



Line Dancing



Author, Judith Pike.

It had been suggested that the Formby u3a start a **line dancing group** in the October newsletter and a meeting was called to assess interest at the coffee morning in November. As a result the group was formed and started dancing the last Friday in November. It has now met on four occasions and the group has a full complement of 30 members. Most of the dancers are beginners and even those with some experience have not danced much recently. The leaders of the group are only one dance ahead of the group but it does mean that we are learning together, very much in the philosophy of the u3a.

We are meeting on Friday afternoons and there were several interested people who already had commitments at that time so I am sure a second group could be



formed if someone was willing to act as leader. I was reluctant at first but have really enjoyed learning new dances, so I hope that someone will volunteer.

Cookery Report



Author, Mary Bale.

In November our **Cookery group** spent a very pleasant afternoon visiting Sunnyfields in Hightown. You might not think a farm would be the place for a cookery event, but there was a part that was of particular interest.

Our host for the day was Andrew Tumilty, who jointly runs the farm with his sister Anne. Andrew provided us with a very warm welcome and a brief history of the farm before we had a tour of the premises. Initially a nursery, the farm is now diversifying into livestock and a highlight of the tour was a visit to see the pigs, which then led to the main reason we came – sausage making!

The farm butchery is attached to the farm shop that sells a wide range of locally produced products, from veg and meat to honey and candles. After a demonstration of the sausage-making process, Eileen and Mary both had a go at stringing up the newly made sausages. This proved trickier than it looked, but they persevered before eventually deciding to leave it to the experts.

Tea and cake provided by our host was very welcome after all our efforts and Andrew very generously gave members samples of the sausages we had seen being made. These proved to be delicious but how much credit the Cookery group can take for this is debateable.

Artisan Fayre

Saturday 5th March 2022, 11.00am–4.00pm (*subject to COVID regulations*) at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Formby. Formby u3a will be joining the Bluebell Community as they host their artisan Fayre, showcasing local artisan gifts, crafts & local produce traders. Come and say hello to Formby u3a who will be located in the foyer welcoming new and existing members.

A Visit To One Of The Relatives

Author, Dominic Dickson.



On a recent Tuesday morning, **Cycling Group C** visited the carved statue of Jimmy Lowe, Formby's famous Asparagus King, near the end of Victoria Road and close to where his asparagus fields used to be. One of our members, Derek Perry (in yellow), is Jimmy Lowe's grandson. On a picture on the interpretation board of all of Jimmy's family, on the extreme right, there is Derek as a dear little 4 year old! The wood sculpture of Jimmy Lowe is one of a number forming the Asparagus Trail which celebrates Formby's past and present excellence in asparagus growing.

Later on in our ride and in pursuance of more public art, we went to Ainsdale, near the beach, to view the amazing

mural of a Sand Lizard, across all the fronts of the buildings that formed and adjoined the old Toad Hall Night Club. This was created by Paul Curtis who has done many other large paintings on buildings in Merseyside, including Red Rum on the Southport Promenade.

Groups News February 2022

Author, Frances Taylor, Chairman.

The Groups' Secretary post is currently vacant but the email groups@formbyu3a.org.uk is monitored, so please use that, or ring any Committee member if you do not have email.

The Committee is well aware that many Groups are full so is keeping records of members interests. Once there is sufficient interest for a new Group we will try to set one up. Each Group needs a Group Leader, or Leaders and the Committee and existing Group Leaders are very willing to help new Leaders. u3a is all about self-help, co-operation and learning together.

So please get in touch:-

- if you have a suggestion for a new Group
- if you are willing to help organise a Group

- if you want to join a new Group and we will do our best to get things going.

A new **Line Dancing** Group has started (see article in current Newsletter). We think there are about 20 other members who are interested in Line Dancing and so would welcome volunteers to start a second Group. Judy Pike, the existing Group Leader, is very happy to advise.

We have had an initial meeting of members interested in **Pilates** and discussions are underway about possible venues and tutors. Ann Knowles 6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk is the Committee contact.

We hope to start a new **Local History** Group and will be contacting members who have expressed an interest by email fairly soon.

There seems to be enough demand for another **Birdwatching** Group and a new Book Group has started.

Ray Derricott would like to hear from members interested in learning to play **chess**. Those interested should contact him on 876661. Times have yet to be arranged.

Please check the website for vacancies in existing Groups. A folder with details of each Group is available at monthly meetings.

We think the information on Groups on the website is now pretty well up to date, but it would be helpful if Group Leaders could check their entry and let us have updates as appropriate.

Annual General Meeting, 9th March 2022

The AGM will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 9th March 2022 in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Rosemary Lane, Formby. The formal notice of the meeting was published in the December Newsletter.

A draft Agenda for the AGM is outlined below. At present we have not received a nomination for Chairman and have vacancies for 7 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.

We are proposing changes to the Constitution to allow on-line meetings and filling of casual vacancies, as recommended by the Third Age Trust. We are also proposing reducing the number of Officers and the minimum number of Trustees required in order to reduce the risk of Formby u3a having to fold because we are not able to get volunteers to fill the Officer and Trustee positions required by our current Constitution. These changes will need to be agreed by the Third Age Trust beforehand.

