

**Sandstone Trail, North Cheshire Way,
Longster Trail & Delamere Way**



Author, Marcia Thompson.

This was the last outing of the year for the Fellwalkers and we were blessed with a perfect winter day, wall to wall sunshine; a gentle breeze and temperatures well above freezing. The walk was led by Pat Guy and Marcia Thompson and started at the Beacons Car Park above Frodsham. A short while later we were at the Memorial at

the top of Frodsham Hill for a coffee stop. Tony Smith handed round biscuits and chocolate from Val White, one of our members who is moving to Kent to be near her family. We wish Val all the best in her new abode.

| Contents | Page |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Annual General Meeting | 9-14 |
| Bents | 2 |
| Blackpool Tower | 4 |
| Book Club | 6 |
| Formby U3A Open Day | 14 |
| Changes to Newsletter Deliveries | 15 |
| Group News | 17 |
| Group Reports | 17 |
| Independent Examiner | 15 |
| Membership Renewal | 14 |
| Mrs Gaskell's House | 7 |
| Music & Theatre | 18 |
| New Members | 19 |
| Outings Group | 18 |
| Southport Masonic Hall | 5 |
| Special General Meeting | 8 |
| Unlocked At Last | 3 |
| Your Committee Members | 19 |

The walk continued along the top of Frodsham Hill, down the steps known as Baker's Dozen and up and over the sandstone cliffs. Then a steep descent into the village of Helsby. Another gentle climb through woodland brought us to the trig point on the top of Helsby Hill where the photo was taken. We came down on the Longster Trail where the leaders had found a proper picnic spot with tables and benches, sunshine and a view, and Marcia handed round Cherry Chocolate Liqueurs as a dessert.

After that we rounded Alvanley Cliff on the Sandstone Trail and then back to the Car Park by

a variety of lanes and by-ways. Again, lovely views en route.

This is a perfect area for a winter walk. Less than an hour's drive from Formby and with a huge selection of paths to follow and excellent views over to Liverpool and North Wales; the Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal. We walked on the Sandstone Trail, the North Cheshire Way, the Longster Trail and the Delamere Way!

Bents Garden Centre



Author, Jean Higson.

It was a full coach for the **Outings Group** when they left Formby for Bents Garden Centre. The weather was bitterly cold, but it wasn't raining and there was excitement in the air, as many people had not visited Bents before but had heard about its good reputation. The coach arrived at Cross Green a little before our departure time and it was lovely and warm.

Once we were on our way Ann greeted us and gave us an outline of the day and what we could expect when we got there. Bents is a family business that began in 1937 when they grew roses. It has grown and evolved over the years and as well as roses and plants, they now sell almost everything! At this time of year, it is famous for its Christmas themed decorations and displays, but they also sell furniture, gifts, fresh food, men's, ladies and children's clothing, shoes, toys, pet supplies and everything you could possibly need for your kitchen! My own personal favourites were the lit miniature winter village scenes with moving trains and skaters and even a Santa flying round in his sleigh.

In the summer it is an ideal place to visit with grandchildren because there is an Outdoor Play Area and an Indoor Beach. There is also a spectacular Jurassic Cove Adventure Golf Course which places golfers in the midst of an ancient world surrounded by life-sized animatronic and static dinosaurs. There are pirates and creaking shipwrecks too. There is also an indoor Food Hall selling an amazing selection of tempting food and wonderful hampers. Outside there is a Winter Food Market with wooden chalets serving warm mulled wine and traditional bratwurst sausages sizzling on the skillet and other stalls selling sweet treats for the festive season.

The journey to Bents took just over an hour. So after Ian had taken a group photo in the Christmas section, most people headed to one of the many cafes for coffee or tea and many succumbed to the temptation of the enormous scones, croissants and delicious looking cakes displayed before us. It was nice arriving early because there were no long queues. At lunch time, the restaurants got very busy and we discovered later that there had been six coaches visiting Bents that day. No wonder it was busy!

The lunches were delicious, but not particularly cheap. There was a Tapas Bar, pasta and buffet style Sandwich Bar where you selected what bread you would like and which fillings. They sold soup, crepes and jacket potatoes, but I think the best value were the Roast Turkey dinners served at the buffet style Carvery with fresh vegetables, roast potatoes and all the trimmings, including stuffing, cranberry sauce, pigs in blankets and piping hot gravy.

