

## **Sefton: Borough Of Culture 2020**

***Author, David Davies, Group Leader U3A Folk Group.***

Many members will be aware by now that Sefton borough has been nominated by Liverpool City Council as the Borough of Culture next year, 2020. This year Wirral hold that honour and will be 'passing on the baton' to Sefton this November. Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) already have several major cultural events lined-up and are looking to our communities to bring forward ideas and promote cultural events across the Arts. Many of these will be performance based, such as theatre and music-based groups of which there are many throughout Sefton; not forgetting Formby and our own U3A.

Latest information from Sefton indicates that a launch event will take place this November from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> at the Crosby Coastal park at the bottom of South Road. An artistic evening lighting event called "Constellations" will be held there for visitors to walk round and enjoy. In addition, plans are in hand for performance groups, i.e. Sefton based bands, orchestras, dance groups, theatres etc., to be invited to participate in this and other similar events throughout the year.

Sefton CVS have already held workshops, inviting community groups to participate in these and put forward their ideas and plans for celebrating the year. Performance groups in our own U3A are being kept informed of Sefton's plans and progress and Sefton CVS have now begun to issue regular newsletters which may be found on the internet by e-mailing: [BOC2020@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:BOC2020@sefton.gov.uk). The first of these newsletters, recently issued, sets out Sefton's plans and key objectives. Interested members are advised to contact the CVS at the above email address for copies and further information. More information may also be found on "My Sefton" website.

While some monetary grants from Sefton may be available, any U3A group considering seeking such funding must first discuss the matter with the U3A's main committee. Meanwhile, I have agreed to act as the nominal link between Formby U3A and Sefton CVS. Members seeking specific information are urged, however, to seek out the regular Sefton

Council for Voluntary Service, Borough of Culture, newsletters, mentioned above, or by e-mailing: [events@seftoncvcs.org.uk](mailto:events@seftoncvcs.org.uk) on general matters. If contacting me I would prefer e-mail contact, please to: [davkar@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davkar@tiscali.co.uk)