

## Catalyst Museum



**Author, John Adamson.**

Members of **Local History Group 7** recently visited the Catalyst Museum in Widnes. The museum is the only museum in the UK which explores the science and technology behind the chemical industry. The

museum also looks at the impact of chemicals on our lives, past and present by providing hands-on exhibits, activities, demonstrations and a variety of interesting talks.

We all shared cars to travel to the museum which took about 40 minutes. After coffee/tea and biscuits we were taken to the conference theatre and given a talk by Dr Diane Leitch, on the “Development of the Chemical Industry in Runcorn and Widnes in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries”. A lot of local history information was provided in the talk, which follows on from our visit to the Salt Mines in Cheshire.

After lunch in the museum’s café, we were split into two groups. One group was taken to the

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rooftop Observatory Gallery where we enjoyed panoramic views of the Mersey Gateway Bridge and across to Cheshire. We were also provided with tablets which showed pictures of historical views of Widnes, Runcorn, the river and the ship canal, together with historical information.

The other group were shown around the museum section called "The Birth of an Industry" - the Chemical Industry. This was very interesting and showed the conditions that people had to endure. The Industry has come a long way to the present day.

The visit was very interesting and enjoyable and lasted from 10:30 am to about 3:00 pm. They also had a small shop which had some interesting things to buy for the grandchildren.

## **A Host of Golden Daffodils**



***Author, Linda Smith.***

The Tuesday **Cycling Group** enjoyed a very pleasant ride through the park and historic parts of Liverpool, stopping for a look at the Palm House in its full splendour.

## **Book & Jigsaw Exchange**

***Author, Keith Jacques, Secretary.***

It is hoped that Formby U3A will launch a book and jigsaw exchange at the monthly coffee mornings and speaker events. We are therefore looking for donations of books and jigsaws in good condition to give us an opening stock. Please contact the Formby U3A secretary (Keith Jacques) by emailing [secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk) or by telephone on 870906 to arrange delivery or collection of your donations.

## Data Protection

*Author, Frances Taylor, Vice Chairman.*

New Data Protection legislation has come into force. Earlier this year the Committee set up a Sub-Committee to develop Formby U3A's response. Working on advice promulgated by the Third Age Trust in late January we were well on the way to agreeing appropriate approaches and policies. The Third Age Trust radically changed its advice on April 24. We had briefed Group Leaders and put a short note in the April Newsletter indicating that we would shortly be writing to ask for your consent to keep and use personal information for membership purposes. The note was replaced in the electronic versions of the Newsletter but it was too late to change the printed copy so we apologise for any confusion.

The Sub-Committee is reviewing the new advice and will be producing a revised Privacy Policy and a Data Protection Policy for consideration by the whole Committee. Once agreed these will be placed on the website and be available on request from the Secretary. It appears we will not need your consent to keep and use your personal information for membership purposes and our policies will explain how we use and keep your information. We will also be issuing guidance to Group Leaders.

The Committee would like to assure you that we are taking Data Protection and Privacy very seriously. We have reviewed and strengthened our systems to ensure that we still keep and handle your information securely.

In the meantime there are a couple of things we would like to bring to your attention. Photographs are personal information and we have already asked contributors to the Newsletter to ensure that members in Group Photographs are aware that it is being taken for the Newsletter and will appear on the website. Members thus have an opportunity not to be included in the photograph. Secondly it is good practice to use bcc (blind carbon copy) when circulating an email to a large group of people as this means that private e-mail addresses cannot be seen by anyone else, thus retaining members' privacy. However if everyone in the Group agrees then email addresses can be shared but individual members should still be given the opportunity to remain bcc.

We will keep you informed of progress on the website, in the newsletter and at our monthly meetings.

**Newsletter Editor's Footnote:** Please do not ask the Newsletter Editor, or any of the Committee Members for another member's e-mail address, 'phone number etc. Our refusal is not intended to cause offence but is simply us protecting Formby U3A from substantial fines that we could incur if we disclose such personal details.

