

Formby Uke 3A



Formby Uke 3A was founded by Kevin Bargaen. His sad and unexpected death left the Group without a leader, but not for long. Phil Lowe, until then a member of the Group, accepted the role of Group Leader. His expertise and enthusiasm enabled the group, made up of beginners and experienced players/singers, to make excellent progress.

Instead of 1 hour every 2 weeks, by "union" agreement, the members demanded to meet every Saturday morning from 10:00am to 11:30am. This was agreed without having to strike. Phil appreciates the enthusiasm of the group which now includes more than 20 players/singers.

Their repertoire is quite varied and entertaining. The Group will be entertaining in the arena at the Ainsdale Show on the 1st July; at St Peters Woolton as part of a Beatles Week on Wednesday 5th July; at the Gild Hall on the evening of Wednesday 4th October.

Diane Vernon acts as Lead Conductor. Pat Harwood is Administrative Assistant. Please telephone Pat on 877047 if you are interested in join, or inviting us to play for you.

George Rodda

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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. and that contributors' names should invariably be given.

Queensway



Have you ever questioned how the authorities reduced the number of pedestrians walking through the Queensway Tunnel; why the air in the tunnels is less polluted than it used to be; where the emergency exit doors under the Mersey lead to; why there are so many bends in the Queensway? These were just some of the questions answered when **Local History Group 6** went on their recent and excellent Mersey Tunnel guided tour.

Our guides, Alison and Billy, met us at the iconic tunnel tower on George's Dockway. The Liverpool architect, Herbert Rowse, was responsible for designing the Art Deco streamlined square tower, the tunnel control centre, the four tunnel entrances, the tunnel interior, the toll booths and lighting columns. The tower combines the functioning ventilation system and an office block, which was until recently was the HQ of Mersey Tunnels. From an office on the upper floor, the Control Room managed all the traffic flow, ventilation and drainage of the "old" Queensway and "new" Kingsway Tunnels. Although used until only a few months back, the abandoned control room is reminiscent of a 60's sci-fi film with banks of enormous panels overloaded with huge dials and the occasional Bakelite telephone. The room was abandoned when command moved to a nearby office where security is so high that only a handful of people have access to it; certainly no U3A members. As we descended to the subterranean world of Liverpool, we entered into what had previously been George's Dock. An old displayed photograph showed the abandoned dock shortly after the completion of the Port of Liverpool Building, but before the construction of the Liver and Cunard Buildings. By the time the photograph had been taken, the 2 sides of the dock had been connected by an arched bridge, which is now Brunswick Street, and a solid bridge, which is now Water Street. Below the latter, a massive water tank was constructed as an emergency store for the Liverpool Fire Services. Water is still present in the basement of the building as the water table had risen following the closure of a number of local industries which had previously extracted groundwater. As a consequence, water constantly seeps from the ground into the tunnels and the tunnels are pumped dry. Our guides were keen to point out that water doesn't leak in from the river! The gigantic, original 1930s fans are switched on should the air quality becomes poor, or an emergency occur. These goliaths are connected to almost invisible vents in the tunnel roof. Two other smaller fans constantly blow fresh air from the Mersey side of the building into the tunnel at road surface level. The movement of traffic forces the polluted air out and it is claimed that following a low point in the 1960's, air quality has gradually improved with cars now being so clean that the extractor fans are rarely needed and that air quality in the tunnel is better than it is in Liverpool City Centre.

We descended deeper under Liverpool and eventually arrived alongside the tunnel roadway, probably giving passing motorists a nasty shock, dressed as we were in our

hard hats and high-vis jackets. Whilst Kingsway is a straight-line tunnel, Queensway road has many bends because the City Big Wigs on both sides of the Mersey did not want the road to be dug under their important buildings. Remember, that when Queensway was being planned, there was nothing similar anywhere in the world and Queensway remained the biggest/longest road tunnel for several years and, as a consequence much of the design work was by guesswork! Following the disastrous Mont Blanc Tunnel Fire of 1999, European legislation was passed to make roadway tunnel evacuation procedures more robust and millions of pounds was spent upgrading the refuge points in both Queensway and Kingsway. Just what was done and where are they? Well to find out the answer to this, as well as finding out how the number of pedestrians attempting to walk through the tunnel has been significantly reduced to approximately only 3 per week (walking through the tunnel is illegal), as well as the mystery of the headless woman and the jangling keys, others will have to participate in this worthwhile tour. It would be a shame to spoil Alison's and Billy's wonderful stories.

