

## Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts



**Author, Pauline Joyce.**

**Local History Group 9** were extremely fortunate in being able to arrange a one-off guided tour of Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts; tours are not normally available.

On arrival we were shown to the Arthur Askey boardroom where Mark Featherstone-Whitty, chief executive of LIPA, gave a brief introduction outlining the formation of LIPA, which was followed by a very interesting film featuring Sir Paul McCartney. The film formed part of the original introduction to the Liverpool Oratorio, written by Paul

McCartney and performed in 1991 at the city's Anglican Cathedral. The film shows Paul walking through a clearly derelict Liverpool Institute building describing his time there as a schoolboy. There were some very interesting reminiscences about his old teachers, of particular interest was the comment concerning his music lessons, where they listened to music but never made or played any. Mark went on to explain how he had become involved in the enterprise. He had worked with George Martin, The Beatles musical director at EMI, with the setting up of the Brit School, which had been influenced by the Fame School in New York. Coincidentally,

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Paul McCartney had suggested that the old Liverpool Institute building should be preserved and a good use found for it. The seed was sown and a very long and difficult road to raise the required funding and planning for an almost total rebuild was started. Another film went on to show where this funding came from which eventually saw LIPA open its doors to the first students in 1996.



We were then given a guided tour of some of the departments including costume, sound recording, dance studio, fly tower and the theatre. We were all surprised and pleased to discover that tickets to watch student performances can be booked by going on the website, we will certainly follow that up.

We all very much enjoyed the visit which was made particularly interesting by the extremely good speaker his enthusiasm and pride was infectious.

## Malham



**Author, Dave Purdy.**

U3A **Fell Walkers** assembled in the main car park at Malham to explore the limestone country to the north of the village. Early morning mistiness soon cleared as the sun came out and we used sections of the Dales Highway, the Pennine Way and local footpaths to complete our route, visiting Nappa Cross (or what is left of it!), Malham Tarn (the inspiration for Kingsley's "Water Babies") and impressive scenery as we gazed down into Gordale Scar from above. Fortunately most of the previous week's snow had melted and the remaining patches merely enhanced the distant views. Mother Nature however had to have the last word by treating us to a few minutes of sleet just as we began the final stretch back to the cars from Janet's Foss. All in all a super spring day out on the hills in good company.

## Calder Stones



**Author, Irene Morgan.**

Calderstone Mansion House closed to the public in the 1970, but was recently restored and is now open as a community facility. Amongst the features visited by **Local History Group 6** were the Calder Stones, the Calder Stones Story, the Allerton Oak and of course the tea room!

The Calder Stones are 6 Neolithic sandstone boulders, believed to be the passageway stones from a burial chamber, long since gone. The original burial mound is thought to pre-date the Great Pyramid in Egypt. Each of the stones is engraved with a multitude of carvings dating back approximately 5,000 years. One, a figure of a bird, had gone unnoticed until a recent visit by a school party when a child dropped their pencil and spotted it when they bent down to pick it up. It is thought that the original burial mound was disturbed several hundred years ago when locals needed sand and building materials. The 6 stones were placed in a circle by the mansion's owner when he set out the parkland. Later they were placed in a greenhouse, which did little to conserve them. The stones were recently taken for conservation before being located in the Mansion House yard in a setting that is thought to more accurately reflect their original context.

The Allerton Oak, in the grounds of the park, was crowned England's "Tree of the Year 2019" and is currently competing in the "2020 European Tree of the Year." It is thought to pre-date the Norman Conquest of 1066 and is considered to be the oldest



tree in North West England. It is in good health and produces 100,000 acorns a year. During World War II soldiers' families would send its acorns and leaves as an emblem of strength and endurance in the hope they would protect their loved ones. According to legend the tree was also the site of a medieval court which met under its branches. The tree has a huge split which folklore attributes to an explosion in 1864 on a gunpowder ship on the Mersey.

## Music and Theatre Events

All events which are open to all paid up U3A members are currently suspended in line with government advice.

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> May, "One Night at V E Day Proms,"** Liverpool Philharmonic, **has been cancelled.** We will contact those who have bought tickets with a view to possible refunds.

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

## Lytham Hall



**Author, Pamela Skelton, Photos David Skelton.**

It was a cold grey and blustery morning as members of the **Outings Group** boarded the bus that would take us to Lytham Hall, but we were a cheerful lot, greeting each other with jokes (mostly weather related) and odd bits of news. The last time many of us has seen each other would have been on the last trip way back in December, so a bit of catching up to do! We soon settled down and once our driver had stashed the walking aids we were off, amazed and tut-tutting at the number and extent of flooded fields.

