

The Nordic Church



Local History Group 8 recently visited the Nordic Church in Park Lane. The Church was built in 1883. Gustaf Adolf Kyrka, or the Scandinavian Seamen's Church provided a haven and spiritual home for sailors and migrants from the Nordic countries who were passing through Liverpool.

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Originally run by the Swedish Church Abroad, it was known as the Swedish Church. However, the present day members of the congregation have personal connections with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, hence the change of name to Nordic Church in 2013. At that time, the congregation officially joined the Lutheran Church in Great Britain, which is a member of the Porvoo Communion and the Lutheran World Federation. It aims to be a welcoming and inspiring place for those living in Liverpool, whether temporarily, or permanently, all those visiting the city.

The church is also used for music concerts, monthly film nights, language classes, craft group, a Christmas Bazaar and midsummer

and Santa Lucia celebrations. There is also hostel type B&B accommodation available.



The Group was given an interesting talk about the history of the building and the work it has undertaken. We then had time to have a look around the building. There was some interesting art work, photos of pastors of the Church, and two beautiful sculptures by Arthur Dooley. One was of Christ and the other of Mary, which seemed to appeal to Dooley's Irish Catholic sense of humour, especially as Mary is mounted on an reclaimed steel joist he found in the docks and has the letter M inscribed on it!

The Church architecture is very simple, but effective and is based on the traditional Stave churches to be found in Scandinavia. It features a bell which is rung to let people know services are about to begin. We were allowed to have a go and nearly deafened

ourselves!

After a good look around the Church, we were welcomed into the coffee shop where we sat down to a lunch of minestrone soup, a typical Scandinavian open sandwich and a wonderful choice of cakes, served with tea or coffee. This area of the building is used for regular coffee mornings where people can meet for a chat, coffee or a meal and seemed to be well supported by the local community.

All agreed it had been an interesting visit to a place. Many had not realised it existed even though they had lived in Merseyside all their lives!

Jan Owen

Country-Folk Group



Started just fifteen months ago to play and sing Folk and Country music and meeting twice monthly to rehearse for a couple of hours, the group continues to make steady progress. A return visit to the former Christian Fellowship 'Meeting Place' (now the Formby 'Elim' Pentecostal Church), on Church road, we were warmly welcomed by Val Hogben and several other church volunteers. We sang and played songs by The



Seekers, Steeleye Span, The Spinners, plus traditional English (some Liverpool), Irish and Scottish folk songs, including some 'fun' acts, interspersed with instrumental solos and ending with a series of calypsos, which several of the audience got up and danced to. Ending with the Gospel song, "This Train is Bound for Glory" complete with train-whistles, horns, triangle and tambourines, shouts for 'More!' occasioned another calypso, 'Island in the Sun', which brought the concert to a happy conclusion.



There was a lovely warm atmosphere in the packed room and

a delicious mid-afternoon tea was provided for everyone by the Committee; all for the modest sum of just £2. It was good to see several well-known U3A faces in the

audience. The 'Elim' social committee hold similar concerts on the last Thursday of each month.



They have an excellent PA system which can cater for up to six microphones and instruments plus projector and screen. We cannot recommend the venue highly enough to U3A members seeking entertainment, including a delicious

tea, in a warm and highly sociable atmosphere.

The Group will be performing in the half hour 2:30 to 3:00pm prior to the Group Leaders' meeting on Friday 24th March.

David Davies, photos Jack Harwood

Welcome To February's New Members

John Gosling

John Gilgrist

Stephen Griffiths

Rosanne Tabibi

Les Baxter

Elizabeth Gough

Sandra Lancaster

Steve Waddelove

Sandra Baxter

Gillian Griffiths

Gillian Lewis

Chris Wathan

End of Term Report



The **Singing For Pleasure Group's** term ended on a high, well, actually three highs. The choir rehearsed all term its Christmas songs so that we could attend three "gigs" as our leader, Brian Young, likes to call them and entertain others. The numbers in the choir seemed to lessen as we started the new term and so we were heartened that a number of new faces turned up to join, restoring the balance of voices. Additional altos, tenors and basses were particularly welcome as these registers had been on the thin side.