James Street

Moughton Fell



The March **Fellwalkers Group**, led by Dave Purdy and starting from Horton in Ribblesdale only had 7 walkers this time. The picture is taken at the trig point on the top of Moughton Fell. Unfortunately it coincided with a short sharp shower. Most of the day was fine with shafts of sunlight illuminating the bright green fields and fells and the contrasting white limestone outcrops. We descended from Moughton into Crummackdale, finding an idyllic place for lunch by a brook with two stone bridges where sheep were washed in days of yore, then a return via Sulber Nick.

Marcia Thompson

Scotland Road Landmark



Local History Group 5 enjoyed a visit to St Anthony of Egypt Catholic Church on Scotland Road. It is interesting to note that although the church is well known as being located just before the access to the Mersey Tunnel, it hasn't necessarily registered as the remarkable edifice that it undoubtedly is.

On our arrival, we were met by the church Archivist, Michael O'Neill, who gave us a talk on the history of the church, took us on a guided tour of the church and the atmospheric crypt, and delighted us by playing the organ.

In 1804, Fr. Jean-Baptiste Antoinet Geradot, a French émigré priest, purchased a site on Scotland Road between Dryden Street and Bevington Street, where he built the first church and presbytery of St Anthony. This church became known as the "French Chapel". The church was soon found to be too small for the congregation and so an open competition was held in 1832 for the design of a new church at its present location between Chapel Gardens and Newsham Street.



The new church was opened the following year and was designed to seat 1,700 people, with the stipulation that all should have an unobstructed view of the altar. Consequently, the nave is a single unaisled space, with a tremendous roof span. The weight of the roof is supported by the ovule arches in the crypt, where the brick vaults provide the final resting places for over a thousand people, who were buried before the Act of 1859 which

forbade church burials within town boundaries. With permission, cremated ashes can be still interred in the vaults.

The cost of the church, in excess of £12,000, was defrayed to some degree by the sale of burial vaults and there are a number of individual vaults that refer to deaths during the typhus and cholera epidemics of 1847, when the City lost 10% of its population in the calendar year.

Rob Dodd

Briars Hall



On a dreary, damp day in late February, just before storm Doris, the Outings Group boarded our coach at Cross Green. By eleven o'clock we were all aboard and headed for the heart of Lancashire, the far side of Ormskirk.

We took the scenic route through twisting, turning, country roads, thus avoiding boring motorways and main roads. Even in the rain the countryside was beautiful. It was possible to spot early signs of Spring, livestock in the fields, buds on hedgerows, and, occasionally a trace of blossom on a few trees.

Briars Hall was an eighteenth century Manor House and is now a very successful country hotel. As well as catering for guests on short breaks, the hotel provides food and entertainment for large and small groups. These are usually afternoon events, from noon to about 4pm. The Hall is set in its own grounds at the end of a pleasant driveway. It is a very popular choice for weddings, birthdays, conferences and the like because of its surroundings.



The group was there for lunch and an afternoon of fun and entertainment and we were not disappointed. Ann has an incredible talent for providing just the right outing as a pick-me-up after the busy excitement of Christmas has long faded. What could be better on a



miserable February day than a hearty 3-course meal, free Bingo, followed by music, singing and dancing? A really great way to forget the wintry weather for a while.

On a personal note, I was pleased that the meal was served at round tables of eight. Conversation is easier and friendlier this way. Long, extended tables look elegant but tend to



make conversation difficult with anyone but your neighbour.

Tony Ravel was our entertainer. He is a popular compère, vocalist and impressionist and we were treated to all of these skills during the afternoon. We heard tributes to many of the famous singers like, Sinatra, Matt Monroe, Nat King Cole, Elvis and there was even a snatch of Ken Dodd in Italian. The choice of music was tailored to suit all tastes. Some of us found a scrap of after lunch energy to take to the sparkly dance floor!

To round off a splendid afternoon, all four games of Bingo were won by members of our U3A group. Ann certainly has the magic touch! If you haven't yet been on one of her well organised outings, don't hesitate, come and prepare to enjoy yourself.

