

People's History Museum



Author, E Pankhurst.

The People's History Museum is the national museum of democracy, telling the story of its development in Britain. The first museum was opened in London as the National Museum of Labour History and dates back to the 1960s, when a group began to collect material which they believed belonged to working people. However, a lack of funding in the 1980s threatened its future and it was rescued by Manchester authorities and the TUC. As both interest and the collection grew, the museum moved into a new modern four storey extension, attached to an original Pump House which **Local History Group 6** members found to be an easy 5 minute walk from Salford Station.

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power and, through a fascinating set of exhibits, the story is told of how power moved towards the people. The corrupt Rotten boroughs, such as Old Sarum, where 11 voters had 2 Members of Parliament, were in stark contrast to the newly formed industrial areas such as Manchester and Liverpool. The populations of the latter made the country rich and demanded a say in how the country should be run. A display marks the 200th anniversary of 60,000 people who gathered to demand the vote. Their meeting resulted in the Peterloo Massacre where 18 were killed and blood ran down Manchester's streets. The working class movement, the Chartists (1836-48), was



frustrated by the limits of the Reform Act and made 6 demands: universal suffrage for all men over 21; equal sized electoral districts; voting by secret ballot; an end to the need for a property qualification for voting rights; pay for MPs and annual election of parliament. The rejection of the Charter during a particularly harsh economic depression meant 1 in 4 cotton workers in Preston lost their job. The combined effects of these 2 events caused a great strike across the North West of England which resulted in the death of 4 Preston men. Some of the Secret Societies of the 18th & 19th centuries, such as the Liverpool Tin Smith's Association, where members were required to sign oaths, were deemed illegal under the Unlawful Oaths Act with the associations' demands for improved working conditions perceived as plots against the factory and land owners. Probably the most famous illegal such group was the Tolpuddle Martyrs, 6 people who were arrested for belonging to a workers association and sentenced to be transported to Australia, until pardoned after 2 years and following a national outcry. By the 19th century government attitudes changed, with unions open to skilled workers who could afford the high subscriptions, becoming respectable organisations that provided sickness and funeral benefits long before state provisions existed. Socialist groups based on the 1880s ideas of Marx and Engel helped form the new Labour Party in 1900. Beveridge wanted to banish the five horrors of his time, idleness, ignorance, disease, squalor and want and stated that the way to achieve this was by establishing a system of social security to include free health care for all, greater unemployment benefits and improved old age pensions, appealing to sceptics by arguing that these would increase the competitiveness of British industry and produce a healthier, wealthier, more motivated and productive workers.

The museum houses a massive and ever changing collection of both large and small beautiful trade union processional banners. They were very evocative of a bygone era and their placing at the end of our tour made a fitting culmination to an excellent and informative visit, which can be recommended for anyone, especially once the extended Peterloo exhibit opens in March.



Empire Theatre

Author, Kath Halpin.

The newest member of **Local History Group 9**, Kath Halpin, volunteered to organise a group outing to the Liverpool Empire Theatre. She contacted the theatre events team who advised that the Russian State Ballet of Siberia would be arriving on the day of the visit so the group would no longer be able to go 'back of house'. All was not lost. Rather than cancel the event it was agreed that the format would be changed to a talk about the Theatre, through the years, introduced by Natalie Flynn who has worked with the Liverpool Empire Creative Learning Team for 13 years.



Natalie talked about the history of the theatre building and its owners from the time it first opened in 1866, to present day. Stage productions of various genres, including musicals, pop concerts, comedians, plays and opera, all had taken place at the Empire and the steps required to ensure that everything ran smoothly were shared with the group. Natalie also talked about the stars that had performed over the years, including such iconic names as Sarah Bernhardt, Frank Sinatra, Julie Andrews, Laurel and Hardy and of course The Beatles. There were even some ghost stories thrown in. Nowadays the Liverpool Empire is not only used as a theatre but also for non-show related activities such as conferences, school activities and weddings. It was a great interactive event with members sharing their own memories of visits to the Liverpool Empire, including the homecoming visit by the Beatles in 1964.

After the talk members went across the road to the North Western in Lime Street Station, better known as Weatherspoon's, where a good lunch in good company was enjoyed by all.