## Folk Group



*The Group entertaining at St Michael's Church Hall, Aughton.*

**Author, David Davies.**

The **U3A Folk Club** has now been running for three years. We meet every Thursday afternoon from September to the following April from 2pm to 4pm., playing folk instruments and singing a wide range of folk and country songs. Introducing harmonies into many of our songs, we sometimes entertain at local church and village halls and, occasionally, play and sing outdoors.

We would like to increase our range of instruments to include: banjo/mandolin, bass guitar, keyboard, concertina or similar. In fairness, we would like musicians who already have a fair degree of competence. We also have a vacancy for a good female singer, either alto or soprano, who, preferably, can harmonise naturally, to complement our small group of microphone singers.

## Harrogate

**Author, Teresa Fitzgerald, photos Angela Parry.**

The **Outings Group** set out on a sunny morning on a visit to Harrogate. We departed from Cross Green, at 9am and journeyed north to the A59, arriving at Huntleys which is a shopping outlet in the Samlesbury area where we enjoyed a relaxing coffee break.



Continuing our journey through Lancashire into the Ribble Valley, one could enjoy the beautiful scenery with its rich green pastures and rolling hills enhanced by such bright sunshine. We crossed over

into Yorkshire, to what is known as one of God's own counties, soon to arrive in Harrogate.



As we arrived in close proximity to the town centre, our group separated and twelve gardening enthusiasts continued the journey to RHS Garden Harlow Carr while the rest of the group visited the town centre. For me, it was Harrogate revisited after thirty five years. Needless to say, it is still brimming with character. A Spa town famous for its sulphur and iron springs used by sufferers of rheumatic and other health conditions, it's dignified Victorian architecture so carefully preserved. Some members of the group enjoyed the opportunity of indulging in retail therapy, while others enjoyed a leisurely lunch at Betty's Cafe. & Tea Rooms while others relaxed and enjoyed the sights of this lovely town bedecked with Spring flowers.



At 5pm we boarded the coach as it returned from RHS Harlow Carr. Although I did not visit the gardens, I was given to understand that all twelve members enjoyed a lovely day in what is referred to as a garden for all seasons, offering excellent facilities to include a branch of Betty's where all twelve members enjoyed lunch. We arrived back in Formby at approximately 7:20pm.

Once again, thanks to our Leader, Ann Blackman, for arranging this lovely trip.



## THE ANCIENT CHAPEL OF HOLY ROOD, MELLING

*Author, Rosemary and Alan Thomas*

**Local History Group 9** visited this ancient chapel on 10 May and what a little gem it is! Now known as The Parish of St Thomas, Melling, tucked away not so far from Formby in a semi-rural area, we stepped back in time as we listened to the very interesting and informative talk given by Barbara Nickson, Church Secretary.

The earliest recorded entry of worship on the site is 1190. The chapel was dedicated to Holy Rood (meaning cross) and there is the base of a stone cross in the ancient churchyard which is thought to be the base of a “preaching cross” before the church was built. There has been a burial ground here since 600 AD. Norse settlers came to Lancashire about 900 AD and left behind evidence of Christian activity.

The old chapel lasted 650 years and over time fell into disrepair. In the early eighteen hundreds it was decided to build a new church on the site and Reverend Miles Formby who was responsible for building the new church, preached the first sermon on a Sunday in March 1835. As the years have gone by, its original design has been modified from an open timbered early Gothic interior to as it is today, with graceful triple lancet windows. The old tower to the west end was surmounted by four canopied turrets. A new organ was installed and a vestry and additions have been designed in the early English style.

Several fine memorials which had been fixed in the Old Chapel dedicated to noteworthy local parishioners in the 1700/early1800s have been refixed on the walls of the “new” church including memorials to the Molyneux family and to The Reverend Miles Formby, the fourth son of Richard Formby of Formby Hall who died in 1849.

At the entrance to the church we noted the Lych Gate which was erected in 1921 to honour those from Melling who had died in the Great War. Two bronze tablets naming those who had fallen in both World Wars are displayed in the church.