We arrived at Lytham Hall to find that the driveway too, was flooded and impassable in some places, except by buses. Carefully, pushing walls of water to either side we drove to the house where we were welcomed by one of the volunteer guides, who explained the lay-out and the programme for our visit. The first and very welcome

item, was coffee and scones, served in the Upper West Wing, easily accessible to all as there was a lift. The large airy room was formerly the private chapel of the Clifton family who lived at Lytham hall for four centuries until crippling debts forced them to sell up in the 1960's. While we enjoyed our coffee and scones we were given a potted history of the estate, which was extremely interesting and sad in some parts. The vast majority of the marriages of the heirs over the years were marriages of convenience to extend the family's wealth and power and the partners often had little in common.

We toured the Grade 1 listed house in small groups. Not all of us could manage the stairs to the upper floors, but there was plenty to see on the ground floor, including the library and the Gold drawing room which is a very popular wedding venue. For a grand house, it felt very "liveable in" even amongst the Gillow furniture, hand painted wallpaper and Waterford crystal chandeliers.

Although the day was still grey and wild many of us ventured out to see the snowdrops. It was impossible to go to the lake but there were swathes of snowdrops near the house and a beautiful group with crocuses just by the garden entrance. Now and then the sun flashed through the clouds lifting the whole scene and bringing smiles to our lips before it was time to board the bus again and make our way to Lytham St Annes and "The Inn on the Prom" for our lunch of roast chicken followed by sticky toffee pudding. Delicious! Then we had a choice to make, to brave the elements (still cold and windy), or to sit comfortably in the Inn's warm lounge with coffee and time to catch up and renew acquaintances. David and I opted for the walk, being conscious of the thousands of calories we'd each consumed.

The walk along the front was certainly invigorating. As we turned to go back, a sudden squall of hail struck our faces, making us gasp and turn our heads, trying in vain to escape the sting of ice. On the bus, many were reminiscing over past outings, and there was much to remember! This was the 98<sup>th</sup> trip that Ann had organised since she started in October 2011, so we give our heartfelt thanks to Ann and her faithful crew, Howard and Joan, for all the thought and effort that had gone into giving us such enjoyable and varied trips. Three cheers for them all.



## **Formby U3A Open Day, June 2020**

In the February Newsletter the Committee asked for volunteers to help organise an Open Day in June to celebrate 30 years of Formby U3A. The Chairman made a similar request in a letter to Group Leaders. Only one volunteer has come forward and a few Groups have offered to be there on the day. In view of this the Committee considered that it was not going to be possible to hold this event. This has now been

overtaken by events with the cancellation of all meetings for the time being as a result of Covid-19.

## **Formby U3A & Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

As you know social contact is being severely restricted as a result of Covid-19.

**Formby U3A is cancelling its monthly meetings both the Wednesday afternoon and the Thursday Coffee Morning for the time being.**

We are receiving advice from U3A National Office and putting this and/or links on the Formby U3A website under Latest News. We will also be using Latest News to update you on Formby U3A news and other information. The new version of the website is up and running and will be easier to use with tablets and smartphones.

The Formby U3A Newsletter exists to report on Formby U3A activities. As most group activities are suspended there is currently little to report and **we do not intend to continue publishing the Newsletter in its current form until monthly meetings, coffee morning and group activities return to normal.** We will be setting up a News page or something similar on the website and discussing ways to keep members informed particularly via Group Leaders. Please let us have your suggestions and feel free to contact the Committee for help.

We recognise that quite a number of our members do not have access to the internet so cannot regularly check websites. For this reason we will be posting a copy of April 2020 Newsletter to all Formby U3A members who have not provided an email address.

We are asking Group Leaders to make particular efforts to keep in touch with members without internet access.

Clearly Groups will not be able to function in the same way as previously. However it is important that people stay in touch using all means available. The U3A guidance gives some suggestions such as setting up regular phone calls between Group members. Some Groups may be able to exchange information on projects using the internet, email or telephone. For instance language groups could exchange work, book groups may continue all reading the same book; family history groups can help each other with internet searches and the Card Making Group is using a WhatsApp Group. Outdoor exercise is encouraged by Public Health England but participants need to stay 2m apart.