Formby U3A Draft Minutes Of The 2019 AGM Held In Holy Trinity Hall On Wednesday 15 March 2019

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Keith Jacques, Anne Rodmell, Mr & Mrs N Blundell, Linda McAuley, Steve McIlraith, David Manning-Fox, Pip Manning-Fox
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 2018 AGM:** Draft minutes have been published in the April 2018, February 2019 and March 2019 Newsletters. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Jack Ashworth and seconded by Judy Pike and they were approved nem con by a show of hands and signed by Glyn Pike as Chairman.
- 3. Matters arising from the minutes:** The query raised under Any Other Business concerning contacting the Charity Commission is dealt with under the Chairman's Report.

4. To receive and approve the Annual Report: The Chairman presented the annual report as follows:-

In the annual report for last year I mentioned that there were two issues that the committee would be dealing with in 2018.

The first of these was the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations. Frances Taylor ably led this matter and eventually found a way through the mixed messages that arrived from the Third Age Trust so that we are fully compliant with the Legislation.

The second issue was having to deal with a draconian document that was named Financial Matters. This document was supposed to advise all U3A's on how to include the financial results of interest groups in the statements submitted to The Charity Commission. We among most of the U3A's did not include interest group finances in our annual statements and after many meetings between the Charity Commission and The Third Age Trust it was agreed that the interest group financial results had to be included. At last year's AGM Ann Blackman suggested that we should not take the advice of the Third Age Trust as being mandatory and it was agreed that the committee would give this due consideration. Our Secretary Keith Jacques pointed the committee to the government advice for charities which offered a totally different perspective on the matter and after consultation with the office of the Third Age Trust we have implemented advice to group leaders in how to report their financial results to our Treasurer.

We have also organised three meetings where committee members are available to answer any questions group leaders may have. In terms of impact on our U3A; committees are elected to deal with these matters and they do so.

By far the greater threat to the wellbeing of Formby U3A is the lack of volunteers for committee positions. In a recent publication by the Third Age Trust entitled "Who we are" it states: A U3A thrives because all its members are willing to pull their weight and put in as much as they get out, and that it is an organisation "by the members for the members". A U3A does not provide services for its members the members provide them for themselves. These "mantras" form the ethos of the organisation and sets it apart from any other.

We find ourselves with 6 volunteers for committee positions with a further 6 vacancies. In particular we require a person to organise our monthly speaker meeting. Our Diary for these events is complete until June and if we do not find a volunteer those meetings will not take place. I am particularly concerned as I have asked for volunteers at the February speakers meeting and at the workshop coffee morning but so far no one has come forward.

I consider it grossly unfair to ask the current committee members to fulfil the work usually undertook by twice their number. It must obviously follow that Formby U3A will suffer as a consequence. That would be a great shame as we learn that our organisation amongst others is being recommended by the medical profession to assist in cases of depression and loneliness rather than the prescription of drugs. We

must therefore consider that an increase in membership above the norm may follow and we must be mindful of how we deal with new applications to join groups. An ever present criticism we have heard is the difficulty of new members to join a group of their choice and I urge you to deal with new members in a sensitive way rather than the usual retort of sorry we are full. Perhaps you could invite the prospective member to a meeting to ensure that it would be to their liking and for the group leader to suggest a way for future membership.

Finally I would like to thank Linda McAuley, Ann Gunstone, Andrew Hoare, Valerie Tibbits and Rosemary Thomas, who remained for a further year as Speaker organiser, for their service to the organisation and Alan Thomas for his service as auditor. You may also wish to thank them. May I suggest that the way to do that would be to replace them as committee members and give your time as they have for you

5. To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018: Copies of the audited 2018 accounts were available at the meeting. There were no questions and approval of the accounts was proposed by Judy Pike and seconded by Chris McIlraith and they were approved nem con by a show of hands.

6. To Appoint an Auditor: Kit Robinson was proposed by Chris McIlraith and seconded by Andrew Hoare. This was agreed nem con by a show of hands.

7. Election of Trustees: The following nominations had been received:-

Chairman	Frances Taylor
Secretary	Keith Jacques
Treasurer	Anne Rodmell
Membership Secretary	Christine McIlraith
Groups Secretary	Ann Knowles
Committee Members	Linda Smith

These names were confirmed en bloc by a show of hands.

The Chairman asked for other volunteers to join the Committee and several members indicated they might be interested. It was agreed this would be discussed after the meeting.

