travel, three course lunch at the Ladore Falls Hotel, a cruise on Keswick Lake, plus free time in Keswick. Depart Cross Green 8:30am

Ann Blackman, Tel: 871127

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Monthly Meetings

Are at 2:00 pm in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, the second Wednesday of each month

February 8th **Sing Me Merseyside** Liverpool Community Choir, involves some audience participation and has proved very popular

March 8th **AGM**

April 12th **Voice of Anfield**; footy tales which are popular with the men, but not if you're a blue nose! George Sephton

May 10th **Growing Up with the Beatles** Shelagh Johnston

Please remember to bring your current (2017 blue) membership card to all events, including group activities.

COFFEE MORNINGS are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, February 9th 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.

Formby U3A Committee, 2016/17

Chairman	Glyn Pike	0151 929 2996	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	David Bosworth	0151 345 1347	vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Jack Ashworth	874847	secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk
Treasurer			treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec.	Ann Gunstone	872879	membership@formbyu3a.org.uk
Group Secretary	Linda McAuley	871890	groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
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	Ann Blackman	871127	3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Linda Howard	570141	4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Rosemary Thomas	871376	5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Valerie Tibbitts	577985	6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

To Help You

If you need to tell us that **you have changed your address, telephone number, or e-mail address** please contact datamanager@formbyu3a.org.uk or tel: 873597, remembering to include your full name and address, or membership number.

If you need **information about your membership card, or subscriptions** please contact treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk

The next edition of the Newsletter is due to be sent by e-mail and be on the website early March. Paper copies can be collected at the monthly meeting & coffee morning.

Contributions are always welcomed. **The deadline for receiving articles is the penultimate Thursday of each month; midday Thursday, 16th February at the latest to:**

The Editor, Email: newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk

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