

## Western Approaches HQ, Liverpool

**Author: John Adamson.**

Members of **Local History Group 7** met on Formby Station to travel to Liverpool Moorfields Station. From the station we walked about a quarter of a mile to Western Approaches in Rumford Street where, for a small donation, we had coffee and biscuits in the NAAFI.

About 18 months ago the museum

combined with Big Heritage of Chester. Since then the museum has been greatly improved and is still being revamped to make it exactly as it was in the war. We paid for a guide, Dave, to take us around the Museum. We were given a very professional detailed overview of the operations carried out by the staff of about 400 people who worked shifts in the wartime command centre. About 80% of the staff were young women who processed the information that was relayed to the centre. The processed information was used by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force to protect the allied shipping in the North Atlantic. Staff worked for 4 days on shift, so there were sleeping



quarters in the bunker which resulted in "hot bunking" conditions. Apparently the general atmosphere in the bunker smelt like "a wet dog."

The visit was very informative, enjoyable and worthwhile. The museum is run with charitable donation so they want to encourage more visits.

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**Please remember that there is**  
**No Newsletter, Monthly Meeting, nor**  
**Coffee Morning in August.**  
**All resume in September.**

## Windermere and Grange-over-Sands



*Authors: June Faulkner & Jennifer Whicher; photos Ann Blackman.*

On a damp Friday morning **Outings Group members** left Cross Green by coach to travel to the Lake District. We were pleased to be driven along the coast road and country roads before joining the motorway. Ann had arranged our first stop at Ashton Garden Centre near Lancaster where we were to be served coffee/tea and scones. By this time the weather had cleared, the sun was shining and remained with us for the rest of the day. Places had been reserved for us in Pear Tree Café, so named in honour of the last remaining pear tree that once formed part of the orchard within the walled garden that supplied Lord Ashton's household with fruit, flowers and vegetables. Our scones, which had been freshly baked, were served with strawberry jam and clotted cream! We still had time for a look round this very pleasant venue and even make a few purchases.

Our journey continued with a scenic drive to Newby Bridge where our meal had been booked at the Lakeside Hotel situated in a delightful setting on the southern shores of Lake Windermere. After an excellent lunch we had time to relax in the gardens and enjoy the lovely views of the lake and surrounding hills. A very short drive then took us to our final stop at Grange-over-Sands. Here there was a choice of two lovely walks, one in the park, and one along the coastal path. We took the latter but some of the more energetic among us managed both and even the shops too! It was nice to see that the Station, our dropping off point had won a very well-deserved award for its garden with a fine sculpture of flying geese and many lovely shrubs and flowers. The garden continued all along the coastal path with some welcome seats at intervals where we were able to pause and enjoy the views across the incredible Morecombe Bay which is a feeding ground to thousands of wading birds, and also rare plants. We thought of the unfortunate cockle pickers who were unaware of the danger of the tide in the bay. There was a second-hand book shop at the station which was used

by some of the group. Tony, our competent driver took us round the bay on our return journey and into Morecambe where we passed the statue of Eric Morecambe before continuing the drive back to Formby arriving safely at Cross Green tired but contented after another enjoyable and expertly organised U3A outing.

Thanks go to our excellent driver and of course to Ann who had once again organised a splendid outing which all



enjoyed including those with limited mobility. We all hope that Ann will be able to continue organising such outings for a long time to come. They have proved so popular because of the care and attention which she gives to them.

## Lydiate Hall



**Author: Dominic Dickson.**

The ruins of Lydiate Hall provided the ideal venue for a coffee break for **Cycle Group C** members after cycling from Formby. Interesting to note that the seven ladies in the group are relaxing and enjoying their refreshments, while the two men in the group are mending a puncture and taking the picture!

## Counted Out; Counted In!



**Author: Marcia Thompson.**

Fourteen members of the **Fellwalking Group** set out for our Welsh walk and fourteen returned! We did 12 miles on a variety of paths including broad tracks, some overgrown heather ones and pleasant meadowland. The walk was planned by Frances Taylor who, unfortunately, was not able to come on the day, so was led by Pat Guy and myself.

