



# Formby U3A Newsletter

December 2020

Formby U3A, Reg.Charity No.1161157

Issue No 274

## From Your Committee

**Author, Frances Taylor, Chairman.**

This last year has been very difficult for everyone and we very much hope things will improve next year. We are trying to keep in touch with members as much as possible. The Committee has organised speaker meetings via zoom, which we know members have enjoyed, and we send out regular emails to members and Group Leaders. We have helped a number of Groups set up meetings via Zoom and the Committee and Group Leaders are meeting via Zoom. Some Group activities have been able to continue in socially distanced small groups at certain times and hopefully some of those can restart in December.

Please let us know if you have any more ideas of what we can offer members at the moment.

We are posting this Newsletter to all members. It includes information on renewing your membership and the AGM.

## Keeping In Touch

We are sending regular emails to all members via Mailchimp and separately to Group Leaders. If you have registered an email address with Formby U3A and do not receive these emails please contact the Membership Secretary. Also contact her if you now wish to register an email address with us.

We are well aware that not everyone has access to the internet and so would ask members to spread the word around about what we are doing and make sure these members are OK. In particular we hope Group Leaders will keep in touch with these members.

A number of Groups are using Zoom for a meeting or just a chat so we hope more will take advantage of this facility. Even when limited face to face activities can go ahead outdoor activities are not so attractive as the weather gets cooler. Some Groups are using the Formby U3A account and there are still slots available so please contact the Chairman. Others are using private accounts.

*Your Committee wishes you all the best for  
Christmas and the New Year  
and hopes you are all keeping well.*

## Your U3A Needs You!

Formby U3A needs Committee Members to keep going next year (2021/22) and if we do not get enough volunteers to come onto the Committee next year Formby U3A will have to close. It would be good if newer members could join us to bring in new ideas and it is a way of meeting different people. We must have a new Secretary as Keith Jacques has done the job for the maximum of 3 years. Keith is very happy to help a volunteer get to know the ropes. There are several vacancies and if we have a full Committee then the work can be shared out making it easier for everyone. The general role is described below and please get in touch with any Committee member to find out more.

## What Does Being On The Committee Involve?

Formby U3A Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except August). It also helpful if Committee Members can come to the monthly meetings and/or coffee mornings (when they restart) to meet existing and new members. Next year we hope we can arrange a number of activities such as an Open Day, new members meetings, Group Leaders meetings and a stall at the Friday Market which we were unable to do this year. 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

## Latest News

We are using the section on Latest News on the website to keep members up to date with latest developments and events. The Third Age Trust is organising a number of events which are open to all and can be accessed from the links shown on the Third Age Trust website.

## Christmas Quiz 2020 (page 5): Answers

(1) George V in 1932; (2) St. Stephen; (3) 4; (4) 10; (5) Norway as a thank you gesture after WW2; (6) Prague; (7) Merry Wives of Windsor; (8) Oliver Cromwell; (9) Turkey; (10) 8 maids a milking; (11) Pacific Ocean; (12) Christingle; (13) The Nutcracker; (14) Stir up Sunday; (15) The Manger; (16) A football match was played between the opposing sides; (17) A Pagan midwinter festival; (18) Mistletoe (kissing under); (19) Mexico; (20) Robins

## **It's Nearly Time To Renew Your U3A Membership** **(£9 per member)**

**Author, Chris McIlraith.**

**Annual subscriptions are 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 should be paid by 28th February at the latest.

The restrictions due to Covid-19 means that all membership cards will have to be posted out.

### **How to renew your membership:**

**Standing Orders:** Thank you to those members who have already set up a Standing Order for their membership fees. If you wish to set up a new Standing Order, please request details from the Membership Secretary by e-mailing: [membership@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk) or phoning 01704 874787

**All other renewals must be by cheque or online bank payment only.**

**Online bank payment:** The reference or description field of the payment **MUST contain your membership number followed by your initial and surname.** If you do not know your membership number you should contact the Membership Secretary (as above) or make a cheque payment following the instructions below.

