

## Lovell Telescope's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Author, *Jim Crawford.*



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When the **Science Group** planned a visit to Jodrell Bank during the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the site, we didn't realise that our chosen date, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, was also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when the first signals were received by the Lovell telescope in 1957. This was just a few weeks before the USSR launched Sputnik 1 and began the space age. Sputnik was launched using a modified intercontinental ballistic missile which meant that the telescope was extremely useful to the British and American governments and their NATO allies who were trying to keep track of what the USSR were doing during the Cold War.

To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'first light' on

the Lovell Telescope, the second radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, the Mark II, together with some ancillary buildings, were granted listed building status by English Heritage and the press and TV were on site to report on the story.

While our group did not feature on North West Tonight (as far as we know), we were given a fascinating range of information about the workings of the site and of the science of exploring the universe using radio wave detectors rather than optical telescopes.

We learnt that the Lovell telescope is so sensitive that it could pick up a mobile phone signal from Mars, so all phones need to be switched off on the site. When the Soviet Union's Luna 9 unmanned spacecraft sent back the first pictures from the surface of the moon in 1966, Jodrell Bank intercepted the signal and, using a fax machine borrowed from a Manchester newspaper office, produced the picture and published it to the world before the Soviets officially released it. Also, as of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017, there are only two listed buildings in England that can move around and both of them are at Jodrell Bank!

Despite being fairly close by, this was the first time that several of our party had been to Jodrell Bank and everyone enjoyed the visit.

*Science Group meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Holy Trinity Tennis Club pavilion.*

## Llandudno



**Author, Val Truman; photos David Skelton.**

The **Outings Group** trip to Llandudno started well with everyone arriving on time. The weather was uncertain with cloudy skies with the possibility of rain later in the day. However the forecasters were proved wrong as no rain occurred plus no chilly winds which was an added bonus. We arrived at the Tween Mill in good time and on arrival Anne having used her "persuasive powers" we were offered a drink of our

choice free of charge! Thank you Anne. It's as well that we have limited time at the Tweed Mill as the temptation to purchase a whole new wardrobe is hard to resist.

On arrival at Llandudno, as usual we went off in groups to enjoy the different sights and attractions Llandudno has to offer and of course to find our favourite eateries for lunch. There are so many cafes/restaurants etc to choose from. Even the hotels on the promenade open their doors to non-residents for coffee/lunch etc. Whatever the need, a very warm and welcoming resort.



It was a perfect day for taking a stroll along the pier, taking the tramway up the Great Orme or for those brave enough even the cable car as there was virtually no wind. Well worth the trip as the views across the bay and beyond are pretty amazing!



Punch and Judy were in "top form" entertaining the children seated crossed-legged on the floor and those of us "oldies" watching suddenly became children again joining in the chorus "he's behind you." Such a happy atmosphere.

The shopping in Llandudno is pretty special too with rows of shops and restaurants fronted by Victorian glass and filigree wrought iron canopies giving the streets a very special feel of "Bygone Times".

The journey home was a bit longer than normal all due to the on-going roadworks at Runcorn but it didn't spoil what had again been a very enjoyable day.



## Guitar Group

*Author, Linda McAuley.*



Our group commenced a few months ago and meets once a fortnight at the Formby Club. John, our teacher, is a most accomplished guitarist and his enthusiasm and skill has helped us all. We started with simple chords and we are now beginning to finger pick. The answer to all our problems, according to John, is to practice, practice, practice! While we will never be stars, it is enjoyable to improve our playing ability.

If anyone wishes to join the group, whatever their ability, please contact Groups Secretary, Linda McAuley.

## The Time Travelling U3A Member

When a U3A member recently went to the clinic for a scan, he was put into the machine by an attractive, young technician. Sometime later, when the examination was over, he was helped out of the machine by a far older woman. The member remarked, "How long was I in there for?"

## What's a Hipster?

My four-year-old grandchild recently asked "What's a hipster?"

"Someone who will wear something just to look different," I said. "They'll often buy clothes in charity shops and wear thick glasses."

"Is Grandma a hipster?" he asked.

## Group News

**Author, Linda McAuley, Group Secretary.**

You should show your **blue 2017 membership cards** when you attend group meetings. All groups are only for current, paid up members. If interested, please contact the Groups Secretary unless otherwise stated.



**Cross House Car Park:** Will all Group Leaders please note that **PATRONS ONLY** are allowed to use this car park. The pub has now appointed a company to enforce a £100 fine for non-customers. Some groups have been using the car park to assemble and leave their cars for a period of time. Please let your group members know.