Irene Todd

Welcome To March's New Members

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Gwenda Carr-Gillespie | Pauline Dickinson | Forbes Innes |
| Gillian Johnson | Nicolas Kirkland | Mary Knight |
| Lilian Lawson | Trevor Ludlow | Millicent Lynch |
| Karen Mitchell | Gerald Patterson | Sue Porter |
| David Sharples | Ruth Stanistreet | |

Cycle Maintenance



Nic Dickson of the Cycling Group has recently started a weekly cycle maintenance course for members of the group and other interested parties. Over a period of weeks, various aspects will be covered, including adjustment for optimum riding position, mending punctures, adjusting brakes and gears and identifying and curing noises and rattles. The picture shows a group enjoying the first session during spring sunshine. The course is now fully subscribed but if there was interest, another course could be run in the future. Please contact me by e-mail: dominic.dickson@liv.ac.uk

Nic Dickson

North West Regional Newsflash - Diary Dates

www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west

Friday May 19th Finance and Charity Law. Venue: Quaker meetinghouse, Liverpool. Presenter John Ellison, National Treasurer. Registration form is on the Regional website. More details will be in the next newsletter.

Wednesday June 7th North West Regional AGM and Conference. Venue: Quaker Meeting House, Manchester. Breakout groups will include: Top Tips for Treasurers, Being a U3A Trustee, Research, Entertainment.

Wednesday June 21st Learning in the Future. A look at MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), a way of using the internet to assist learning. Venue: Gateway Centre, Warrington. Flyer and registration details are on the website.

August 29th-September 1st. Don't forget the **North West Regional Summer School, Newton Rigg Near Penrith.** See NW website for details & registration.

The NW Region Newsletter March 2017 is now available and can be downloaded by submitting an e-mail request to: secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk

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 did not renew their subscriptions by 28th February were removed from membership lists and should not attend any U3A activities or groups.

Cycling for Softies: Get fit for the summer by joining this beginners' cycling group. All you need to know is how to ride a bike. Contact the Groups Secretary for further details.

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.

French Improvers 1 would like new members to join them. They meet weekly on a Tuesday morning, discuss all topics, listen to CD's and revise grammar. Please contact Jean Wardlaw on 832206 or e-mail: handjwardlaw@hotmail.com



Literature 1 Group: There are vacancies in this established group. They meet monthly on Mondays in members' homes. Each member in turn chooses a book which is read and discussed the following month. Please contact Dru Hayden on 872740 or e-mail: Dru.haydon@talktalk.net.

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



Ukers Of The Third Age: This happy, competent and capable group has been a well-kept secret and beginners as well as experienced players are welcome. If interested in joining this group please call Pat, 877047

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

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.

The coach will leave Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm for all visits.

Thurs. 6th April, "Gabriel" (a drama), Playhouse, 7:30pm.

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.

Sat. 10th June, "Gloria," Metropolitan Cathedral, 7:30pm. James McMillan originally wrote Gloria to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the new cathedral in Coventry. Written specifically for lead tenor soloist, Ian Bostridge he joins us in Liverpool as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the cathedral. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic choir, will join choirs of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral in an evening that promises to be glorious. Tickets, including transport £28.

Thurs. 29th June, Matthew Bourne's "The Red Shoes," Liverpool Empire 7:30pm. The Red Shoes is based on the Oscar winning Powell and Pressburger film starring Moira Shearer and has inspired generations of dancers with it's tale of obsession, possession and one girls dream to be the greatest dancer in the world. Tickets (centre rear stalls), including transport cost £40.

Sat. 22nd July, "Last Night of The Summer Pops," Liverpool Philharmonic, 7:30pm. Enjoy some much loved British classics and some romping choral favourites including Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" and Parry's "Jerusalem." Jess Gillan, the first ever saxophonist to win the Woodwind Final of BBC "Young Musician of the Year" will be present, under the baton of Ian Tracey, performing tunes to waltz, sing and dance to. Tickets (middle, rear centre stalls) £38, including transport.

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, though still not old enough to enlist embarks on a treacherous mission to find him. The multi award winning show coincides with the Centenary commemorations of the end of World War I and features ground breaking puppetry work which brings breathing, galloping horses to life on stage. Tickets, including transport, £55,centre rear stalls.

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

Eileen Jones

Formby U3A Draft Minutes Of The 2017 AGM
Held In Holy Trinity Hall On 8th March 2017

1 Apologies for Absence: Mr and Mrs Noel Blundell, Roger Hills.

2 Minutes of 2016 AGM: Draft Minutes have been published in the April 2016 and the January 2017 Newsletters and were available at the meeting. There were no comments from the floor and the Minutes were approved nem con by a show of hands and were signed by Glyn Pike as Chairman.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes: Suggestions from the floor during AOB that the hearing loop be attended to and additional stage lighting be purchased had been carried through by Committee.

4 2016 Annual Report: The Chairman gave his report which was approved nem con by applause:-

I begin this report by thanking the previous Chairman Andrew Hoare and his committee for handing over a "well oiled machine". Their work over the last few years had provided a strong platform for the future.