The first "gig" was at the Christian Fellowship afternoon tea party with a programme lasting about one hour. Choir favourites like "Go tell it on the Mountain", "Noel", "Christmas is coming" and "Sweet chiming Christmas bells" were on the card, as well as several carols which were enjoyed by one and all. This event was dubbed by a choir wag as "the old uns singing to the elderly". Then came a very enjoyable opportunity for the choir to entertain the residents of St Josephs. As with our earlier "gig," there was a near full turnout of choir members to sing a slightly smaller programme which included a poem and a flute number. The songs were interspersed with carols and the choir were royally rewarded with mince pies, cream and coffee. Our final "gig" was a slightly shorter programme at lunchtime at the Luncheon Club with a mixed selection of choir songs and carols.

Singing for Pleasure is a long established element in Formby U3A activities list and has now grown to a membership of 50 "songbirds" who simply enjoy singing with others. It does not pretend to be other than what it is; a group of U3A members who enjoy singing for pleasure on a Friday morning in term time, that is and occasionally to entertain others.

Brian Young

Fire & Rescue Service



Local History Group 12 visited the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Heritage Centre in Bridle Road, Bootle. We travelled by cars but it is possible to get there by train and bus.

The Heritage Centre is run by volunteer retired fire fighters. The visit commenced with a talk and slide show which took us through the early years of fire fighting up to the present day. The first fire fighters were volunteers from all walks of life especially the police force, and the services were broken up into many small areas, e.g. Southport, Formby, Crosby, Waterloo and Bootle all had individual fire stations and equipment. Fire stations could be anything from stables to warehouses to pub yards, and vehicles in the 1800s were either hand or horse drawn carts. The passage of time brought us to amalgamation of the services and the vehicles we have today, with sophisticated rescue equipment, safety suits and breathing apparatus for the firemen themselves and more effective ways of pumping and accessing water supplies. Our talk and slide show was given by Peter, an engineer and retired fire fighter. There were many interesting anecdotes and wonderful old photographs. There were pictures of the fire at Hendersons in Liverpool which many locals will remember; it was actually in 1960. 11 lives were lost, and it appeared the fire was caused by an electrical fault. The photographs of old Liverpool were especially fascinating depicting early vehicles, fire fighters and fire stations.

Within the building is a collection of fire engines of various ages all sparkling clean and well loved. We were allowed to ding the bells and sound the sirens! There is also a gallery here which houses a lot of memorabilia and early fire fighters uniforms. Again, many interesting anecdotes one of which being in connection with a hat filched

from a German fire fighter on an exchange visit between England and Germany. It so happened that the guy whose hat it was, came to visit the Liverpool museum, spotted the hat, and was able to identify it from the number inside as his very own lost hat, but kindly donated it to the museum in any case; probably had a new one by then! We also learned that there is a great deal of mutual support between fire fighters all over the world which includes inviting the widows and children of the New York fire fighters who lost their lives in 9/11 to spend time in Liverpool.

This visit is to be thoroughly recommended. The coffee, tea and biscuits were excellent, and only £1 per head! There is no charge for the museum but donations are appreciated. A good 2 hours should be allowed to take in the slide show, talk and gallery.

Shirley Jones

Bowland Bridge



Most people drive past the South Lakes, en route for Grasmere and Keswick, but this less frequented area of the Lake District is a real gem. Tony Smith led **Fell Walkers Group** and, after a climb up to the summit of Gummer's How, with beautiful views over Windermere, we followed a series of woodland and field paths to Bowland Bridge for our lunch stop. After lunch, we were offered muddy fields or road walking and, being determined fellwalkers, we chose the former. A fairly gentle ascent took us to the summit of Raven's Scar for "afternoon tea" and amazing views of the Howgill Fells and southern Lakes, then a gentle tread back to the car park. The day started with atmospheric mist and ended in brilliant sunshine. An area well worth visiting and further exploration.

Marcia Thompson

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.

Canasta Group: This newly formed group meet once a fortnight on a Tuesday 7:30 to 9pm at the Grapes. There is a vacancy at present. Contact Joan Eastwood on 830463.