**Book Club 1:** We now have vacancies in this group. We meet in members' homes (in rotation) on the first Thursday of each month 10:30 to 12:30. The books are selected by each member and it is a very informal friendly meeting with tea/coffee and biscuits provided by the host. Contact Anne Sixsmith on 875742 or Phyl Frankland on 831974.

**Bridge:** Would anyone be interested in teaching Bridge at either or both beginner and intermediate level.

**Diabetes Group:** This new group for those with diabetes is for members to exchange experiences and support one another.



**Guitar Group:** The group meets once a fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon, learning a mixture of skills.

**Local History Group 5** is a long established group looking to welcome some new members who are keen to participate in monthly outings and perhaps to get involved in organising one outing each year. We currently meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month but are considering alternating this with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday to suit more people. We are holding a planning meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 11:00am in the Cross House Inn and would like anyone who might be interested in joining us to come along. Many thanks, Rob and Barbara Dodd.

**Sight & Hearing Group:** This new group for those with full or partial visual and/or hearing impairment is to exchange experiences and support one another.

**Sunday Lunch Group 1:** There are 4 vacancies in this group which started in January 2011. We dine once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, usually meeting at 12:30 for 1:00pm. Every members takes a turn to book a venue (approx. every 18 months) and will be responsible for taking calls re-booking or cancellations. To give an overview of where we have eaten his year: The Grapes, Cross House, The Royal, The Freshfield, The Pinewoods, The Bold, Dolce Vita Ainsdale, The Ship Haskayne, The Scarisbrick Downholland. Please phone Jan Kemp on 876745 if interested.

## Easedale Tarn



*Author, Marcia Thompson.*

The **Fellwalkers** (led by Mike Williams) set out from Grasmere to climb Sergeant Man. After a coffee break at Easedale Tarn, we climbed up beside the ghyll – a watery route thanks to the heavy rain of the previous day. At the top, with fine views over the Langdales and Stickle Tarn, we stopped for lunch. After this, the weather turning wet and windy, it was decided to forego Sergeant Man and head back to Grasmere over the undulating ridge of Blea Rigg and Silver How. Despite the inclement weather, a great day was had by all with fine views and good company. The photograph shows the group after the climb up from Easedale Tarn.

## Yarrow Valley



Walking Group 3 on their recent amble around Yarrow Valley.

## Clatterbridge Appeal

**Author, David Manning-Fox.**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, four intrepid members of the U3A Cycling Group girded up their lycra and set off in an attempt to justify the confidence of the kind band of sponsors who were backing them to undertake the 50-mile version of "The Ride of the Roses" in support of Clatterbridge Cancer Charity.



**Left to right: Kit Robinson, David Manning-Fox, Pam Ashton and Pete Latache display their medals at the end of the ride**

The event started from Banks Leisure Centre and made its way along flat roads

through Hesketh Bank, Tarleton, Bretherton to Leyland. From there it headed up into the hills past Hoghton Tower, paused briefly for refreshments at the Nab's Head, and then returned via Samlesbury, Walton-le-Dale, Lostock Hall to Bretherton and back to Banks.

As luck would have it, it was cold, wet and windy over the entire circuit, but I suppose that merely added to the sense of achievement at the end!

However the real sense of achievement has come from the financial support we have received - and for which we are very grateful. Two weeks on and we can report that we have raised a total of £1300. When we started training for the event we didn't have a target figure in mind; if we had done, it would have been nowhere near that amount. It just goes to show how much Clatterbridge is appreciated!

Would we do it again? Watch this space!

## Announcements

**Author: Jack Ashcroft, Secretary**

**1 Change of address:** Third Age Trust has changed its address from Bromley to 52 Lant Street, London SE1 1RB.

**2 Legal Helpline:** A legal helpline, hitherto available to all U3A members, is to be discontinued. However, Third Age Trust will continue to advise members on U3A legal matters. This will be done on a case by case basis using specialist lawyers as appropriate and arranged by Head Office who should be contacted on 020 8466 6139.

**3 Group Leaders:** The Advice Letter for Group Leaders has now been updated as regards self-financing Groups and can be seen on the [Formbyu3a.org.uk](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk) website; About Us, where there is a link to the Group Leaders Advice Sheet.

[http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/group\\_leader\\_advice\\_2017.pdf](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/group_leader_advice_2017.pdf)

**4 Diaries:** The 2018 U3A diaries are now available, costing £2.50 each and can be purchased at the Wednesday Speaker Meeting and the Thursday coffee morning.