8. Any Other business: No formal motions had been submitted.

The following discussion took place before the meeting and does not form part of the formal AGM. A question was asked from the floor as to why the Outings Group Leader was being asked to pay for her trips. The Chairman explained that the Trustees' decision was as a result of advice received from the Third Age Trust. Everyone recognised the hard work undertaken by the Outings Group Leader over the last 7 years however the Chairman stressed the need to follow the ethos of the Third Age Trust. He quoted from the leaflet produced by the Third Age Trust. "By the members for the members" is the U3A movement's mantra. A U3A does not provide services for its members - members provide them for each other. It follows that everyone makes their contribution on a voluntary basis. The Theatre Visits Group

Leader explained that the value of any free places was shared out amongst the Group.

Forthcoming Music and Theatre Events

Author, Eileen Jones.

These events are open to all paid up U3A members. Please book tickets as early as possible, to avoid both your disappointment and our financial loss on the event. We have to pay for the tickets some months in advance and the price to you is estimated jointly on the number of tickets and the subsequent cost of transport. Can I also remind you that it is extremely helpful to us if you can 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. 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 usually leaves The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm. Any variation on this will be specified with the event detail.

Thurs 11th April, Matthew Bourne's "Swan Lake," Empire; Tchaikovsky's masterpiece. The all male dancers and award winning designers create a powerful, passionate and beautiful ballet. Tickets and transport £38.

Thurs 30th May, Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap," Liverpool Empire. A group of people cut off from the outside world by a severe snow storm, discover there is a murderer amongst them, but who dunnit? Tickets and transport £28.

Thurs 6th June, "The Comedy About a Bank Robbery," Empire. A city bank should be the perfect place to house a priceless diamond. Unfortunately this is far from an ordinary bank with conventional staff and state of the art security systems. What could possibly go wrong? Tickets and transport £30.

Fri 14th June, "Great Directors and Composers: Steven Spielberg and John Williams," Philharmonic Hall. The programme includes some of the best known and much loved film music. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, digital effects, special lighting will be a memorable experience. Tickets and transport £40.

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

Welcome To March's New Members

Philip Allison

Sue Allison

Linda Armstrong

Patricia Gillinder

Maureen Kennedy

Vicky Olver

Raymond Robertson

Marilyn Siddons-Smith

Crosby Capriol Singers
present their Spring '19 Concert

Fauré Requiem

plus works by Pergolesi, Mozart, Stanford and Mendelssohn

Sat April 27th, 7.30pm

**St. Nicholas' Church
Blundellsands, L23 6SA**

**Organist
Stephen Hargreaves**

**Conductor
Richard Pomfret**

**Tickets £10 (£8 concessions, under 19s free)
on the door & from Pritchard's Bookshop (L23 2SE)
Harmonics Music (L22 4QD)**

Registered Charity No. 503870

Group News

Author, Ann Knowles, 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.

Bowling: There are still some vacancies in the Bowling Group. Everyone is welcome and tuition is available for beginners. Please contact Ray Doldon, 834253 or e-mail doldon@btinternet.com

Canasta: Since the Canasta Group is full, there has been interest in starting a second group. Anyone who is interested in joining please contact the Group Secretary.

Floral Art 1: Floral Art has a couple of vacancies. The Group meets once a month on a Wednesday morning. Members each produce an arrangement on a specific theme using foliage, flowers and grasses etc. No previous experience needed. Please contact Pauline Hall, 879820 for further information.

Bird Watching: The Bird Watching Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 9.30am in the car park of the Cross House Inn. Its members visit Bird Reserves to watch and record bird life, sometimes stopping for lunch or coffee. No previous knowledge is necessary, but the visits generally involve a short walk, so that binoculars, suitable clothing and footwear is required. For more information please contact Andrea Burton on 876454, e-mail andrea.burton@talktalk.net or Eileen Cambridge on 872299.

Vacancies: There are also vacancies in the following groups: Art, Book Clubs, Boules, Bridge, Cycling, Folk and Country Singing, French, Gardening, Guitar, Golf, Knit and Natter, Lunch, Needlecraft, Science, Scottish Dancing, Swimming, Table Tennis, various Walking Groups and Whist.

If you wish to join a group that has no vacancies, please inform the Group Secretary.

You should show your **yellow 2019 membership cards** when you attend group meetings.

Huntapac

Authors, Ken and Carole Bryning.

Members of **Local History Group 9** recently visited Huntapac Produce Ltd at their factory in Holmes near Tarleton. The company is a fourth generation family-owned business which was established in 1942. They specialise in growing, packing and distributing a variety of root vegetables, brassicas and salads. Supplying some of the major supermarkets in the UK as well as independent retailers, wholesalers, food

service, caterers and food manufacturers standards are very high and a strong management team ensures this.