We started at Glyndyfrdwy, near Llangollen and ascended steadily to the top of Vivod Mountain, then down to the North Berwyn Way, along the ridge, through the quarries and back up to Moel Fferna – at ,2000 ft., the highest point of the walk. From then on, in leader speak, it was “downhill all the way.” We descended to the edge of the Carrog Plantation and then on field paths back to Glyndyfrdwy. The weather wasn’t actually summery and hats, gloves and cagoules were worn on the higher parts of the walk, but we had no rain, just a bit of mizzle, and fine views throughout the day of this attractive area of Wales.

A highlight of the day was one of our members accidentally executing a perfect back flip over a barbed wire fence and landing gracefully in the adjoining field. Olympic champions watch out!

## Welcome To June’s New Members

Johanna Birrell  
Barbara Clement

Len Bruce  
Jean Huxley

## Formby U3A Tea Ladies



A big thank you to our fun loving tea ladies. See them at the U3A monthly coffee morning; your next chance is not until September.

## Three Graces

*Author: Mike Dockery.*



**Local History Group 9's** recent outing was a tour of the Royal Albert Dock and the Three Graces. We met our Blue Badge guide Margo outside the Dock Office better known as the Granada Studios setting for the Good Morning program. She described the purpose of the building and the relationship with the dock. The dock was among

many firsts that Liverpool has in the history of the city. Designed by Jesse Hartley and built in 1846, it was the first fireproof group of warehouses built in the country due to being built from stone, brick and cast iron, unlike previous wood structures. The Pump House which many of you may have visited for a drink or a meal, was the source of water power to drive the hydraulic lock gates and cranes to load and unload the ships. Walking across the waterfront on our way to visit the Three Graces we looked in at the Piermaster's house with lots of memorabilia from the past. Next to the house are three statues including the Billy Fury one, Margo giving the details about who made them, and facts about them.

The Three Graces which are listed buildings are working buildings, so each have limited access to them, but each one we visited Margo was able to give us the history of the building and point out some incredible architecture and features of each one. We ended the tour at the Beatles Statue on the waterfront, each one having an article or detail on it that you need to find, one clue look at the bottom of Ringo's shoe. An enjoyable tour, everyone commenting on the fact they had learnt more about the city and its history. As the group photo shows a rather wet group that then went off to have lunch together.

## **Forthcoming Music & Theatre Events**

***Author: Eileen Jones.***

These events are open to all paid up U3A members. Can I please remind you to 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. It is extremely helpful if you pay for tickets when the initial booking is made. Please 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. Prices include ticket and transport.*** Any variation on these details will be specified with the event detail.

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Nov., "The Nutcracker,"** Liverpool Empire. An English National Ballet classic, it is danced exquisitely to Tchaikovsky's magnificent score and tells the delightful story of how a young girl's enchanted present, a beautiful, wooden nutcracker doll comes to life and leads her on a wonderful Christmas adventure, defeating the evil Mouse King and eventually arriving in a magical kingdom. £40.

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



**Crosby Capriol Singers**  
present their Summer '19 Concert

# Musical Allsorts

**7.30pm Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Musical Director  
**Richard Pomfret**

Accompanist  
**Julie Oade**

**St. Michael's Church Hall**  
Dowhills Road, Blundellsands, L23 8SP

**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: Groups Secretary.**

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

**Bowls Group:** meets every Tuesday at 1:45pm. in Formby Park, ready for bowls activity at 2.00pm. Vacancies exist 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. Contact [doldon@btinternet.com](mailto:doldon@btinternet.com) for further details. Please note suitable flat soled shoes must be worn on the bowling green.



**Chess For Beginners:** Our purpose is to introduce beginners to Chess, or help members who already know the rules of the game to improve their play. For further information please contact Ray Derricott on 876661.