I think a lot of retail therapy took place that day because most people had bags of goodies when they boarded the coach to return home. We were tired but happy! It was a good day out, and a snip of a bargain at just £8 per person, so thank you Ann for a lovely, well organised trip.

Unlocked At Last!



Author, Nic Dickson.

At the coffee break on a recent **Cycling Group** ride, John, one of "C" Group, came out of the MeCycle Cafe in Ainsdale to find that he couldn't find the key needed to unlock his bike from the bike stand. Despite a frantic search of clothing and panniers, that would have done credit to Her Majesty's Customs, no key was forthcoming. This called for desperate measures. A hacksaw was obtained from the MeCycle Workshop and after a tense and stressful wait the lock was finally cut open (see picture). With considerable relief we could then all cycle back to Formby. John is now planning to get a combination lock. I hope he tells us all the number!

Blackpool Tower



Author, Jean Higson.

Our **Outings Group** trip to Blackpool was excellent. We had a good journey and our coach dropped us right outside the Tower, which was great as it was bitterly cold. We had reserved seats in the stalls at 12 noon for Pinocchio, the Blackpool Tower Circus Panto and it was wonderful. There were 50+ in our party and slowly the remaining seats filled with about 500+, very excited Primary School Children from about five schools in the Blackpool area. My heart sank at first, but they were fantastic, all of them, very well behaved and it was a wonderful atmosphere when the show began.

There were no animals in this circus. We saw jaw dropping stunts performed by acrobats and balancing acts, hilarious comedy capers and the world famous water finale. I still remember visiting this circus as a young child and being amazed when the circus floor slowly lowered and filled with water, deep enough for a performance by synchronised swimmers. I was delighted to see that this engineering still works, knowing that Blackpool Tower, built in 1894, is 125 years old this year. All these skilful acts were encompassed into the delightful story of Pinocchio, the little wooden toy who wanted to be a real boy and whose nose grew when he told lies. It ended with the audience competing for the best rendition of YMCA!

When the Circus Panto finished at 2pm, we were ushered into the Blackpool Tower Ballroom, where we had reserved seats on the ballroom floor, at tables of four, all set ready with white linen cloths and napkins, for a



scrumptious Afternoon Tea, with finger sandwiches, traditional scones with jam and clotted cream and a delicious choice of cakes served with English Breakfast Tea or Filtered Coffee.

The Ballroom had the most beautiful ornate ceiling and a fabulous sprung floor. Many of our party had memories of "Strictly" as they watched Ballroom and Latin dancers twirling round the Ballroom, some wearing beautiful dresses. The only thing that was missing was an Anton Du Beck or a Kevin from Grimsby to invite the ladies to dance! Someone was playing an organ when we entered the Ballroom. Then, as if by magic, the Mighty Wurlitzer rose up from the Organ Pit and we were entertained by this organist.

Dusk was falling when we left Blackpool Tower and a stretch of the Illuminations were still lit. We also had a wonderful view of the Tower above us as we went outside into the cold. We weren't able to go up the tower as it is closed for the winter months and opens again next March. It was a good day out and a few people, less keen on the dancing, sneaked in a little retail therapy before returning to the coach.

Once again, thank you Ann.



Southport Masonic Hall

Author, Geoff Jones.

Local History Group 14 can let you into a secret. It is the Grade II Masonic Hall in Southport and what a splendid building it is. The majestic entrance portico is matched by the splendidly decorated interior. Our visit was warmly greeted by the members of the Southport Freemasons organisation who are the custodians of the Masonic Hall.

The tea and biscuits to start was just what we needed on a bright but particularly cold January morning.



This fine classical edifice started life as the Duke Street United Methodist Church built 1879. The Southport Freemasons, founded over 150 years ago, had outgrown their previous home in Post Office Avenue and became newly established in the de-consecrated church in 1956.

Our visit to the hall became especially interesting when we were invited into the temple. We were kindly welcomed and introduced to the history and modern day role of Masonry by members who were in an attire in readiness for a formal meeting which was to follow our visit. Freemasons were developed from fraternities of stonemasons at the end of the fourteenth century. The trained and qualified stonemasons did have their own individual marks to identify their work and their society regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their relationship with customers and clients of the day. The Masons became a free organisation when members could join but were not necessarily stonemasons. The structure of apprentice, improver and master mason of the earlier craft guilds is still recognisable today and the tools of the stonemason are still evident in several symbols of Masonry. We were also given the opportunity to ask questions and we learnt for example that the black and white chequered floor of the temple was meant to represent the floor of King Solomon's temple itself.