Payment should be made to the following Formby U3A bank account:-

Account name: Formby U3A  
Sort code: 40 21 20  
Account number: 41365878

**Payment by Cheque:** If paying by cheque (£9 per member) please make your cheque payable to Formby U3A and write your membership number on the back. (If you do not know your membership number, please write your name and address instead). **You do not need to enclose an SAE this year.**

Cheques should be posted to:

Membership Secretary,  
Formby U3A,  
PO Box 216,  
Liverpool L37 1XQ.

Your 2021 Membership Card will be posted out once your subscription has been received.

**Please remember that, when normal activities resume, you will need to show your current Membership Card at all events, including group activities and that from January onwards this is your 2021 orange card.**

## Annual General Meeting

*Author, Keith Jacques, Secretary*

**The Annual General Meeting of Formby U3A will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 either via Zoom, or in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Rosemary Lane, Formby**

All members of the Committee (the Trustees) are required to stand down at the AGM. Although some, including the Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election, these positions can be contested and there are several vacancies for committee members – new names would be most welcome.

A Nomination Form for any of the positions on Committee is available on Page 5, on the website or copies can be obtained from the Secretary either at our meetings or by emailing [secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk) Completed forms should be returned to the Secretary by 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 .

**Additional Resolutions:** If any member wishes to propose any additional items for consideration at the AGM, they are requested to submit these in writing to: The Secretary, Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool, L37 1XQ (or via email to: [secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk)). These should be received by the end of January 2021 so that they can be circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

**Quorum:** Our constitution requires that 5% of our membership must be present for the AGM to take place at its first appointed time. If there are less than 5% of the membership present, then the AGM will take place immediately before the April speaker meeting at which time the number of members present will constitute a quorum.

## Christmas Quiz 2020

*Author, Eva Milne.*

- 1) Which British Monarch made the first Royal Christmas Broadcast?
- 2) Who is the patron Saint of Boxing Day?
- 3) How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
- 4) How many reindeer does Father Christmas have?
- 5) Which country gives the Christmas Tree erected in Trafalgar Square and why?
- 6) Where is Wenscelas Square?
- 7) Name the play Shakespeare wrote for Queen Elizabeth 1 as a Christmas present?
- 8) Who banned Christmas Carols in England in 1647?
- 9) In which modern country was Saint Nicholas born?
- 10) According to the song what did my true love give me on the eighth day of Christmas?
- 11) Which ocean is Christmas Island in?

.....continued on page 6

**FORMBY U3A**  
**Nomination for the 2021/22 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, email [secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk)

**By 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 if possible** - but nominations for posts still vacant after that time will be accepted up until the start of the AGM.

*Please consider helping to run your U3A by joining the committee either in a specific Officer role or as a Committee Member. We all have skills and abilities which can be used to help, and remember, **if no-one volunteers to join the committee then there can be no Formby U3A.***

- 12) What is the candlelit Christmas service called where parishioners hold candles in oranges?
- 13) Which Christmas themed ballet was premiered in Russia in 1892?
- 14) What traditionally is the name of the day when Christmas cakes and puddings are made?
- 15) Mince pies were originally baked in oblong cases to represent what?
- 16) What extraordinary event occurred on a Christmas Day during WW1?
- 17) Before becoming tied up with Christmas what was Yule?
- 18) What plant based Christmas tradition did servants in Victorian England popularise?
- 19) What country is the Poinsettia with its red and green foliage native to?
- 20) What birds are popular on Christmas cards?

## Cookery Group

***Author, Mary Bale.***

The group has now managed to hold three meetings via the Zoom facility and the new format has been a lovely way to see our members and have a chat about all things foody. Unfortunately, we haven't managed to find a way to sample the dishes that members have prepared that were such a highlight of our pre-Covid meetings.