**Folk Group:** The Folk Group, is looking for a keyboard player to accompany our autumn show 'The Bill Tasker Story' and our spring 2020 concert 'The Thomas Fresh Story'. Both shows rely heavily on keyboard accompaniment of wide ranging songs from folk, country, popular wartime, modern and songs from the shows. The group would welcome a keyboard player who would like to join us for these exciting ventures. Please contact Group Leader, David Davies, tel: 875563 or e mail [davkar@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davkar@tiscali.co.uk) for more information.



**Gardening Group 1:** Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month from 10:15am – 12:15pm, and was the first gardening group formed in the Formby U3A. We meet in each other's houses, when tea/coffee and biscuits are provided. We are a friendly group, with gardens of all sizes and discuss a wide range of issues, including garden problems, topical jobs, and propagation. We also swap plants and some members grow fruit and vegetables. Occasional visits to other gardens may be arranged. We are suitable for garden novices as well as those more experienced. For more information please contact Mike Belshaw on 874940.

**German For Anyone:** We have a member who has volunteered to lead a Group for anyone wishing to learn, improve or just practice their German. Anyone interested in joining should contact the Groups Secretary in the first instance.

**Poetry Appreciation:** We have a member who has volunteered to lead and host a



new Group for Poetry Appreciation. The idea is that each month members will bring along 2 poems based on a topic the group has chosen previously. There will be an opportunity to read the poems aloud and for everyone to join in a discussion about each one. Topics will be very varied in scope. No knowledge of poetry is needed, just an enthusiasm to learn and join in. The Group will meet monthly, the day and time will be agreed by members at the initial meeting. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact: Linda Sharratt, [indigo4943@gmail.com](mailto:indigo4943@gmail.com) or telephone 878232.

**Ukulele Group:** Now meet at The Fernley Centre, St Joseph's, Blundell Avenue, Formby, on Saturday mornings. Times are 10-11:30 and people are very welcome to join us, whether beginners or experienced musicians. For further information please contact Pat Harwood on 877047.

**Vacancies:** There are also vacancies in the following groups: Art, Bird Watching, Boules, Bowling, Bridge Groups 1, 3 & 22, Cycling, Floral Art, French, Gardening Group 3, Guitar, Golf, Knit and Natter, Lunch, Needlecraft, Science, Scottish Dancing, Swimming, Table Tennis, Walking Group 2 and Whist.

**To All Group Leaders:** Just a reminder that every Group has its own 'information page' on the Formby U3A website. These are accessed by clicking on the Groups tab at the top of the page and then clicking on the alphabetical listing of groups. Some of these pages seem to need updating. Could all Group Leaders please check their page and e-mail any additions or amendments to the Group Secretary.

Your **yellow 2019 membership card should be shown** at all meetings.

## **Group Reporting**

**Author: Anne Rodmell, Treasurer.**

A reminder that we need to include groups income and expenditure in our results from 2019. Many groups do not need complete monthly reports because they either don't have any income and expenditure or amounts are very small (less than £100 per year) or the monies in and out occur on the same day. However these groups need to submit an annual statement to the Treasurer stating why they do not need to report – if you haven't already done so would you email the Treasurer with this information please ([Treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk)) or send a letter to Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool, L37 1XQ, or speak to the Treasurer at the monthly coffee morning.

If your group does have income and expenditure and you're not already reporting, would you contact the Treasurer who will talk you through the straight forward requirements.

## **Forthcoming Outings**

***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.

**Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> Liverpool Wheel and New Brighton:** Tickets £30 include return coach journey. Experience a unique ride on the Liverpool Wheel; have a fantastic view over Liverpool and the Mersey. For those who prefer not to ride on the wheel we will adjust your ticket price. Later cross the Mersey by ferry, using your bus pass. If you do not have a pass we will offer to pay for you. We will be met at Birkenhead by coach to drive to the Floral Pavilion New Brighton. We will dine in the restaurant overlooking the Mersey, having a two-course lunch with coffee, followed by free time in New Brighton before our return.