The Freemasons is essentially a charitable organisation and they help and support several charities in Southport amongst which is the Queenscourt Hospice. The work of restoration, repair and redecoration has made the Southport Masonic Hall into what is now one of the most prestigious Masonic Halls in West Lancashire.

Book Groups



Author, Kay Farr.

In support of book groups. Why join a book group? Our answer would be to broaden horizons through reading books chosen by other people.

In our group we believe in covering as wide a spectrum as possible e.g. from "Black Diamonds - the Rise and Fall of an English Dynasty" by Catherine Bailey, to "The Salt Path" by Raynor Wynn, to "A Man Called Ove" by Frederik Backman and importantly that everyone has the opportunity to air their own views. A bit of diversity adds spice; all of course supported by a nice cuppa!

About us: We are **Literature Group 2**, formed in November 2005, since when we have read some 153 books with 137 different authors. Sorry but we are not looking for any new members at the moment but, if there are no vacancies elsewhere, why not start a new group. It's very rewarding.

Mrs Gaskell's House**Author, Barbara Gibbons.**

Despite a cancelled train to Salford and a cross-town bus journey, when members of **Local History Group 6** arrived at Mrs Gaskell's House in Manchester they had a very enjoyable and interesting time with an informative guide. This was made more so by the fact that the staff, some of whom are volunteers, had a delicious lunch and hot drinks ready on our arrival, both of which were very welcome on such a cold day.

Whilst living in Plymouth Grove from 1850 until her death in 1865, Elizabeth Gaskell wrote nearly all of her famous novels, including Cranford, Ruth, North & South and Wives and Daughters, many of which have been adapted for television, stage and radio. When her son, William, died as a baby of scarlet fever, Elizabeth's husband suggested that she write a novel as a distraction and so out of this sorrow her first novel Mary Barton, subtitled A Tale of Manchester Life, was born.

Visitors prior to our group include fellow writers Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens (her publisher), John Ruskin, the American abolitionist and novelist Harriet Beecher Stowe and musician Charles Hallé. Gaskell's connections included such people as the Wedgwoods, the Darwins and the Nightingales, as well as girls from the local Sunday School, students and clergy.

Now near the centre of Manchester, the Grade II listed house was built as part of a new suburban development on what was then the outer edge of the growing city. It is one of a few remaining examples of the elegant Regency-style villas once popular in Manchester. When Elizabeth and her husband William moved to the house, Manchester had become Britain's third largest city, with a population of some 250,000, a population that grew by 130,000 in 100 years. Workers were attracted by the jobs in mills and factories and experienced the effects of rapid industrialization:



long hours, low wages, poor housing and sanitation, and the fear of unemployment and destitution. Elizabeth and her husband were active in initiatives to provide poor relief and education with much of their work inspired by their Unitarian faith. When *Mary Barton* was published its subject matter, the appalling state of the poor in the Manchester area, awakened the conscience of the nation. William Gaskell worked as Minister in the nearby Chapel for 56 years where many of the city's most influential politicians and businessmen worshipped, including, at one time 5 MPs.

Following the death of Elizabeth's unmarried daughters, the house and its contents were sold in 1913. Very few furnishings that belonged to the Gaskells remain although the furniture in the house is all from that period with fabrics and carpets recreated using preserved Victorian patterns. Research identified the original paint colours and the styles of the wallpapers.

The family were attracted to the house by its large garden, which the whole family could enjoy, with space to grow flowers and vegetables. It had the added attraction of a paddock where they could keep a cow, a pig and poultry! The garden has now been re-planted to show the sort of garden that the Gaskells enjoyed using Elizabeth's letters and novels, as well as Victorian garden history as references. The layout, showing paths and planting areas, is based on a detailed map of Manchester in 1850 with period plants used where possible.

Notice of Special General Meeting

Author, Keith Jacques, Secretary.

A Special General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held at 2:00pm on **Wednesday 12th February 2020** in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Rosemary Lane, Formby.

Agenda

Approval of a replacement Constitution for Formby University Of The Third Age. (This is the only item for consideration)

Background: The parent body of U3A's nationwide, the Third Age Trust (TAT), have agreed a new model constitution with the Charity Commission and all U3A's are now required to adopt this model as the basis of their own Constitutions. Any amendments to the model must be cleared in advance with TAT.

