

## Drawing On Nature



**Author, Elizabeth Goodwill.**

Katharine Boulton, wife of Liverpool business man Cedric Boulton, was attracted by the art collection of Ishibashi Kazunori (1876-1928). When Ishibashi left Japan for Europe & enrolled at the Royal Academy of Arts, London he had brought a large number of his master's, Taki Katei's (1830-1901), sketches with him. Ishibashi periodically pawned the works in order to survive and when they were eventually put up for permanent sale, Katharine bid for all 400 pieces. Despite offering a smaller amount than another purchaser, the artist accepted Katharine's bid as a result of her earlier enthusiasm for his work. Cedric & Katharine's son, the famous Conductor, Sir Adrian Boulton, inherited the collection and offered it free to any museum that wanted them. Liverpool Museum

was one of three that put in an offer, with Liverpool acquiring three quarters of the works in 1956.

The 300 paintings in ink and pigment on paper were full-scale preparatory works for silk wall hangings. Taki Katei used the paintings for teaching, preparing some of his major commissions and as an aide-mémoire. The collection lay forgotten in Liverpool Museum's repository until revealed by a recent enquiry by a researcher. **Local History Group 6** enjoyed a guided tour of the 80 paintings currently on display. They are a rare archive of exquisite drawings by Ishibashi and his master, Taki Katei

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who, at the time, was the most famous of Japanese painters. Taki Katei was a master of the “bird & flower” painting genre, Chinese inspired paintings and drawings from life. Taki’s paintings were displayed in the Imperial court and his impressive works also travelled to international exhibitions, although after his death the demand for delicate paintings of flowers and birds fell out of fashion and his work was slowly forgotten.

The exhibition is divided into themes exploring the hidden meanings and the symbolism in his works, the techniques used, and his practice towards perfection and proved a fascinating insight into both Local History and distant art.

## Mist Over Pendle



**Author, Marcia Thompson.**

Our walk today started at the pretty village of Downham, often used for period dramas and films, so no modern signage. A small stone plaque indicated where we had to park. No-one needed to know where to park in 1800!

The walk was ably led by Tony Smith and he had 18 followers – a big group. The aim was a circuit of Pendle Hill and I have to admit the paths were challenging with plenty of mud and standing water and slippery stones. In addition, we had mist and fog, so views were minimal. However, we are a stalwart group and enjoyed the challenge: being out in the fresh air; meeting new friends and greeting old ones and stretching our limbs. Pendle Hill is such a key feature of our area, it was good to discover new paths and routes in its environs.

## Formby Memories

**Author, Mary Gregg.**



LHG12 were entertained by Joan Rimmer talking about her Formby Memories. Nick Dickson put many of Joan's poems to song which made the event very entertaining. This is the third time LHG12 has been entertained by Joan and we are still finding out new things about bygone Formby and its many characters. We had an interval half way and our



thanks go to Kitty, Kate and Maureen for organising the event and the catering with

special thanks to Tish for making such scrumptious cakes. Both Joan and Nick donated their fee to charity, Joan to Hospice Africa and Nick to Oxfam.

## Toxteth Unitarian Chapel



*Author, Mary Gregg.*

LHG12 visited the Grade 1 Toxteth Unitarian Chapel, popularly known as The Ancient Chapel of Toxteth. The non-conformist chapel was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and parts of the original walls still remain. The interior of the chapel is plain with wooden boxed pews, no pictures or religious artifacts on the walls and no altar. It was interesting to learn about the congregation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century including the Rathbone family, the Holt family and the Melly family. Members of these philanthropic families are buried in the chapel's graveyard. Once a fortnight there is a service on a Sunday morning with visiting clergy leading the service.

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

A final message was sent on 1<sup>st</sup> March reminding members to look on the website for the most recent Newsletter. **No further regular monthly messages alerting members to a new Newsletter will be sent.**

A U3A member received a text message from their spouse on a cold winter's morning.

*"Windows frozen; won't open!"*

They texted back the reply,

*"Pour warm water over it and gently tap the edges with a hammer"*

Five minutes later, they received the message back,

*"Computer really messed up now!"*

We know that the Formby U3A Newsletter is meant to report on the activities of its different groups, rather than tell old jokes. It is always good to receive reports from Fell Walkers & Local History but we need more than 2 interest groups to send in reports.

**We need your group reports for the Newsletter to continue!**

**What has your group done?**

**Did you forget to submit your group report?**

**Your report could inspire others!**

### **A Message from the Membership Secretary**

***Author, Chris McIlraith.***

A big thank-you to all those who have renewed their membership - 1094 of you as at 14th February. It is particularly pleasing that payments by standing order have again increased this year.

There are still around 200 renewals outstanding; if you are reading this and have not yet renewed your membership, please note that you are no longer entitled to take part in any U3A activity until your subs have been paid. Any outstanding payments should be made by cheque (please write your name, address and U3A membership number on the back of the cheque) for £9.00 per member, payable to Formby U3A,

together with a stamped self-addressed envelope and sent to:

Membership Secretary, PO Box 216, Liverpool L37 1XQ

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

Thank you.

## Outings Group

Ann Blackman has decided to stand down as Outings Group Leader. She has done this job for over 7 years and organised many excellent outings. The Committee would like to thank her for all this hard work.