**Thursday August 29<sup>th</sup> Penrhyn Castle:** Tickets £18.00 for National Trust Members; those not National Trust Members £30. Tickets include return coach journey with a comfort stop at Tweed Mill in the morning, a scenic drive along Menai Bridges and entrance to Penrhyn Castle and grounds. The castle cafe has limited seating therefore we have not included refreshments. The castle is situated in splendid grounds and contains antique furniture and paintings. There is also an exhibition in the miniature railway museum. Depart 9am from Cross Green.

## Announcements

**Music At Venues Used by Groups:** The Third Age Trust have recently been getting enquiries from U3As where they have been asked to pay an additional licence fee to a venue where they wanted to play recorded music. PPL/PRS (Phonographic Performance Ltd/Performing Right Society) have confirmed that under The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, all U3As are separately licensed through the Third Age Trust and so have the necessary permission needed from the relevant copyright holders. U3As do not, therefore, have to pay venues separately for this licence and if asked for payment should ask the venue to check with PPL/PRS directly.

**Volunteering Opportunity:** **See Around Britain**, a registered charity intends to provide photographic and information regarding a large variety of public venues throughout the UK. The information ([seearoundbritain.com](http://seearoundbritain.com)) gives a brief description, along with contact details, transport information and accessibility information so that potential visitors, including those with disabilities, can decide whether or not a venue is suitable for their particular needs. The charity is appealing for volunteers to write venue descriptions to accompany the backlog of photographs of various venues and/or submit photos or videos of new venues themselves, all of which can be done from home and online via their website. Online video tutorials help volunteers, but they can also be provided with additional support via email if needed. If interested contact [cara\\_sab@outlook.com](mailto:cara_sab@outlook.com) and/or [support@seearoundbritain.com](mailto:support@seearoundbritain.com)

**Memory Loss Research:** If you are you aged 60 years and over; are you experiencing difficulties with memory and/or attention; have you discussed this with your GP or attended a memory clinic and been told that there is nothing wrong with your memory and/or attention researchers in Division Psychiatry at University College London would like to hear from you via an online survey. It asks a series of questions about difficulties with memory and/or attention, mood, satisfaction with life and various other psychological factors and should take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete. If you are interested in taking part then please go to: <https://opinio.ucl.ac.uk/s?s=61647> If you complete the survey, you will be invited to enter into a draw for one of eight Love2Shop vouchers worth £50 each.

## Formby U3A Committee

**2019-20**

Chairman	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	<a href="mailto:chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk">chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Keith Jacques (2018)	870906	<a href="mailto:secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk">secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Anne Rodmell (2019)	621835	<a href="mailto:treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk">treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Membership Sec.	Christine McIlraith (2018)		<a href="mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk">membership@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Group Secretary	Ann Knowles (2019)	872333	<a href="mailto:groups@formbyu3a.org.uk">groups@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Officers	Linda Smith (2019)		<a href="mailto:1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Co-opted 2019	Lillian Coop		<a href="mailto:2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Co-opted 2019,	Linda Sharratt		<a href="mailto:3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Co-opted 2019,	Robin Hawthorn	808227	<a href="mailto:5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>

*year appointed to the Committee*

## Monthly Meetings

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

**Parish Hall alternative access:** To avoid the front steps, an entrance at the rear of the building can be accessed by following the footpath to the left of the main doors.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>**                    **Behind the Scenes in Theatre & Television**, Fiona Martin

**August**                      **No monthly Meeting; No Coffee Morning**

**Sept 11<sup>th</sup>**                    **Gill Russell, A stranger in a Strange Land.** Gill lived with her family in Japan for 4 years. The presentation describes some of the cultural aspects of life relating to the hundreds of years when the country had been closed to Western influence and what it was like to see the traditional and modern side by side every time you walked down the road.

**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, July 11<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.

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

**The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is midday Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August at the latest.**

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