Our relatively new committee has met on a monthly basis as required and has dealt with the matters that were placed before it. We listened to the comments at last year's AGM in connection with speakers and Val Tibbits and Rosemary Thomas have worked hard to provide interesting speakers for the current year. The attendances at the monthly meetings seems to suggest that their work has been worthwhile.

Our finances under the stewardship of David Manning-Fox are in good order as you will learn later when you will be asked to approve the financial report.

We continue to increase membership on a monthly basis and Ann Gunstone who beavers away quietly has been a great asset in this capacity.

There are currently approximately 130 groups in Formby U3A covering 60 activities and Linda McAuley is available to act on any suggestion you have for new groups to be formed. The website is always a valuable assistance to anyone seeking information about our U3A and the group status in particular. Noel Blundell acts swiftly to keep the information as up to date as possible

Committee members Ann Blackman and Linda Howard continue to work with the Outings and Theatre groups and are available at the monthly workshop meetings to assist with your enquiries.

The new format for the Christmas show proved to be popular with those members who bought tickets and even the new venue with its improved stage and facilities won approval from those attending. Our thanks go to Susan Birchall for producing the show.

Secretary Jack Ashworth has kept the committee fully informed of the matters discussed at meetings although he tells me that there is a greater power than he when it comes to matters with the computer ensuring minutes arrive at their correct destination. Jack is vacating the position at next year's AGM and I therefore asking for a volunteer to take his place. It would be useful if you would contact Jack to find out what is required of this position.

We are also losing the services of David Bosworth whose ability to get to the heart of any matter being discussed will be sorely missed. Our data manager has also decided to retire and we thank David and Len for their services to our organisation.

Len's position will be taken up by Tony Bonney.

After many years of service Tim Chrimes is relinquishing the role of sound engineer for our monthly meetings. I would ask anyone who is interested in succeeding him to contact me or any committee member.

On your behalf I thank the committee for their enthusiasm and service to Formby U3A, their dedication has allowed an already successful organisation to flourish.

I was recently asked to attend a meeting for Formby residents with hearing difficulties to inform them of our activities and to this end handed out copies of our newsletter. One gentleman who informed me that he was for many years in the printing business remarked that the newsletter that I handed to those present was one of the best he had ever seen, commenting that it was a thoroughly professional job. We have Dave Goodwill to thank for producing our newsletter on a monthly basis. He often informs us that he is only able to print what is sent to him and therefore encourages us all to write about our activities and submit the articles for inclusion in the newsletter. On your behalf I thank David for his dedication and service to Formby U3A.

Our organisation is entirely dependent on our Group Leaders who act selflessly for the benefit of others. I offer them thanks for their work in the past and hope they continue to lead their groups in the future.

I would also like to thank Pat McCracken and her team of helpers who provide tea and coffee for the Thursday workshop meetings, many members benefit from their dedication.

You may rest assured that the current committee will continue to work on your behalf and only ask that at the end of their term of office others do the same for them.

5 Treasurer's Report: Copies of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016 were available to all who attended. The Treasurer gave a detailed resume of the entries, highlighting the fact that income had been maintained and explaining the main item of expenditure, the capitation fee paid to our umbrella body Third Age Trust, at £3.50 per member. The audited accounts showed a healthy balance at the year end of almost £16,000 and it was proposed by Andrew Hoare that they be accepted, seconded by Barry Lovius, approved nem con by a show of hands. The Treasurer then went on to explain his Budget for 2017 and mentioned particularly the capitation fee which reflected the number of members as at 31st October 2016, the entry 'hire of hall/church' referring to Committee's so far unsuccessful efforts to use the Church, thus avoiding the laborious setting up and re-stacking of chairs. The cost of the Group Leaders' Meeting resulted from an annual event intended to show Formby U3A's appreciation of the invaluable work done by Group Leaders throughout the year. All this resulted in a projected deficit in excess of £3,000 which could be readily absorbed by accumulated funds.

6 Appointment of Auditor: The Treasurer thanked Alan Thomas for his exemplary work. Alan had agreed to continue and his appointment was confirmed nem con.

7 Election of Trustees: Members of Committee who had agreed to stand for re-election were named in the Agenda. The Chairman asked for volunteers from the floor to contest any of these positions or fill the vacancies of Vice Chairman and two non-officer positions. No-one came forward and consequently, there was only one nomination for each role so all were approved en bloc by a show of hands.