If you require help:

**Can Formby Community FC help with anything?** Formby Community FC are reaching out to all the elderly & vulnerable in our Community to see if they need anything? A fish supper delivered, a small basket of shopping done, or simply pulling the bin to the end of the drive on bin day. If any help is required then please get in touch. E-mail: [tinafcfc@outlook.com](mailto:tinafcfc@outlook.com) or call 0779 166 8280

**covid-19 Southport and Formby Support Group** is a Facebook group that has been set up. It aims to provide mutual group aid.

**Most recent Government advice** can be found on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

### **Where's Wally, 2020**



### **Looking at the map for some weekend travel ideas.**



I hear the bathroom is good at this time of year. I'm sure I've got the Lonely Planet for it somewhere.



## **New Formby U3A Website**

Noel Blundell, our webmaster has been working on a new version of the website which has a more contemporary user friendly format and should be more responsive, particularly with mobile devices such as tablets and smart phones. It went live on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The main headings are the same although the content may look a bit different. In particular, it will be easier to add photographs of a Group's activities to their page and we have used some photos from previous newsletters. We hope many Groups will take advantage of this facility and email a photo or two to [webmaster@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@formbyu3a.org.uk). Please remember that photographs must be members' own photographs and ensure everyone is aware the photographs will appear on this website. We would also welcome members' photographs that could be used for the banner at the top of the page.

## **Formby U3A Draft Minutes Of The Special General Meeting Held In Holy Trinity Parish Hall On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Apologies for absence:** Pat McCracken, Marilyn Siddons-Smith, Viv Blundell

**Approval of a replacement constitution for Formby U3A:** The proposed replacement constitution had been published on the Formby U3A website and had been advertised in the December 2019, February 2020 and March 2020 Newsletters. It was also available in hard copy at the meeting.

The Chairman outlined that the proposed new constitution was to bring us into line with the recommended format that the Third Age Trust had agreed for all U3As nationwide with the Charity Commission but that we had obtained agreement for our current financial practices to continue and for the presence of 1/20<sup>th</sup> and not 1/10<sup>th</sup> of members to be sufficient to make a quorum at any General or Special meeting.

One member present queried how many people were present at the meeting and how this related to the meeting achieving a quorum. The Secretary explained that as the Special General Meeting had originally been called in February, then under our existing constitution, there was no minimum number required at this rearranged Special General Meeting to form a quorum. He also commented that there were over 65 people present which was more than 5% of the membership so that, if the SGM motion was approved the AGM which followed would have a quorum. The member commented that this was perhaps our 3<sup>rd</sup> constitution in recent years and that he hoped we would have no further changes.

Approval of the replacement constitution was then proposed by the Secretary Keith Jacques and seconded by the Chairman Frances Taylor and the motion was approved by a show of hands with 7 abstentions being noted. This being the second attempt to hold this Special General Meeting, the members present being sufficient to form a quorum.



**Formby U3A Draft Minutes Of The 2020 AGM**  
**Held In Holy Trinity Parish Hall On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Apologies for absence:** Pat McCracken, Marilyn Siddons-Smith, Viv Blundell

**Approval of Minutes of the 2019 AGM:** Draft minutes have been published in the April 2019, February 2020 and March 2020 Newsletters. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Judy Pike and seconded by Andy Hoare and they were approved by a show of hands and signed by Frances Taylor as Chairman. There were over 70 members in attendance and no objections or abstentions.

**Matters arising from the 2019 AGM minutes: None**

**To receive and approve the Annual Report:** The Chairman explained that the Annual Report was more formal than previous years as we now had to make a more detailed annual return to the Charity Commission, she then presented the highlights of the annual report which was available in hard copy at the meeting and had been published on the Formby U3A website as advertised in the February 2020 newsletter. She also thanked everyone who had helped in the running of the Formby U3A during the year mentioning in particular, the Newsletter Editor Dave Goodwill, the Web Manager Noel Blundell, the Data Manager Tony Bonney, and the Group Leaders as well as everyone on the committee.

R Hills queried which ideas from the Group Leaders meetings held during the year the committee had followed up on. The Chairman responded that the ideas of having group coordinators for the many local history, bridge and walking groups was one example and that the hoped for Open Day was another – although this needed more volunteers for it to go ahead. We were also looking for ways to improve the monthly meetings and a suggestion box may be brought to future meetings for ideas.

Acceptance of the annual report was proposed by David Manning-Fox, seconded by Barry Lovius and was approved by a show of hands with no abstentions or objections.

**To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019:** Copies of the 2019 accounts, which had been reviewed and approved by the independent examiner Mr Kit Robinson, were issued to all attending the meeting.