The company grow roughly 1800 acres of root crops a year, 1450 acres being carrots and 350 acres being parsnips. These are grown in all areas of the country from Scotland to Suffolk. After an introductory talk and video by Andrew the farm Technical Manager we then donned our white coats, ear plugs and hair nets (not shown in photograph!) and were taken onto the factory floor to see the arrival, washing, sorting and packing of the produce. We also learnt that the carrots delivered to places like M&S, Waitrose, Tesco Aldi etc are all the same even though the prices vary greatly! The workers did an eight hour shift and once each day the whole process was closed down for cleaning.

After a very interesting and enjoyable visit we retired to the Cock and Bottle in Tarleton for lunch.

Welcome to *Formby University of the Third Age*

When a U3A member walked into a bar the bartender asked him for ID. "You've got to be kidding," he said. "I'm almost 70 years old." The bartender apologised, but said he had to see proof of his age. The member showed his ID, then paid and told the bartender to keep the change. "The tip's for asking me to prove my age," he said.. The bartender put the change in the tip cup. "Thanks," he said, "it works every time!"

The average age of people attending a U3A monthly meeting is 85. Recently, a member turned 100 and a big birthday party was thrown. Even his son turned up. "How old are you?" a member asked the son. "I'm 81 years old," he answered. The member shook her head, commenting, "They sure grow up fast, don't they?"

When U3A members look closely at the mirror they realise all mirrors look like eyeballs.

Forthcoming 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**. Whilst Ann can also be contacted by e-mail at outings@formbyu3a.org.uk bookings will not be accepted by e-mail.

Wednesday April 17th, Harewood House. Tickets £36.00 include coach travel, entrance to Harewood House and gardens, plus coffee on arrival. Situated in the heart of Yorkshire between Leeds and Harrogate, Harewood House stands in 200 acres of stunning parkland with wonderful views from the award winning terraces. The gardens and lake with its cascade of water designed by Capability Brown provides spectacular views. Visit the Himalayan, walled gardens and bird garden with 40 species of birds from around the world. Discover the lavish Georgian house interior designed by Robert Adams with exquisite Chippendale furniture. Depart Cross Green 9:00am

Friday May 17th, Lakeside Windermere and Grange Over Sands. Tickets £38.50 include coach journey via Morecambe for a comfort stop on route to Lakeside Hotel Windermere for a two course lunch with tea/coffee. The hotel dining room windows over look the lake and boat landing stage. After lunch and time to enjoy the surroundings we will travel on to Grange Over Sands to enjoy free time to explore the village and coastal walk. **Please note this is a CHANGE to the previously announced Levens Hall outing.**

Rotary



**Rotary Clubs:
Formby &
Formby Squirrels**

Young Musician Competition

2019

**Come along to hear the musicians
of the future at our
Inaugural Young Musicians
Competition**

**Friday 5th April, 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church
Formby**

Free Admission

Donations to Local Charities

**Refreshments will be served during
the interval**



Formby U3A Committee

2019-20

Chairman	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Keith Jacques (2018)	870906	secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Anne Rodmell (2019)	621835	treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec.	Christine McIlraith (2018)		membership@formbyu3a.org.uk
Group Secretary	Ann Knowles (2019)	872333	groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
Officers	Linda Smith (2019)		1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

** year appointed to the Committee*

www.formbyu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meetings

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

Apr 10th **Herbs for Health**, John Taylor. John looks at possible help with cold/remedies.

May 8th **The Rhymes and Ramblings of a performance poet**, Ian Kenyon. Ian has performed with Ken Dodd and been on Radio Merseyside.

June 12th **Sing Me Mersey**. This is their 3rd visit and they have previously been lively & well received.

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

Coffee Mornings are from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, April 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.

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

Contributions informing members of your group and its activities are always welcomed.

Please send contributions 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.

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.

Contributors' names should be given.

Photographs submitted must be members' own photos as copyright of third parties' photos remains with the owner and the Newsletter cannot publish such photos.

Please ensure that all people shown in photographs are aware that photographs are being taken for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Previous Newsletters: are available at: www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html

The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is midday Thursday, 18th April at the latest.

The next Newsletter is due to be distributed by e-mail and be on the website early next month. Paper copies can be collected at the monthly meeting & coffee morning.