Chairman
 Vice Chairman
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Membership Secretary
 Groups Secretary
 Committee Members

Glyn Pike
 Vacant
 David Manning-Fox
 Jack Ashworth
 Ann Gunstone
 Linda McAuley
 Susan Birchall, Linda Howard,
 Rosemary Thomas, Valerie Tibbitts and
 two vacancies.

8 Any Other Business: No motions had been presented. Derek Thomas spoke from the floor and explained he had no sight. He therefore asked if the Newsletter, which he valued, could be produced for people like him in an alternative form, e.g. audio. He was assured this request would be considered at the next Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm

Jack Ashworth, Secretary

The Harry Whitehouse Players Present Two Short Plays

The Importance of Peaches

by Tony Domaille

and

Gallery

by Stewart Boston



Both plays are by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts

Gallery has been modified with permission to suit the requirements of the HWP.

Thursday 18th, Friday 19th and

Saturday 20th May 2017



At 7:45pm

In the Fisher Hall, Formby United Reformed Church.

Tickets £5 including refreshments from Sheila – 01704 879998

Skipton Canal Cruise



St Patrick's Day marked my first venture with the U3A outings group. I arrived at Cross Green in good time to find that

members of the U3A arrive early and, despite a cool day with rain and wind forecast for Yorkshire, they were all in good spirits.

During our journey along the M58 Ann reminded us of the itinerary for the day and then the good humoured chat continued until we reached our first stop at Huntley's County Stores. After coffee we had plenty of time to view the wide variety of goods on sale and several of us did not resist temptation.

On reaching Skipton we transferred immediately to the Dalesman, a fifty seat narrowboat which was refurbished in 1994 and dedicated to William B. Hughes, a Mersey ferryman who lived from 1910–93. This seemed to be a good omen as we set sail along the Leeds - Liverpool canal. The weather had improved and the sun tried to shine during our cruise. The scenery was beautiful, even with the grey skies and we passed several landmarks including a memorial to Polish airmen from WW2 and a mill at Bradley. At Farnhill, about 3 miles from Skipton, we started our return journey. We had also enjoyed a two course lunch during our three hour cruise. This had been a relaxing way to view the Yorkshire Dales. We had a further hour and a half to enjoy Skipton but unfortunately the rain returned and most of us took the

opportunity to indulge in a little more retail therapy.



I can thoroughly recommend the outings on offer and am looking forward to my next one. Many thanks to Ann and her helpers for organising these experiences.

Judith Pike, photos David Skelton

Can You Spare Time To Help Your Local Community?

Citizens' Advice are looking for volunteers for their telephone service in their Formby office. You will respond to queries from people seeking advice and help them find a way forward. You will need to commit to 6 hours volunteering per week on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 9:00am–3:00pm. Full training is provided, you just need to have good telephone skills and be able to use a computer confidently.

For more information call 0151 282 5650, or e-mail: linda.jones@seftoncab.org.uk

Linda Jones

The Crosby Capriol Singers
present their Easter concert

A LLELUIA
B O S A D D A

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
 No. 503870

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.***

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 12th, 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. Blue badge holders ***may*** qualify for a discount so please bring your Disability Blue badge with you on the day. Tickets £22.00 each include coach travel plus entrance to gardens and village. Depart Cross Green bus stop 8:30am.

Thursday June 8th, Portmeirion. Tickets £26.75 each include coach travel and entrance to the village designed by Clough William-Ellis in the style of an Italian village. There are a number of cafes etc., or bring a picnic. Blue badge holders ***may*** qualify for a discount so please bring your Disability Blue badge with you on the day. Depart Cross Green 8:30am.

Ann Blackman, Tel: 871127

Monthly Meetings

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

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| 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. |
| July 12th | Life with Steeplejack Fred | Sheila Dibnah |

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, April 13th 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, 2017/18

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Chairman | Glyn Pike (2016) | 0151 929 2996 | chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Vice-Chairman | Vacant | | |
| Secretary | Jack Ashworth (2016) | 874847 | secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Treasurer | treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk | | |
| Membership Sec. | Ann Gunstone (2016) | 872879 | membership@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Group Secretary | Linda McAuley (2016) | 871890 | groups@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Officers | Susan Birchall (2015) | 201240 | 1stoffer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| | Vacant | | |
| | Ann Blackman (2015) | 871127 | 3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| | Linda Howard (2015) | 570141 | 4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| | Rosemary Thomas (2015) | 871376 | 5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| | Valerie Tibbitts (2016)* | 577985 | 6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |

* year each Committee Member first took office

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: 872862, 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 mid May. 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, 20th April at the latest** to:

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

Paper copies printed by 'The Print Quarter'