The committee have performed a detailed study of the new model constitution and have agreed changes with TAT where we believed them to be required or beneficial to Formby U3A, for example the numbers of members required to achieve a quorum at meetings, the named Officer roles to be included in the constitution and the grace period for the renewal of memberships. Details on how to view the current and proposed new constitutions are given below.

The Committee of Formby U3A believe that adopting the proposed new constitution will not impact on our activities and are therefore happy to recommend it to our members for adoption.

Proposer: This proposal is made by Keith Jacques, Secretary of Formby U3A and is seconded by Frances Taylor, Chairman.

Current Constitution: The current constitution can be viewed on the website of the Formby U3A (click on the "Admin" tab on the home page then select "Formby U3A Constitution 2018").

Proposed Replacement Constitution: The proposed replacement constitution can also be viewed on the website of the Formby U3A (click on the "Admin" tab on the home page then select "Formby U3A Constitution 2020"). If you would like a copy of the proposed replacement constitution please contact Keith Jacques, Secretary.

Non Quorate meeting: In the event of the meeting being inquorate (i.e. less than 10% of the membership present), the meeting will be reconvened immediately before the AGM on Wednesday 11th March 2020.

Annual General Meeting, 11th March 2020

The AGM will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 11 March 2020 in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Rosemary Lane, Formby. The formal notice of the meeting was published in the December Newsletter.

There follows:-

A note entitled "What does being on the Committee involve?" describing the responsibilities of Committee members.

Nomination Form for the 2020/21 Committee

Draft Agenda for the AGM

Draft minutes of the 2019 AGM

A statement on the informal discussion on the Outings Group Operation

At present we have not received a nomination for Vice Chairman and 3 Committee Members. Please consider helping to run your U3A by joining the committee either in a specific Officer role, or as a Committee Member. We welcome new people and new ideas. Everyone has skills and abilities which can contribute to the smooth running of your U3A. Without members volunteering to be on the Committee Formby U3A cannot exist. Please talk to any existing Committee Member if you feel able to help.

A special webpage for the AGM has been set up on the Formby U3A website. The link is www.formbyu3a.org.uk/agm_2020.html and it will also be available via a link on the Latest News page. It contains the Notice of the Meeting and these documents. The Agenda will be updated as appropriate and the Annual Report and Treasurer's report will be added when they are available.

What does being on the Committee involve?

Formby U3A Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except August) at 14:30 in the Holy Trinity Workshop. It is also helpful if Committee Members can come to the monthly meetings and/or coffee mornings to meet existing and new members. Next year we are planning a number of activities such as an Open Day, new members meetings, Group Leaders meetings and a stall at the Friday Market. Again Committee Members will be involved in those.

Formby U3A Committee Members are Charity Trustees. Charity trustees are the people responsible for governing a charity and directing how it is managed and run. They have overall responsibility for overseeing and leading the charity, ensuring it is solvent and well-run. In particular Trustees are expected to know, follow and promote the Principles of the U3A movement at every opportunity. Trustees serve as volunteers and receive no payment other than out of pocket expenses. They must put the interests of their charity first, work together as a team and assume collective responsibility.

Draft Agenda for the AGM on 11th March 2020

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM, as published in the February 2020 and March 2020 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 Independently Reviewed Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019
6. To appoint an Independent Examiner
7. Elections of Trustees:

FORMBY U3A Nomination Form for the 2020/21 Formby U3A Committee

Nominee:

For the office of:

Proposed by:

Signature of proposer:

Seconded by:

Signature of seconder:

I agree to be nominated for the above office.

Signature of nominee:

Nomination Forms should be returned to:

Keith Jacques, Secretary, Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool L37 1XQ, e-mail:
secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk

By 11th February 2020 if possible - but nominations for posts still vacant after that time will be accepted up until the start of the AGM.

The following have agreed to stand for re-election/election

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|-----------------------|---|
| Chairman: | Frances Taylor |
| Vice Chairman: | |
| Secretary: | Keith Jacques |
| Treasurer: | Anne Rodmell |
| Membership Secretary: | Christine McIlraith |
| Groups Secretary: | Linda Sharratt |
| Committee Members: | Lillian Coop, Linda Smith, Robin Hawthorn |

Formby U3A Draft Minutes Of The 2019 AGM Held In Holy Trinity Parish Hall On Wednesday 13 March 2019

Apologies for absence: Keith Jacques, Anne Rodmell, Mr & Mrs N Blundell,
Linda McAuley, Steve McIlraith, David Manning-Fox, Pip Manning-Fox

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.