Darts: This recently formed group meets once a fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon for a friendly game of darts. All were complete beginners at the start but are slowly improving. New members are welcome. Contact Sheena Eden on 876335 or e-mail sheena@oceanassociates.co.uk

Family History: Would you like to have help in trying to trace your ancestors? Names are now being taken to form a new Family History Group.

Guitar Group: This group, for beginners and improvers, meet once a fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon. Teaching includes chords and fingerpicking. There is a wide variety of songs to sing and play, so something for everyone.



Swimming Group: Take advantage of quiet lanes in Formby pool at 12:00 'til 1:00 Monday's and Wednesday's to meet as a group, swim and afterwards have a drink and a chat in the pool cafe. Names now being taken.



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 meets 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

U3A Summer Schools 2017

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB 17th-20th July

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester GL7 6JS 14th-17th August

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester GL7 6JS 11th-14th Sept

The cost for full board residential accommodation is £299 per person and for non-residential, including lunch, is £110 per person.

For the above, book on-line: u3auk.wufoo.eu/forms/summer-schools-2017

Newton Rigg College, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0AH. 29th Aug - 1st Sept. Ten courses are on offer including those which have proved popular in previous years and a number of new ones: About Beauty, Architecture: The ABC of Cities, Digital Digging for Armchair Archaeologists, Geology of Lakeland Landscapes, Painting with Stitches, Medicine in the 21st Century, Recorder Playing, Russian and Soviet Culture, Science is for Everyone, Ukulele for Beginners. The cost for full board residential accommodation is £275 per person and for non-residential, including lunch, is £155 per person. Book online at:

u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/ss2017applicationform.pdf

To request further information e-mail: secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk or tel 874847.

A Message from the Treasurer

A big thank-you to all those who have renewed their membership - 1083 of you as at 13th February. It is particularly pleasing that payments by cheque and by standing order have both increased this year, with a consequent reduction in the number of members proffering cash.

There are still around 180 renewals outstanding; if you are reading this and have not yet renewed your membership, please note that you are no longer entitled to take part in any U3A activity until your subs have been paid.

Any outstanding payments should be made by cheque (*please write your name, address and U3A membership number on the back of the cheque*) for £9.00 per member, payable to Formby U3A, together with a stamped self-addressed envelope and sent to:

Thank you.

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

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. 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. *Please note that tickets are going fast and as we have to pay the theatre well in advance we would recommend that you book your ticket as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.***

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

Eileen Jones

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 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. The following have been nominated and agreed to stand for re-election. The normal deadline for Nominations has expired but any volunteers for the remaining vacancies of Vice-Chairman and two Committee positions can still be considered by the Executive Committee or the AGM.

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

Draft Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Held in the Holy Trinity Hall on the 9th March 2016

Apologies for Absence: Mr & Mrs Manning - Fox, Mr & Mrs Blundell

Minutes of 2015 AGM: Having been circulated in the Newsletter and at the meeting, these were approved nem con and were signed by Andrew Hoare as Chairman.

Matters arising from the minutes: There were no matters arising.

2015 Annual Report: This was approved nem con.

Treasurer's Report : Circulated at the meeting. In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman related his comments on the report. The year went very much as expected, with no Ballot Costs involved. It was gratifying to see that members have taken some notice of the request to pay only by cheque or standing order. That trend is continuing this year. The balance at year end was £14,204.34, some £2,500 up on last year. Membership was up three! Budget - Apart from colour printing the Newsletter which will probably add c. £800 to the printing costs, he does not foresee any great variance from last year. He could see no need to alter the subs from the present £9 per annum. The meeting accepted his report and the proposition that Alan Thomas continue as Auditor.