In October we talked about comfort food, which seemed so appropriate as we head into shorter days and no sign of restrictions being lifted. Not known for being particularly healthy or nutritional, the likes of Cottage pie, stew and dumplings, curry, fish and chips and even beans on toast, were put forward as worthy dishes when comfort eating. For those with a sweet tooth, fruit crumble, rice pudding or a nice slice of fruit cake were all popular choices.

In November we discussed memories of 'Bonfire Night Specials', which turned out to be dominated by Parkin and sausages in some form with baked potatoes. What no soup?

Next month's topic will allow members to share their "Christmas Family favourite" that special addition to the usual festive fayre or a traditional recipe that is required to make Christmas complete. To get in the mood, Christmas hats will be obligatory of course.

We look forward to being able to meet as a group once more at some point in the New Year and being able to actually taste the lovely dishes that we have become accustomed to from our members as we try new recipes according to the monthly theme. In the meantime, here is an easy fudge recipe from one of our group, Hazel Williams, which would be great at this time a year as a special treat or for those with greater will-power, as a Christmas gift.

## Aero Fudge

Put the following ingredients in a slow cooker:

330g Milk chocolate

200g Aero mint chocolate

1 tin Condensed milk (14oz)

Cook on high for one hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Pour into tray lined with clingfilm and leave to cool for 15 minutes. Place in fridge for about four hours to set.

Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year to all.

## 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.

**Please contact [membership@formbyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@formbyu3a.org.uk) or write to:** Membership Secretary, Formby U3A, PO Box 216, Liverpool L37 1XQ **remembering to include your full name and address, or your membership number** 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,

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

**Newsletter Contributions** informing members of your group and its activities are always welcomed. 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 photographs within a word processed document. It results in poor quality images which are pixelated with members unrecognisable. **Please send photographs as separate attachments.**

## Monthly Meetings

We are organising a series of Speaker Meetings via Zoom. We will be telling members how to attend by email. We have booked two meetings for next year and expect that the AGM and Speaker meeting in March will also be via Zoom.

**Jan 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**      **“Cunard History and Glamorous Stars,” Steve Herra.**  
 Steve’s talk is based upon the history of Cunard from 1840 until the present day and includes some of the more famous liners but not all as there were nearly 250! It details some of the celebrities and stars who sailed aboard Cunard ships. What did Charles Dickens think about the furnishings aboard Britannia? Which actress brought her gleaming white Rolls Royce on board Queen Mary and her own chickens as she demanded fresh eggs each day? When at a New York function, what was the reply to the lady who described Elizabeth Taylor’s very large diamond ring as vulgar?

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**      **“Dark Light” by Fool’s Gold (Acoustic Musicians)**  
 Fool’s Gold shows blend together a story, fabulous supporting visuals and live acoustic music. Dark Light has been created as a wholly new show specifically for zoom using some of the clever functions available to build a fascinating and creative show. It describes the Flannan Island mystery of 1900 when three lighthouse keepers disappeared from the remote island in the Outer Hebrides. The mystery is unsolved to this day. It’s amazing how many songs of the time that you will know, so smile and sing!

As the opportunity arises we will organise extra events on Zoom and let you know via email and on the website

**Coffee Mornings are currently suspended in line with guidance, but** weather and current restrictions permitting (!) the book and jigsaw exchange will be available in Holy Trinity car park just outside the Workshop each month at the time we would normally have our monthly coffee morning. This is the Thursday after the monthly meeting, **Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am - 12:00**. Please come and visit and bring us your old books and jigsaws.

### Formby U3A Committee, 2020-21

|                        |                                        |        |                             |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 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 |
| Acting Group Secretary | Christine Kennedy (2020)               | 577774 | groups@formbyu3a.org.uk     |
| Officers               | Linda Smith (2019)                     |        | 1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
|                        | Lillian Coop (2019)                    |        | 2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
|                        | Evan Bale (Co-opted, 2020)             |        | 4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
|                        | Ann Knowles (2019)                     | 872333 | 6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk |
|                        | <i>year appointed to the Committee</i> |        |                             |