Matters arising from the 2018 AGM minutes: The query raised under Any Other Business concerning contacting the Charity Commission is dealt with under the Chairman's Report.

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 undertaken 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 Tibbitts 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

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.

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

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

| | |
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| 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.

Any Other business: No formal motions had been submitted.

Informal discussion on the Outings Group Operation

Before the meeting a question was asked from the floor as to why the Outings Group

Leader was being asked to pay for her trips. Other people in the room had strong feelings on this and the Chairman allowed discussion at that point. He 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. A request from the floor to review this matter was granted. This review will take place when the Outings Group Leader talks to the new committee.

This does not form part of the formal AGM minutes.

Formby U3A Open Day **June 2020**

We are hoping to have an "Open Day" in early June which will include a celebration of 30 years of Formby U3A. It is also the month of the National U3A day.

The format of the event is yet to be decided and we would welcome the input of members and Group Leaders as to how the event/celebration should be organised. Ideas of how your Group could contribute to the event would be particularly welcome so if you want to make sure your Group can put on a performance, give a talk or presentation, or have a display included this is your chance to get involved. It could also be a great chance to recruit new members to your Group. The event could also be an opportunity to showcase Formby U3A to potential new members

There are over 100 groups in Formby U3A and we hope Group Leaders and Group members will take this opportunity to demonstrate their skills and talents - or simply to share the "Joie De Vivre" of their Group on the day.

We need volunteers to form a planning committee to help with its organisation and make it a success. Please contact the secretary: secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk if you feel that you can help in any way.

Have You Renewed Your U3A Membership? **(£9 per member)**

Annual subscriptions were due on 2nd January. In order to ensure that the insurance cover provided by our affiliation to the Third Age Trust is not compromised, all membership subscriptions MUST be paid by 28th February. Please renew your membership **before the 28th February** to ensure your membership does not lapse.

Unless you have arranged to pay your subscription by standing order, payment should

be by **cheque**, which should be made payable to **Formby U3A**.

Where? When?

At February's Meetings: Payment can be made at the Wednesday afternoon meeting in Holy Trinity Parish Hall on 12th February or at the Thursday coffee morning in Holy Trinity Workshop on 13th February.

By Post: Cheques may be sent direct to the Membership Secretary, Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool L37 1XQ. Please write your membership number (as on your old membership card) on the back. (If you do not know your membership number, please write your name and address instead). **Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope to receive your Membership Card**

Please remember that you will need your GREEN 2020 Membership Card at all events, including group activities.

Independent Examiner Wanted

The position of independent examiner of the accounts of Formby U3A will become vacant at the AGM in March 2020. It is a requirement of the Third Age Trust that all U3A accounts are subject to an independent examination, so we were wondering if **you** would like to volunteer to undertake this essential role.

You'll be pleased to hear that our basis of accounting is very straight forward, we prepare accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

If you wish to volunteer or would like to discuss the role further please contact Anne Rodmell (Treasurer) by email: treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk or telephone 621835 or speak with me at one of the monthly meetings.

Changes to Newsletter Production and Circulation

The Committee has recently reviewed the way the Newsletter is published and circulated and agreed that it should be simplified. We are very aware that the Newsletter Editor, like everyone else, is a volunteer and the work involved was becoming unreasonable. Up to now there have been 6 versions of the Newsletter: a printed version, a smaller version that was attached to the emails and the newer Mailchimp system, a slightly different version that was placed on the website, with high contrast versions and a talking version also produced. The Print version and Web version will now become the same and all other versions will continue to be produced. In addition, there have been problems with the new Mailchimp circulation system and it may not be sustainable in the long term. Formby U3A is working to phase out sending an e-mail with a "Click here" link to the Newsletters. The Newsletter will go live on the website on the first of each month so we would suggest you set a reminder to look at the Newsletter page on that day.

www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html

We intend to send reminders that members should look on the website in February

and March, after which no regular monthly message alerting members to a new Newsletter will be sent.

Group Reports in the Newsletter

The Committee also considered how articles reporting the activities of Groups were being submitted and will be updating the Group Leaders Handbook to include the following points so that Group Leaders can brief members. Again we wish to make life easier for the Newsletter Editor.