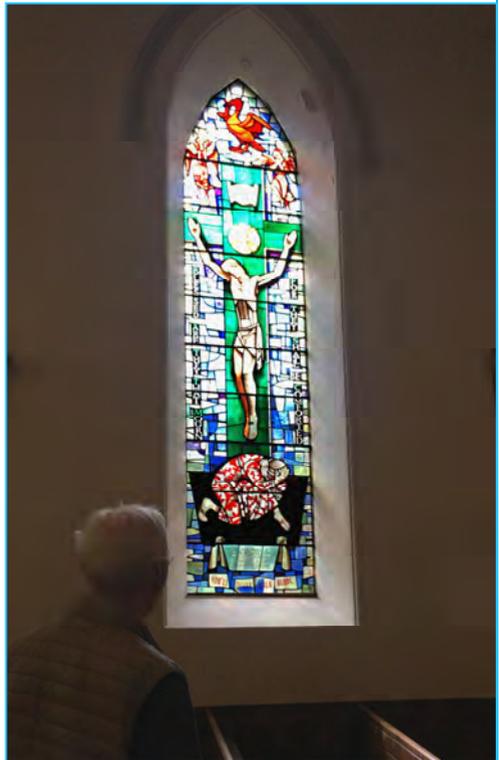
Further down the lane Barbara took us to the Tithebarn which was built in 1660 and originally used to store the “tithes” that was payable to the Rector of Halsall. Over the centuries the use of the barn has been modified from storing grain to becoming a coach house for the vicarage, parish rooms and a community hall. In 1962 it served as a dining room to little local school and is now a tastefully renovated venue used for weddings and local events.





The original school, built in 1720 comprised of two white cottages on Tithebarn Lane. It provided basic education for the children of Melling which included 25 “free” children and others who paid, with special provision made for poor children through special trusts administered by the a local family named Tatlock. When the numbers increased to over 100 children, Reverend Miles Formby pushed for a replacement building which was opened in 1844. New school premises in Wheeler Drive now serves Melling and the local area.

With our thanks to Barbara, we truly stepped back in time and thoroughly enjoyed our experience.



## 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 leaves The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm and any variation on this will be specified with the event details.

**Thurs 12th 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.

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> September “The City of Liverpool Tattoo,”** Echo Arena. A spectacular, not to be missed event, featuring massed pipes and drums along with many international bands and dancers. Tickets including transport. £45.

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> December, “Rock ‘n’ Roll Panto, The Snow Queen,”** Everyman. The hilarious anarchy of The Everyman Panto is back. Brace yourself for fun, music, dance, jokes, puns, special effects and water guns! Greg Last will lead the cast of extremely talented actor musicians, including the well known Francis Tucker and Adam Keast. Tickets including transport £40.  
Note: **The coach will leave at the earlier time of 5:45pm.**

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> December, “The Snowman and The Bear and the Piano,”** Liverpool Cathedral. The classic story, The Snowman, describes the magical adventure of a young boy and a snowman who comes to life. An animated film on the large screen is accompanied by live orchestra playing the original score and featuring the much loved, Walking in the Air. Also included in the programme is The Bear and the Piano by David Lichfield, with Festive Overture, The Sleigh Ride and the Snowman Waltz. Tickets including transport £32

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

## 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:**

**Drama:** This new group has started recently. Please contact Sue Birchall at [susanwent8@gmail.com](mailto:susanwent8@gmail.com)

**Knit & Natter:** This group is restarting and will meet twice a month for coffee, friendship, good conversation and, of course, knitting. Contact Sara Beaumont at [sarabeaumont56@gmail.com](mailto:sarabeaumont56@gmail.com)

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

Card Making, Cycling for Softies, Golf, Floral Art, Needlecraft, Rubber Bridge, Scottish Dancing.

**Bowls:** This group meets every Tuesday at 1:45pm. in Formby Park, ready for bowls activity at 2:00pm. Vacancies exist at all levels, for novices or experienced players. Introductory tuition is given to all new bowlers. The green fee for each afternoon is £2.50 per person, or £30.00 for the whole season. Why not give it a try? You will be very welcome and will benefit from the fresh air, the exercise and making new friends. The group is now run by Ray Doldon; contact Ray on 834253 for further information.