**5 Formby U3A Committee Posts:** There will be the usual formal announcements leading up to the AGM in March when, in accordance with procedure, the whole Committee will resign. Whilst some will stand for re-election it is already known there is an ongoing vacancy for Vice-Chairman and also the Secretary is standing down. It is essential there is a nomination for each of these posts by March. In addition, and equally important, 4 vacancies for Non-Officer Committee members will be created by those who have served their 3 years. This is an opportunity to join the team and engage in a fulfilling role helping your U3A to continue its great work in Formby.

## Music and Theatre Events

**Author, Eileen Jones.**

**Music & Theatre Events are open to all members of Formby U3A.** Please pay for tickets when the initial booking is made; cheques should be made payable to Formby U3A M&T Group and please write the event name and your telephone number on the back. If you are unable to attend the event, could you notify us as soon as possible. Dave Irving can be contacted directly, if necessary tel: 630192. ***The coach will leave The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.***

**Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. "War Horse," Liverpool Empire.** *This is now sold out.*

**Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. "Crazy for You," Liverpool Empire.** Tickets, including transport, £38 stalls. ***Tickets are selling fast; only a few remaining.***

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. "Jersey Boys," Liverpool Empire.** Combining evocative music and true life drama. Enjoy the story of four boys who succeeded against all the odds to write such memorable songs as, Sherry, Bye Bye Baby, Girls Don't Cry, Can't Take My Eyes Off You to become superstars. selling millions of records world wide. Tickets, including transport.

**Tues. 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. "Tango Moderno," Liverpool Empire.** They're back! Dance champions, Flavia Cacace and Vincent Simone, one of the most successful Latin American, Ballroom and Argentine Tango performers and choreographers present their, show for your enjoyment. Tickets, including transport £43.

### Welcome To September's New Members

Roma Blakeman

Sandra Fearn

Thomas O'Rourke

Rosalie Philpott

Sue Pierlejewski

Diana Short

Geraint Short

### In Memoriam

Seeing her friend wearing a new locket, the U3A member asked if it was a memento of some sort inside.

"Yes," she replied, "a lock of my husband's hair."

"But your husband's still alive."

"I know, but his hair is gone."

## Outings Group

**Author, Ann Blackman, Phone 871127.**

**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 reserved 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.**

**Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, Pendle Witches Tour.** Tickets £22 include coach, morning coffee in Clitheroe where a guide will join us to travel on the coach through spectacular autumn scenery providing us with an interesting commentary. The guide will leave us at Boundary Mill where a fish and chip lunch will be served with tea or coffee. You will then have free time in the shopping outlet, departing 4pm to return to Formby. Depart Cross Green 9am

**Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, Chatsworth Christmas Event.** Tickets £33.00 include return coach, entrance to Chatsworth House and grounds. The House will be decorated for the Christmas theme 'What the Dickens'. depicting Charles Dickens stories. A Christmas Market will be open during our visit. Refreshments can be purchased but are **NOT included** in the price. Depart Cross Green 9am

**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Outings Christmas Party Briars Hall.** Tickets £27 include coach, two course Christmas meal, live entertainment with Tony Ravel who was so popular with you all at our last visit to Briars Hall. Depart Cross Green 11am

### Fishing

“Poor Soul,” thought the well-dressed U3A member as he watched the old man fish in a puddle outside the pub. So he invited the old man inside for a drink. As they sipped their drinks, the member thought he’d humour the old man and asked, “So how many have you caught today?”

The old man replied, “You’re the eighth.”

### 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	1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
(co-opted)	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
(co-opted)	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

### Monthly Meetings

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

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**      **That Certain Age**, Gay Rhodes. An irreverent look at "growing older" with many very telling observations that hit their mark. Her aim is to make her audience laugh and she says that this applies to people of all ages, men and women.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>**      **Fire Service**, Danny Murphy, Merseyside Fire Service Museum/ Heritage & Education Centre. The talk will illustrate the pathway to the fire and rescue service over the years, the development of machines and equipment.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**      **Christmas Show, at the URC Church Rd, Music from U3A Groups**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**      **Barrow to Baghdad & Back**, Philip Caine

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**      **Yellow Gardening Book**, Geoff & Margaret Fletcher

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>**              **AGM**

**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, October 12<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### To Help You

**An audio version of the Newsletter** is available for members who are visually less able and is distributed through the post. If you are aware of any Formby U3A member who would prefer to receive an audio version of the Newsletter, please let a member of the Committee have their details.

**If you have changed your address, telephone number, or e-mail address**, please inform [datamanager@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:datamanager@formbyu3a.org.uk) or tel: 872862. Please remember to include your full name and address, or membership number.

**To ask about your membership card, or subscriptions:** Please contact [treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk)

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

Contributions are always welcomed. 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 be given. **The deadline for receiving articles is the penultimate Thursday of each month; midday Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October at the latest** to the Editor, e-mail: [newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk)