

## The Western Approaches



**Author, Judith Aspinwall.**

Hidden away in Rumford St, Liverpool is the bunker built with a 7ft thick reinforced roof and 3ft deep walls. **Local History Group 9** didn't see all the hundred rooms used by over 400 staff during WW2 but those we did see enabled us to understand the combined operations of the Royal Navy, Air Force and Marines focusing on the

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rectangular area of the Atlantic Ocean lying immediately west of the British Isles. Their task was to monitor German aircraft and U- boats. Liverpool was Britain's main convoy port and helped to maintain Britain's lifeline with the United States and Canada. Victory at the Battle of the Atlantic was essential for Britain to survive.

Our guide encouraged us to read documents lying on desks to gain an understanding of tasks undertaken on a daily basis. Staff worked a 12hr day but once a month they worked a 24hr day or even more. Most of them were women as the



men were busy fighting. The senior men, however, often went out in the morning after an intensive night shift for a game of golf and no doubt a lunch after. Winston Churchill visited more than once. We saw the 'sound proof 'telephone box' where he could take private calls on his red phone. The Admiral given most credit was Sir Max Horton who really improved the rate at which the enemy vessels were destroyed.

It was one of those visits that reminds us yet again of sacrifices made by individuals, in this case of a high proportion of merchant seamen and also we are reminded of the important role Liverpool has played in so many ways through time.



## Welcome To February's New Members

Larry Geoghegan

Susan Phillips

Edwina Williams

Angela Kelly

Dinah Vaux

Anne Yates

Joan Pape

Alan Williams

## 114 Mount Pleasant

Author, *Tim Slain.*



During the 1700s Liverpool was rapidly growing with many immigrants. Doctors and surgeons working at Liverpool Infirmary were witnessing many illnesses and diseases previously unknown. Resources were scarce and expensive and in order to cope the Liverpool Medical Library was formed. In the 1830s, Liverpool's doctors decided they needed their own flagship building, so Dr John Rutter launched a fundraising campaign to raise monies for their new home. The resultant building, in the Greek Revival style, designed by Clark Rampling, curves round the corner of Mount Pleasant and Hope Street. It was opened in May 1837 and was the venue for **Local History Group 6's** recent visit. It claims to be one of the oldest Medical Societies in the world. In 1839 the Liverpool Medical Library merged with the Liverpool Medical Society to form the **Liverpool Medical Institute**.

One long since deceased member was **Thomas Fresh**. He oversaw Environmental Health and was appointed as the Liverpool "Inspector of Nuisances," responsible for sanitary inspection and works. In addition to being a pioneering officer, he is locally known for the model farm and fields he owned adjacent to Freshfield Station.



Another important and more recent LMI member was Liverpool born, bred and educated **Ronald Finn** (1930-2004). He was aware of **Rh disease** which only occurs in some second, or subsequent pregnancies of Rh negative women, where the foetus's father is Rh positive. As the mother is exposed to the infant's blood during childbirth it can cause the development of antibodies which may affect the health of any subsequent Rh+ pregnancies, causing anything from anaemia (mild cases) to heart failure (severe cases). In a 1960 talk, given in the Institution, Finn proposed that "*it might be possible to destroy the*

*foetal blood cells in the mother with anti Rh antibody and so prevent the future development of erythroblastosis thus mimicking the natural protection afforded by abo incompatibility.*” It led him to propose that the disease might be prevented by injecting the at-risk mother with an antibody against foetal red blood cells. In 1980, Finn was a joint recipient of the Lasker Award (sometimes referred to as “America’s Nobels”) for his major contribution to medical science, his work on rhesus blood types and the prevention of Rh disease so improving the life chances of many children.



The LMI building has grade II\* listing and alterations are restricted. The entrance hall on the corner of LMI has an imposing sweeping staircase, a War Memorial and a memorial to Doctor Duncan, Liverpool’s first Medical Officer of Health. The biggest room, the 120-seat Lecture Theatre, boasts

bright red plush seats and like the rest of the building is regularly used for conferences and events. However, the most striking room is the two-storey Library, having a balcony with a glass floor. A gallery, lined with historic portraits, curves along the first floor from the Library to the Bar. The Gallery, Libraries and Lecture Theatre are all lit by glass domes, making the building cold in winter and sweltering in summer. The Council Room, where the Institute’s governing council met, was remodelled in the 1900s with beautiful wood panelling, display cases and a fireplace. The cases contain a variety of artefacts, some gruesome, including amputation sets and a historic cutter for skin grafts. There are more rooms in the modern extension in Mount Pleasant, which was opened by Princess Margaret.

We were grateful to Karen who stood in for our original guide who was ill with ‘flu. She gave us a fascinating insight into a “gem” of a venue, its alumni and history, all previously unknown to us, apart from its facade.