**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.

## Welcome To May's New Members

Marie Churchill

Patricia Fagan

Isobel Macareavy

Susan Mathias

John Pollock

Andrea Tree

Ann Wilkinson

Joyce Willoughby

## Volunteers Needed Urgently!

Can you spare time to help your local community? **Citizens Advice Sefton** is currently recruiting volunteers to train in the role of telephone assessor for our Bootle office on Knowsley Rd. Full training is provided, you just need to have good telephone skills and be able to use a computer confidently. Any travelling expenses incurred will be reimbursed.



We are also recruiting volunteers for our Bootle office to help with the completion of health-related forms i.e. Personal Independence Payment (PIP); Disability Living Allowance; Attendance Allowance; Employment & Support Allowance. Full training will be provided for this role.

If you are interested in joining Citizens Advice Sefton as a volunteer please contact Linda Jones on 01704 385627 Ext.123 or by email at: [linda.jones@seftoncab.org.uk](mailto:linda.jones@seftoncab.org.uk)

## 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 June 26<sup>th</sup>, Llanberis and Snowdonia.** £41 each includes return coach journey with a brief stop at Tweed Mills. On arrival in Llanberis we will have reserved seats on the train to travel up to the top of Snowdonia with allocated time for sight seeing before we return to Llanberis. We recommend you take a packed lunch, or

use local eateries as refreshments are not included. We will ensure we allow time for you to access cafes etc.

Depart Cross Green 9am.

**Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>, Fleetwood Festival of Transport.** Tickets £9.50 include coach journey and gratuities. The festival is a day-long event, starting at 10am with a magnificent parade. There will be everything you can think of on wheels, including the wonderfully created art exhibits made from spare parts, as well as trams, cycles, prams and cars etc. There are bands plus street entertainers and professional acrobats brought in to entertain you. The event attracts thousands of visitors to see the parade and visit the many attractions including stalls along the streets.

You are advised to bring a picnic, or purchase a meal from the many cafes.

Depart Cross Green at 8.30am.

**Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Whitby.** Tickets £18 each includes coach and gratuities.

Enjoy a day walking along the harbour, or take the open top, hop on hop off bus to the Abbey and enjoy the views. **Refreshments not included** but you can visit the many restaurants along the sea front.

Depart Cross Green at 9:00am.

**Friday September 14<sup>th</sup>, Saltaire.** Tickets £21 each include entrance and tour by guides in period costumes of this UNESCO World Heritage site model village created by Sir Titus Salt, including the Mill, Victoria Hall and church. Admire the beautiful architecture of the original factory opened 1853, the David Hockney Galleries, or stroll along the canal towpath or wander the nearby parks. This week there are additional attractions including the Saltaire Festival.

**Meals are not included** as Saltaire has a great selection of places to eat and drink.

Depart Cross Green at 9:00am.

## Formby U3A Committee

2018-19

Chairman	Glyn Pike (2016)	0151 929 2996	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	vicechair@formbyu3a.org.uk
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Treasurer			treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
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	Christine McIlraith (2018)		4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Derek Thomas (2018)	872671	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.

<b>June 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Lettuce Line,</b>	<i>Keith Hicks</i>
	The 1878 to 1960s story behind the West Lancs., Southport & Preston Railways.	
<b>July 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vikings</b>	Stephen Whittle
<b>Sept 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bee Keeping</b>	John Turner

**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, June 14<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, or, now have an e-mail address and wish to subscribe to electronically receiving the Newsletter, or, no longer wish to receive e-mails from Formby U3A, or, have an enquiry about your membership card, or subscriptions,

**please contact [membership@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk) or tel: 872879.** Please remember to include your full name and address, or membership number.

**Discounts:** Formby U3A has negotiated discounts for members with local firms. A list is on the website or available from the Secretary.

**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 July. 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, 21<sup>st</sup> June 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.