

Liver Building

Author, Terry Simmons.



Local History Group 4's wonderful visit climbed up above the Clock Tower and saw the wonderful views of Liverpool and beyond and finishing off with a lunch in the restaurant. Thank you to Alan Roberts who led the visit.

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*Happy New Year
 to all our members from
 your Committee*

Golf Presentation Night

Author, Terry Simmons.

The presentations were made to those winning the trophies for best score covering the Monthly Competitions played during the months of April to the Month of October. The presentations were made by Dorothy Gervasoni for the Ladies and by John Adamson to the Mens. After enjoying a wonderful Dinner Terry Simmons called out the winners to accept their Trophies.

Winners were:

April, Trevor Hanson & Chris Hanson, Run by Terry Simmons @ Ellesmere Port.
 May, John Adamson & Ruth Adamson, Run by Trevor Hanson @ Bowring Park.
 June, John Waddington & Linda McAuley, Run by Bob Campbell @ Kirkby Valley.
 July, Peter Connor & Ruth Adamson, Run by John Adamson @ Frodsham.
 August, Gwyn Jones & Janet Speakman, Run by Gwyn Jones @ Pryors Hayes.
 September, John Waddington & Pauline Heverin, Run by Linda McAuley & Bruni Jones @ Allerton.
 October, John Adamson & Bruni Jones, Run by Oliver Whitaker @ Kirkby Valley.

Come along and join us if you enjoy golf Talk to John Adamson for Tuesday Practice. Bob Campbell for Wednesday & Linda McAuley for the Friday group.

Before signing off can I say on behalf of all those who have been with the golf group the debt we owe to Beryl Perrin. Beryl has led the groups for many years arranging many tours of Scotland, Wales & England for our games of golf. These have been wonderful years. Who can forget watching Brian Morrison & Beryl doing a pirouette down a steep fairway slope. Beryl on behalf of all those enjoying those trips. Thank you it's been a real pleasure and we will attempt to emulate your leadership.

Welcome To December's New Members

Pamela Bryant
 Marianne Heslin
 Pam Pearson

Richard Bryant
 Anne Laing
 Betty Scott

Cynthia Fayter
 Ian Laing
 Hazel Younger

Newsletter Editors Note: As you will have seen, this is now the fifth consecutive year with few articles for the January Formby U3A Newsletter. Many of the groups that normally report take a break from their activities in December. In addition, others who may wish to report, are holding events after an earlier than usual deadline caused by Christmas and New Year closures. Your committee has, therefore, decided that **from 2019 onwards there will be no January edition of your Newsletter**, in addition to there being no August Newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary.

1) We still have vacancies for a Secretary and no less than 5 Committee members. It is of increasing concern that there are still no nominations for these positions with the AGM approaching. If anyone is interested but in some doubt as to what is involved, please have a word with myself or the Chairman or any member of the current Committee. Your interest would be most welcome. Think not what your U3A can do for you but think what you can do for Formby U3A.

2) An email from National U3A encourages members to sign up to receive directly their electronic Newsletter (which turns out to be from North West Region) and this can be accessed at u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter A hard copy will be available on the notice board (Wednesday and Thursday meetings).

3) The North West Region AGM will be held in Preston on 28th February - further information from me or available on the notice board.

Annual General Meeting

Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary.

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held on Wednesday, 14th March 2018 in Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 2.00 pm.

All members of the Committee (the Trustees) are required to stand down at the AGM. However, the current Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Groups Secretary, plus one Committee member, are making themselves available for re-election, but these positions can be contested. Many others have served the maximum time permitted under the terms of the Formby U3A constitution and at present, there are no nominations for Secretary and five places for Committee members - new names would be most welcome.

A Nomination Form for any of the positions on Committee is printed on page 4 of this Newsletter or copies can be obtained from the Secretary at the Wednesday and Thursday meetings. Completed forms should be returned to the Secretary by 31st January 2018.

It would be appreciated if any Motions, proposed and seconded, for consideration by the AGM could also be returned to the Secretary by 31st January 2018.

FORMBY U3A
Nomination Form for the
2018/19 Formby U3A Committee

Nominee:

For the office of:

Proposed by:

Signature of proposer:

Seconded by:

Signature of seconder:

I agree to be nominated for the above office.

Signature of nominee:

Nomination Forms should be returned to:

Jack Ashworth, Secretary Formby U3A, 6 Trap Hill, Formby L37 2LU, e-mail:
 secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk

by 31st January 2018, at the latest.

Group News

Author, Linda McAuley, Group Secretary.

We encourage and are always on the lookout for new groups and we strive to tempt our members with any talent or skill which they might be prepared to share with other members. This is the philosophy of the U3A. If you are able to lead any groups, or suggest any activities, please contact the Groups Secretary.

To all Group Leaders: Please remember to let the Group Secretary know if you have any vacancies in your group.

Bridge: There are many good bridge players out there who could teach bridge at beginner and intermediate level. Could a few of you get together to discuss running a short course to get new members playing and also a refresher course for ones that have forgotten!

New Groups:

Card Making: We would like to start a new card making group. Anyone interested, contact the Group Secretary.

Scrabble Group: We would like to start a new Scrabble group, preferably in the

afternoon. Anyone interested contact the Group Secretary.