R Hills queried what the committee intended with the current surplus of funds which would benefit all members. The treasurer responded that one idea which was being followed up was to hold an Open Day to promote Formby U3A at which it was proposed refreshments would be available. Mr Hills then queried why funds were being spent on monthly meetings which only benefitted some members to which the Treasurer responded that the monthly meetings were open to all members.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by David Manning Fox and seconded by Barry Lovius and they were approved by a show of hands with one abstention noted.

**To Appoint an Independent Reviewer:** The re-appointment of Kit Robinson was proposed by Glyn Pike and seconded by Barry Lovius. 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,	Linda Sharratt

Committee Members, Ann Knowles, Linda Smith, Lilian Coop, Christine Kennedy  
 These names were confirmed en bloc by a show of hands this being proposed by D Irving and seconded by M Dalley.

**Informal Discussion:** Having completed the formal part of the meeting, the Chairman invited queries for informal discussion and started this by mentioning that in relation to the current "hot topic" of the Coronavirus, the committee were following the advice of the Third Age Trust and the holding of general and group meetings. She had written to Group Leaders about this and information is being put on the website.

Returning to the subject of the proposed Open Day, the Chairman repeated that in order for this to go ahead we needed more volunteers to help organise it.

Barbara Hills noted that it was sad that Ann Blackman had had to stop organising Group Outings and proposed a vote of thanks to Ann for her many years of hard work in organising these which was received with a warm round of applause.

There being no further queries, the meeting moved on to the entertainment of those present by the U3A group Sounds of the Sixties whose performance was very well received. The committee were particularly grateful to them for performing for us as the previously arranged speaker had cancelled at very short notice.

## Groups News

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

I am pleased to give the following news for the month. Contact: details for the Groups' Secretary are Linda Sharratt, email: [groups@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@formbyu3a.org.uk) or 'phone 878232. Clearly Group activities are curtailed at present as a result of Covid-19 (see page 5) but we can still plan for the future.

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

**Jewellery:** This is another suggestion for a new group. One of our members has donated some jewellery craft equipment and materials. It is hoped that someone will volunteer to start a new Jewellery craft group with these items. If you are interested please contact me.

**Outings:** The committee is seeking volunteers to run an Outings group. The aim is to provide regular outings by coach to places of interest, allowing people the opportunity to explore but also ensuring adequate access for those who wish to relax

and socialise. The programme would include scenic drives with regular stops for comfort breaks. If you would like to help please contact me.

**Walking:** It has been suggested that another Walking group be formed as there have been a number of enquiries for walks of around 5-7 miles. Please get in touch with me if you are interested in this idea. If there is enough interest, I will set up an initial meeting to take it forward, although any such group would need a Group Leader. Please contact me if you are interested.

**To All Group Leaders:** Each group has its own information page on the Formby U3A website. Please send any amendments to the Groups' Secretary.

**Group Reporting:**

**REMINDER ANNUAL STATEMENTS FOR 2020 ARE NOW NEEDED.**

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](mailto:treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk) or send a letter to Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool, L37 1XQ. 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.

## **Welcome To March's New Members**

Jayne Cudby	Steve Dixon	Phil Draper
Beverley Edwards	John Galvin	Ruth Galvin
Marie Houlihan	Christine Mezeli	Colin Preston
Pauline Price	Barbara Rimmer	Ann Robinson
Kenneth Robinson	Thomas Watt	

## **Formby U3A Committee, 2020-21**

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)	874787	<a href="mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk">membership@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
Group Secretary	Linda Sharratt (2019)	878232	<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>
	Christine Kennedy (2020)	577774	<a href="mailto:3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
	Lillian Coop (2019)		<a href="mailto:2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
	Ann Knowles (2019)	872333	<a href="mailto:6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk">6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk</a>
	<i>year appointed to the Committee</i>		

## Monthly Meetings

**Are not occurring at present, in line with government advice.**

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 when they resume.

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

**Coffee Mornings are also suspended at present, in line with government advice.**

**As there are no monthly meetings & coffee mornings, we regret that there are no printed copies of the Newsletter at present.**

**No further Newsletters are planned until monthly meetings, coffee morning and group activities return to normal. In the meantime, please check the Formby U3A website [www.formbyu3a.org.uk](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk) for updates.**

**Contributions for future Newsletters**, 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.** Subsequent Newsletters can be viewed at: [www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html](http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/newsletters.html) from 1st of next month. Whilst restrictions are in place & all meetings cancelled there are no paper copies.