Articles which report on Group activities are always welcome for the Newsletter. They help promote groups and show the diversity of activities and people involved in Formby U3A.

When should articles be submitted? Work starts on the next Newsletter as soon as the current one is published, so it is helpful if you can submit articles well before the deadline given in the current Newsletter. It is always possible that articles may have to be held over to the next issue, especially when articles are received near the deadline, as the Newsletter has to be made up of 4 page multiples. Text supplied in e-mails is always preferred.

Photographs: Photographs are welcome as these help show group activities and members, but Formby U3A would like to remind you that photographs of people are defined as personal information under GDPR and Formby U3A Privacy Policy states, we will use photographs taken at U3A events in the Newsletter and website only. Members taking photographs for inclusion in the Newsletter and website should tell others that they are taking them for that reason. If members wish at any time to have their photograph removed they should contact the Membership Secretary.

- It is important that **photographs do not contain non-U3A members**, unless you have their permission and it is imperative that photographs showing children are not submitted for publication.
- Please **avoid using third party photographs**. These are likely to be owned by copyright holders and as such, can only be published with the written permission of the owner, which must be submitted at the same time as the photograph. If this is not provided and such photographs are published Formby U3A is liable for copyright infringement, including possible fines.
- Please **send photographs as separate attachments**. Photographs sent within a word processed document result in poor quality images, unsuitable for inclusion.
- It is appreciated if the author of an article sends the photographs they wish to use in the article as an attachment sent at the same time as the text, so that there is no mix up. Please **send the largest (mb)/highest resolution image possible** to ensure a good quality picture is published. Please **make sure the photographs you send are in focus** and avoid sending too many with the expectation that the Editor will choose appropriate photographs for you. **Articles cannot accommodate more than 4 photographs**, but please remember that space constraints may not allow all submitted photographs to be included.

Groups News

Author, Linda Sharratt, Groups' Secretary.

The Group Leaders play a vital role in keeping over 110 groups up and running. There is a varied choice but I'm always pleased to hear your suggestions for new groups and can help to set one up if there is enough interest. Contact: indigo4943@gmail.com or 878232.

Bridge Co-ordinator: Nikki Harrison is the Co-ordinator for the Bridge Groups. She is the point of contact for members wishing to find out more about the different groups and which would be the most suitable group to join according to their experience. Contact Nikki on 871308 or nikki@nikki101077.plus.com

Fell Walking: This group has vacancies. A typical walk is about 10 miles with an ascent of 2,000 feet. The group share cars and meets at the Cross House Inn at 7:50am for an 8am start on the first Wednesday of the month. Members must let the Group Leader know in advance if they are joining the walk, so that travel arrangements can be made. Contact: Mike Williams on: miw33miw33@gmail.com or 870428 for more information.

Jewellery: A potential new group. One of our members is willing to donate a bag of jewellery craft equipment and materials in the hope that someone will volunteer to start a new jewelry craft group with these items that she and others can join. If you are interested contact Groups Secretary on: groups@formbyu3a.org.uk or 878232.

Local History Co-ordinator: Lis Harvey of LHG 15 has volunteered to be the Co-ordinator for the Local History Groups. Contact details: ipreh@tiscali.co.uk 621168.

Walking Co-ordinator: Jeremy Swinson of Walking Group 3 has kindly volunteered to liaise with all the walking groups, including ambling and fell walking. Contact: swinsonjeremy@onetel.com or 871509.

Walking Group 6: Walks are planned and led by group members. Approx. 8 miles with 1,200 ft ascent, walking at a pace to enjoy the scenery. Members volunteer to drive at the start of the walk, with a suggested donation per car to cover the cost. 4th Thursday each month. Contact: Bill Farr, scottfarr@talktalk.net or 870448.

Vacancies: There are also vacancies in the following groups: Art, Bird Watching, Board Games, Book Club 2, Boules, Bowling, Bridge Groups 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 22 & 23, Canasta 4 & 5, Chess, Cookery, Current Affairs, Cycling for Softies, Gardening 1 & 3, Golf (beginners), Guitar, Local History 6, 8 & 15, Lunch Thursday & Sunday, Music Appreciation 1, Needlecraft, Poetry Appreciation, Recorder, Science, Scottish Dancing, Scrabble 2, Swimming, Table Tennis, Ukulele, Walking 5.