Election of Officers and Committee Members:

One nomination had been received for each of the positions, and this was noted by the meeting. The following will therefore serve for next year:

Chairman:	Glyn Pike
Vice Chairman	David Bosworth
Secretary	Jack Ashworth
Treasurer	David Manning-Fox
Membership Secretary	Ann Gunstone
Groups Secretary	Mary Coleman
Committee Members	Sue Birchall, Ann Blackman, Linda Howard, Rosemary Thomas, Sara Beaumont, Valerie Tibbitts

The Chairman, thanked two retiring members of the committee, Alan Speakman and Dudley Lidiard, for their work over the years. Following an invitation by the Chair, the new committee introduced themselves to the Meeting. The new Chairman then noted that Chairman Andrew was also leaving the committee after long service, particularly during the disaffiliation discussions. He made a presentation of a Scroll setting out the amount of work Andrew had done.

Any Other Business The committee was asked to investigate an improvement in Speakers on a Wednesday; the hearing loop in the hall, paid for by U3A, was not working; and the lighting on the stage was poor, Group Leaders may wish to buy equipment. The committee will take note.

Woodvale

As you drive down the bypass on your way to Southport and beyond, do you, like us, ever wonder just what happens there today and also of its past? **Local History Group 9** gained an insight when we visited RAF Woodvale. We were greeted by Warrant Office Neil Blair who introduced Station Commander Hooton who not only told us of Woodvale's history but also of its present day activities. In our party, reliving long ago memories, were two past members of an air training corps, both of whom had flown out of Woodvale in their air experience flights.

Woodvale was built on the site of Segar's Farm and part of Freshfield Golf Course and maintains its original triangular airfield. It opened in December 1941 and was



designed for the protection of shipping in and out of Liverpool prior to the May Blitz of 1941. It became the base for Polish Night Fighter Squadrons protecting the busy port. Japan attacked Pearl Harbour in 1941 and the direction of the Second World War changed dramatically, moving the defence operations South. The first recorded enemy aircraft shot down over Woodvale was in May 1942. Woodvale became pivotal in 1942 as it became the Section Control Station for all fighter operations in the North West, based at Broad Lane. Prisoners of War from Europe were flown here to recoup before being transferred elsewhere. Although on a Luftwaffe target map it, because of its camouflage, it was never attacked or bombed. The last RAF Spitfire flew out of Woodvale in 1957.

Present day RAF Woodvale is home to no less than 5 flying training units comprising 1000 cadets from both Liverpool and Manchester Universities; 15 squadrons over 13 sites from far afield as Lancaster down to Staffordshire and North Wales. Air Training units as well as a combined cadet force meet here 3 times a week. Glider planes used to launch from here but Woodvale has moved to powered flights only. Woodvale Owners Aircraft Group operate from here now with 12 privately owned aircraft housed in their own hangar.

At the end of the war Southport Council wanted to buy Woodvale to make a commercial airport, however we all live to tell the tale that that never happened and many local residents have breathed a sigh of relief!

It was a great informative tour and one we can certainly recommend.

Rosemary & Alan Thomas

The Crosby Capriol Singers
present their Easter concert

A

LLELUIA

B

OSANNA

Sat April 22nd @ 7.30pm

St. Nicholas' Church

Blundellsands L23 6SA

Tickets £9 (£8 concessions)

Accompanied under 19s free

Available from

Prichard's Bookshop L23 2SE

Harmonics Music L22 4QD

www.wegotickets.com/crosbycapriolsingers

Includes

"The King Shall Rejoice" & "Zadok The Priest" (Handel),
 "Procession Of Palms" (Williamson),
 "Oh For The Wings Of A Dove" (Mendelssohn)
 & "Let All The World In Every Corner Sing" (Vaughan Williams)

Registered Charity
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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 .

Individual invitations have been sent 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, but please let me know that you are coming.

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.**

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

Friday May 6th, Trentham Gardens. Designed by Lancelot Brown in 1759, the gardens extend over 725 acres and recently featured in Country File as 2015 BBC Garden of the Year. There is something for everyone including scenic gardens, lake, shopping village and cafes. Tickets £36.00 each include coach travel plus entrance to gardens and village. Depart Cross Green bus stop 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

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
June 14th	Fundraiser of the Year	Ron Hutchinson has rubbed shoulders with the great and the good.

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, March 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
Officers	Susan Birchall	201240	1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	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 April. 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, 23rd March at the latest to:**

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

Paper copies printed by 'The Print Quarter'