## Beatles Tour

**Author, Val Thomas,  
photos Ian Higson.**





The **Outings Group** met at Cross Green before boarding a coach and to be taken on a scenic route to the Adelphi Hotel where we had morning coffee. After morning coffee we met our tour guide Harriet who showed us round the birth places of John, Paul, George and Ringo. On route to Strawberry Fields we were shown the Barbers Shop where the famous haircuts were done and we also saw the Sgt Peppers roundabout. As we went round to Strawberry Fields the song was played. Further along the route we were shown where Brian Epstein and Priscilla White (better known as Cilla Black) are buried. We then proceeded to where John Lennon and Paul McCartney lived. We continued on to various sites; Pier Head with the statue where each Beatle had something significant on them and the Beatles Hotel where one room had been decorated in white for John and Yoko. From there we travelled to the Cavern Walks where the Beatles played and a statue of Cilla now stands. We carried on to William Brown Street where there are trees in St John's Gardens relating to the Beatles and then returned to the Adelphi Hotel for a three course lunch, finishing with tea and coffee.



We travelled back to Formby arriving at Cross Green around 3pm. Everybody enjoyed the Beatles Tour, finding how some of the songs originally related to varying points on the tour. Everyone thanked Ann and her team for a very enjoyable day.



## Music and Theatre Events

*Author, Eileen Jones.*

**These events are open to all paid up U3A members.** Can I remind you to please pay for tickets when the initial booking is made and to write the event name and your telephone number on the back of the cheque. This is extremely helpful to us. If you cannot attend an event let us know as soon as possible and we will attempt to sell your ticket to someone on the waiting list. ***The coach will leave The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.***

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> April, Agatha Christie's "Love from a Stranger" Playhouse.** An unexpected love affair with an attentive, good looking stranger leads Cecily Harrington to impulsively embark on a new life with him, in a remote cottage in beautiful surroundings. What could possibly go wrong? Brace yourself for the twists and turns of this spine tingling thriller. Tickets including transport £26

**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> July "The Play That Goes Wrong," Liverpool Empire.** This is a smash hit comedy not to be missed. Following rave reviews for all of its four years run in London, it is now on tour. A 1920's murder mystery that goes hilariously wrong at every turn, despite the valiant efforts of the unfortunate cast. Tickets including transport £32.

**Dave Irving can be contacted, if necessary, on 630192.**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary.**

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held on Wednesday, 14th March 2018 at 2 pm in Holy Trinity Parish Hall.

### Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence.
  - 2 Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 AGM as published in the April 2017 and January 2018 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 2017.
  - 6 Appointment of Auditor.
  - 7 Election of Trustees. We still require nominations for up to 5 Committee vacancies. A nomination form for these positions is printed on the following page, or can be obtained from the Secretary at the Wednesday and Thursday meetings. The following have agreed to stand for re-election but, of course, any of these positions can be contested. At the time of writing, there is no requirement for a voting procedure but in the event of this changing, proxy forms will be available from the Secretary.
- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Chairman             | Glyn Pike                  |
| Vice-Chairman        | Frances Taylor             |
| Treasurer            | David Manning-Fox          |
| Secretary            | Keith Jacques              |
| Membership Secretary | Ann Gunstone               |
| Groups Secretary     | Linda McAuley              |
| Committee Members    | Derek Thomas; Val Tibbitts |
- 8 Any Other Business.

### Formby U3A Draft Minutes Of The 2017 AGM Held In Holy Trinity Hall On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Author, Jack Ashworth, Secretary.**

- 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 gentlemen 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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	David Manning-Fox
Secretary	Jack Ashworth
Membership Secretary	Ann Gunstone
Groups Secretary	Linda McAuley
Committee Members	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.

## Group News

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

We encourage and are always on the lookout for new activity groups and we strive to tempt out 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's Secretary know if you have any vacancies in your group. **If you are advising the Group Secretary that you have vacancies in your group**, it would be helpful if you could e-mail a photograph showing some of your members involved in your group's activity. The group name doesn't always make it clear what you do and potential members would appreciate seeing how friendly you are.

### **New Groups:**

**Card Making:** A new monthly group which will offer the opportunity to try out a range of products and learn new techniques. Supporting both beginners as well as more experienced card makers who would like to extend their paper raft skills. Each month members will make two projects with all the materials and equipment provided. Further details are available from the Groups' Secretary.

**Golf:** Would you like to have a try at golf to see if it is for you. The U3A's professional teacher, David Lloyd, is willing to give a free lesson to anyone interested in having a go. Please contact the Groups Secretary.

### **There are vacancies in the following groups:**

**SOS Music Group:** Is there a keyboard, brass and/or harmonica player interested in joining the group which plays 60's music onwards. Must be able to busk. Contact Peter Connor on 382349 or [pjc7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pjc7@hotmail.co.uk)

**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 Groups Secretary unless otherwise stated.

## 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.**

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup>, Coniston Cruise and lunch.** Tickets £42.15 includes scenic coach journey to the Waterhead Hotel on Lake Coniston for a two course lunch followed by tea or coffee. We will board the launch at the hotel and sail the length of the lake and back to Coniston village where we will disembark giving us time to walk around and enjoy the scenery. Departure Cross Green 9am.

## **Formby U3A Committee** **Until the AGM**

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

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

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**      **Sing Me Mersey**, a choir/concert with some audience participation.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**      **What's Behind The Green Fence?** Neil Blair & Wing Cmdr Hooton.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>**      **The Lettuce Line**, *Keith Hicks*      The 1878 to 1960s story behind the West Lancs, Southport & Preston Railways.

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

**COFFEE MORNINGS are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, March 15<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)

**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](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html)

The Newsletter is published monthly (except for January & August). **The next 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. 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, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the latest to:** the Editor, e-mail:

[newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto: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.