Your green 2020 membership card should be shown at all meetings.

To All Group Leaders: Please check that the details on your website page entry are still correct and send any amendments to the Group Secretary. Each group has its own information page on the Formby U3A website. Access by clicking on the Groups tab and then click on the alphabetical listing of groups.

Group Reporting: A note from the Treasurer, Anne Rodmell. A reminder that we need to include groups income and expenditure in our results. Many groups do not need to 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. 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 please email me with this information (treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk) or send a letter to Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool, L37 1XQ, or speak to me at the monthly coffee morning. If your group does have income and expenditure and you're not already reporting, would you contact me and I can talk you through the straightforward requirements.

Forthcoming Music and Theatre Events

Author, Eileen Jones.

These events are open to all paid up U3A members. Dave Irving can be contacted, if necessary, on 630192.

Thursday, 7th May “One Night at VE Day Proms,” Liverpool Philharmonic. A celebratory concert in honour of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. It captures the history and nostalgia of those long war years and reminds us of the hugely important role that music played, during that time. The London Gala Orchestra and wonderful singers feature well known war time songs such as Glenn Miller's, In the Mood, Vera Lynne's, The White Cliffs of Dover and, of course, the much loved, Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory. The atmosphere will be amazing, make sure you bring your best singing voice and your flag, to join in the fun. Centre stall tickets, including transport £42. The coach leaves The Cross House bus stop at 6:15pm.

Outings Group

Author, Ann Blackman, Phone 871127.

Outings are open to all paid up members of the U3A.

Tuesday 25th February, Lytham Hall Snowdrop Tour, Hall & Lunch. Tickets £37.50 include entrance to the hall, tours of the hall and grounds, morning coffee & biscuit. After leaving Lytham Hall we will proceed to the Inn on the Promenade, Lytham St Anne's for a 2 course roast lunch with coffee (included in the ticket price). After lunch it is anticipated that there will be approximately 1hr free time in Lytham. Depart Cross Green 9:00am.

Is Anyone Related to Stanley Crawford?

Paul Carter, a member of Southport U3A, has by chance acquired documents and photographs relating to Stanley Crawford who originated in Formby and died a few years ago in the Isle of Wight. He knows his sister had children and some family members may still be in Formby. He would like to pass the items to a family member

otherwise he will dispose of them. If anyone is related to Stanley Crawford please contact Paul by e-mail: meetandeatsouthportu3a@gmail.com

Welcome To December & January's New Members

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Henry Bliss | Jacqueline Bliss | Shelagh Bright |
| Jean Chater | Keith Chater | Sheila Claydon |
| Renate Hall | Rhonda Hanley | Mavis Hurley |
| Reg Hurley | Brenda Perkin | Derek Preston |
| Gabrielle Robinson | Janis Sidlow | Robert Vint |
| Sue Waterhouse | Gwen Wilson | |

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 or write to: Membership Secretary, Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool L37 1XQ Please remember to include your full name and address, or your membership number.

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

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) | 874787 | membership@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Group Secretary | Linda Sharratt (2019) | 878232 | groups@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Officers | Linda Smith (2019) | | 1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Co-opted | Lillian Coop (2019) | | 2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| Co-opted | Robin Hawthorn (2019) | 808227 | 5thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
| | Ann Knowles (2019) | 872333 | 6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |

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.

Feb 11th **“Through the Eyes of a Magician,”** Peter Turner using clever reverse psychology, will give you an insight of how he can play with your mind. This will give you a positive outlook to the art of perception after the **SGM**.

Mar 11th **“Scam Awareness.”** Michaela Navis, from Home Instead Senior Care, will give a presentation on Scam Awareness in partnership with Merseyside Police and Nat West Bank after the **AGM**.

April 8th **“One Old Lady and Bike.”** Pam Ashton.

Please remember that you will need to show current Membership Card at all events, including group activities and that from January onwards this is your 2020 green card.

Coffee Mornings will be from 10.30 to 12.00 on Thursday, February 13th. This will be 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.

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.

Please do not send more than 4 photographs.

Please do not send photographs within a word processed document. It results in poor quality images which are pixelated with members unrecognisable. **Please send photographs as separate attachments.**

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

The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is midday the penultimate Thursday of the month at the latest. The next Newsletter can be viewed at: www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html from 1st of next month. Paper copies can be collected at the monthly meeting & coffee morning.