There are vacancies in the following groups:

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

Mahjong: If you can play rummy then you can play this interesting game of mahjong. There is a vacancy in the group which meets weekly on a Tuesday afternoon. Beginners welcome. Contact Dot Holmes on 834799 or e-mail dotholmes105@gmail.com

Sight & Hearing Group. This new group meet monthly to exchange experiences and to support each other. Contact Derek Thomas on 872671 or e-mail dlt391@sky.com

You should show your red 2018 membership cards when you attend group meetings. **All groups are only for current, paid up members.** If interested, please contact the Group Secretary unless otherwise stated.

Standing Order Mandate

**Please ask a Committee Member if you require
a Standing Order Mandate**

It's Time To Renew Your U3A Membership ***(£9 per member)***

Annual subscriptions were due on 1st 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, it would be helpful if you would 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 in 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 (10th January and 14th February); or at the Thursday coffee mornings in Holy Trinity Workshop (11th January and 15th 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 2018 U3A card

If you have a Standing Order in place, your new 2018 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 2018 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 2018 Membership Card at all events, including group activities.

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

Glyn Pike

Vice Chairman

Vacant

Treasurer
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Groups Secretary
Committee Members

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

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.***

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that, for insurance purposes, anyone joining us on a music or theatre event is required to be a fully paid up member of Formby U3A.

Thurs. 18th Jan “Jersey Boys” Liverpool Empire *This is now sold out*

Tues. 27th 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 centre rear stalls £43, including transport.

Thurs 3rd May “Rhapsody in Blue,” Liverpool Philharmonic. An amazing night combining classical music and jazz. Enjoy the music of Gershwin and Duke Ellington, experience the extraordinary talents of composer Gary Carpenter, superb saxophonist Iain Ballamy, influential composer and musician Julian Joseph and the delights of the full orchestra. Tickets including transport £32.

Thurs 28th June “Thriller Live,” Liverpool Empire. A magical tour through the 45 years of Michael Jackson's musical career brought to you by a superb cast and band featuring such favourite songs as, I Want You Back, Off the Wall, Beat It, Billy Jean, Thriller and many, many more. This is a spectacular show now in its record breaking ninth year. Tickets including transport £38.

Are You Wanting To Keep A Monthly Newsletter?

Do you e-mail people? Are you competent using a computer? Can you use, or are you willing to learn to use Microsoft Publisher?

If you can answer “yes” to these three questions, then you may be the person that Formby U3A needs. There are times when the Newsletter Editor is not available to prepare and circulate the Newsletter and Formby U3A urgently requires one, or more people who can occasionally deputise. Without a deputy there is a risk of some months without a Formby U3A Newsletter.

If you would be interested in helping your U3A keep in touch with its members, or would like more information about what the voluntary work entails, please e-mail newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk with your details and/or any questions you may have.

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.**

Tuesday, January 23rd, Liverpool Beatles Tour.

Tickets £22.00 include morning coffee at the Adelphi Hotel, guided coach tour of Beatles attractions, three course lunch with tea/coffee at the Adelphi Hotel. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.

Wednesday, February 28th, The Chocolate House Blackburn & Lunch at The Calf's Head.

Tickets £27.50 each include return coach journey and visit to the Chocolate House a family run firm who specialise in hand made chocolates and bespoke specialities. On arrival we will be treated to a chocolate plus a hot drink of tea/coffee or hot chocolate. While seated we will have a demonstration of chocolate

making, followed by time for questions. We will also have time to visit the shop and see the kitchen. We will then travel on to the Calf's Head for a three course lunch with coffee before returning to Formby mid-afternoon. Departure Cross Green 9:00am.

Thursday, March 29th, Mill Hotel Chester and Canal Cruise. Tickets £36.75 each include return coach journey. On arrival at the hotel we will have time for a morning coffee/tea before boarding the boat. As we sail along the Shropshire Union Canal we will be served a three course lunch. All food served on board is freshly prepared in the hotel kitchen. The boat is decked out with fresh linen table clothes and serviettes adding to the ambiance of the environment. Please note we can only take 50 guests due to the size of the boat. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.

Formby U3A Committee, 2017/18

Chairman	Glyn Pike (2016)	0151 929 2996	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk
	(co-opted)		
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) 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
 Jan 10th Barrow to Baghdad & Back. Philip Caine worked as a chef and manager in the hotel industry, moved to North Sea oil rigs, before spending time in Kazakhstan, Russia and ended his career abroad in Baghdad, working for the American Military. He talks about his experiences with plenty of interest and humour.

February 14th **Yellow Gardening Book**, Geoff & Margaret Fletcher.

March 14th **AGM** followed by speaker "Tugboat Cathy" who will give a history of her tugboat and life at The Dock.

Please remember to bring your current membership card to all events, including group activities.

COFFEE MORNINGS are from **10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, January 11th** 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*** 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***

Previous Newsletters: If you are looking for previous copies of the Newsletter, these can be found on the Formby U3A website: www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html

The next edition of the Newsletter is due to be sent by e-mail and be on the website early February. 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 for the next Newsletter is midday Thursday, 18th January at the latest to:** the Editor, e-mail:

newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk No e-mail providers guarantee 100% delivery rate and **if 7 days after submitting an article** you have not received an acknowledgement one of the e-mail systems failed, so please try again.