The Committee hopes the outings will continue and is therefore asking for volunteers to organise them in the future. It is a large job and we suggest it may be easiest for a number of members to form a team to run them. The Group Leaders Handbook, which is on the Formby U3A website, or available from the Secretary describes the responsibilities of a Group Leader.

Please contact any Committee member if you would like to be involved, we would be happy to help you get started and it would be a shame if the February Lytham Hall Snowdrop tour was the last one.

## Groups News

***Author, Linda Sharratt, Groups' Secretary.***

I am always pleased to hear your suggestions for new groups and can help to set one up if there is enough interest. Contact: Linda Sharratt - email [groups@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@formbyu3a.org.uk) or 01704-878232.

**Bowling:** The U3A Bowling Group meets at the bowling green in Formby Park. Play takes place during the March-October season every Tuesday from 2pm to 4pm after a meeting at 1.50pm. There is a mid-session refreshment break. Beginners and/or experienced players are most welcome to join. Introductory tuition is available for absolute beginners. A small number of bowls and jacks are available for loan. The green is a public facility so there is a green fee of £30 per season (or £2.50 per week if preferred) payable to Sefton Council. Friendship, fresh air, exercise and some friendly sporting competition can be promised (though not always the sunshine). Park will be open for the first session of U3A bowls, on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Contact: Ray Doldon - email [doldon@btinternet.com](mailto:doldon@btinternet.com) or 01704-834253.

**Vacancies:** There are also vacancies in the following groups: Art, Bird Watching, Board Games, Book Club 2, Boules, Bridge 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 22 & 23, Canasta 4 & 5, Chess, Cookery, Current Affairs, Cycling for Softies, Fell Walking, 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, Ukulele, Walking 5 and 6.

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 Groups' 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 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.

## **North West Region Events**

We have received early notice of a number of U3A events that are being planned in the North West. When details are finalised they will appear on:  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events>

**Experience Japan**, 7<sup>th</sup> July, Liverpool.

**U3A Science Network**, Annual Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August at Aston University. Further details and the provisional programme are at:  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/u3asciencenetwork/welcome>

**North West Summer School**, 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August near Penrith. Information available on a range of courses.

**Big Sing**, September, or early October.

**Energy Conference:** Strategies for Tackling Climate Change, 9<sup>th</sup> October, Rheged near Penrith.

## **Formby U3A SGM & AGM 2020**

The formal Agenda for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is printed below. As the number of members attending the Special General Meeting (SGM) on 12<sup>th</sup> February was less than 10% of the total membership, the meeting had to be postponed and will now be held immediately before the AGM on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March with the same agenda i.e. to replace our current constitution to be in line with that agreed by the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission. The revised notice of this is also printed below.

At the time of writing, we have vacancies for a Vice Chairman and up to 3 other



trustees. Whilst the original date for nominations has passed, nominations for vacancies will still be accepted up to the start of the AGM. Nomination forms are available on our website.

## **Notice of Deferred Special General Meeting**

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

As the Special General Meeting of Formby U3A on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February did not have sufficient members in attendance, this will now be reconvened at 2:00pm on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 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 charges 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")

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 11th March 2020 in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Rosemary Lane, Formby

## Agenda

- 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 31st December 2019
- 6 To reappoint Mr Kit Robinson as Independent Examiner
- 7 Elections of Trustees:  
The following have agreed to stand for re-election/election
 

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, Ann Knowles

## 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 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

**To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> 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:-

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.

## Welcome To February's New Members

Philip Blackwell	Sandy Blackwell	Lynne Bold
Laurie Canham	Ian Douglas	Keith Elford
Mike Grek	Janet Knowles	Philip Liggett
Kath Lyonette	Joan McDonald	Michael Newton
Pauline Newton	Kathy Steel	Peter Tyrer

## To Help You

An **audio version of the Newsletter** is available for members who are visually less able and is distributed through the post. If you are aware of any Formby U3A member who would prefer to receive an audio version of the Newsletter, please let a member of the Committee have their details.

**If you:** have changed your address, telephone number, or e-mail address, or now have an e-mail address and wish to subscribe to electronically receiving the Newsletter, or no longer wish to receive e-mails from Formby U3A, or have an enquiry about your membership card, or subscriptions,

**please contact [membership@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk) or 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	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. The main door is now accessible following the laying of the new car park

**Mar 11<sup>th</sup>**            **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 **SGM & AGM**.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**            **One Old Lady And A Bike**, Pam Ashton.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**            **Planting Ready For Summer**, Alan Foxall.

If you have any suggestions of Speakers/talks that you think may be of interest to members, please email us at [speakers@formbyU3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@formbyU3a.org.uk) or use the suggestion box at monthly meetings.

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

**Coffee Morning will be from 10:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.** 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 welcome. Please send contributions to the Editor, e-mail:

**[newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@formbyu3a.org.uk)** No e-mail providers guarantee 100% delivery rate and if, 7 days after submitting an article you have not received an acknowledgement one of the e-mail systems failed, so please try again.

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 often unrecognisable. **Please send photographs as separate attachments.**

**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 the penultimate Thursday of the month at the latest.** The next Newsletter can be viewed at: **[www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html)** from 1st of next month. Paper copies can be collected at the monthly meeting & coffee morning.