A special webpage for the AGM has been set up on the Formby u3a website. The link is http://www.formbyu3a.org.uk/?page_id=3941 and it will also be available via a

link on the Latest News page. It contains the Notice of the Meeting, Nomination Form for the 2022/23 Committee, draft minutes of 2021 AGM and other relevant documents. The Agenda will be updated as appropriate and the Annual Report, Treasurer's report and proposed changes to the Constitution will be added when they are available.

Draft Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM,
- 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 2021
- 6 To appoint Kit Robinson as Independent Examiner
- 7 Changes to the Constitution
- 8 Elections of Officers and Trustees. The following have agreed to stand for re-election/election:

Secretary	Evan Bale
Treasurer	Anne Rodmell
Trustees	Nikki Harrison, Martyn Rodmell

It's Past The Time To Renew Your U3A Membership

(£9 per member)

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership of Formby u3a for 2022. 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 should be paid by 28th February at the latest.

Formby U3A now has to pay bank charges of 40p on each cheque we receive. If you do not already do so we would be grateful if you could arrange to pay your membership fees for 2022 by Standing Order or by Online Bank Transfer.

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 or phoning 874787

Online Bank Transfer: The reference or description field of the payment **MUST contain your membership number followed by your surname and initial**. If you do not know your membership number you should contact the Membership Secretary (as above). Payment should be made to the following Formby U3A bank account:-

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

We ask that all other renewals should be by cheque.

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). **Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope to receive your Membership Card.** Cheques should be posted to:

Membership Secretary
Formby U3A
PO Box 216
Liverpool
L37 1XQ

Membership Cards will be posted to those paying by Standing Order or Online Bank Transfer once your subscription has been received from your bank.

If the February meetings occur face-to-face then payment can be made in person at the at the Wednesday afternoon meeting in Holy Trinity Parish Hall (9th February) or at the Thursday coffee morning in Holy Trinity Workshop (10th February). If you pay by cheque at the Monthly Meeting or Coffee Morning, you can collect your card at the same time.

Thank you

A big thank you to the Line Dancing, Cookery & Cycling groups. Just imaging this Newsletter without those groups reports reporting — a lot of white spaces!

What about sending your group's report to let members know what you've been doing, of any vacancies and including a photographs to show how friendly your members really are?

We appreciate that some, but not all groups have reduced their activities at present, but without any reports, the next Newsletter due for publication in April, remains unviabe. The deadline for receipt of reports and articles is midday Thursday, 24th March at the latest.

Newsletter Contributions

The best way to tell other U3A members about your group and any potential vacancies is by a Newsletter article & photo! Contributors' names should be given.

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. Please remember that it is contributors' responsibility and not the Editor's to check submitted articles for the grammar, spelling, punctuation etc.

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.

The next Newsletter is due to be distributed by e-mail and be on the website early April. Paper copies can be collected at the monthly meeting & coffee morning.

The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is midday Thursday, 24th March at the latest.

New Members

Formby U3A is pleased to welcome the following new members.

Helen Beaver	Marie Connolly-Jones	Jane Greenwood
Maureen Jacques	Jean Noble	Phil O'Hanlon
Maryanne Rathe	Monica Sealey	Anne Trafford
Gerald Valentine	Julia Valentine	Ethel Webber

Formby U3A Committee 2021-22

Chairman	Frances Taylor (2017)	577205	chairman@formbyu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Evan Bale (2020)		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	Vacant		groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
Officers	Christine Kennedy (2020)	577774	1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Nikki Harrison (2021)	871308	2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Jane Bienias (2020)		3rdofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Martyn Rodmell (2021)	621835	4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

Accessibility Officer Ann Knowles (2019) 872333 6thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

** year appointed to the Committee*

Speaker Meetings

Christine Kennedy, Speaker Organiser.

Speaker meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in **The Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Formby**. The meetings start at 2.00pm and last about an hour.

With the upsurge of Omicron covid the committee decided to hold our January meeting on Zoom. We had a good attendance even though it was a late decision to use zoom. Apologies to anyone who didn't get the email message. The covid situation is fluctuating so please check emails and the website for information regarding February's and future meetings.

Access There is ramp access to the hall.

Parking Please remember to enter your vehicle registration number on the electronic pad in the hall foyer each time you park. There is no charge for parking but failure to enter your number will almost certainly result in a heavy fine. If you are unsure what to do please ask for help.

February 9th **Ken Pye** will entertain and inform us about **The Stately Homes of Liverpool, The History of the City's Glorious Mansion Houses**. Please check your emails and the website for a decision as to whether we hold the February speaker's meeting face-to-face, or on-line. This will depend on the local covid situation.

March 9th **AGM please be sure to come along to our AGM**. Following the AGM, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Mr **George Ampat** will talk to us about **non-surgical solutions to pain relief**.

April 13th Our speaker will be David Hearn and the title of his talk, ***Liverpool Links with America***.

Remember to bring your current membership card to all u3a activities. The 2022 card is BLUE.

Coffee Mornings: The day after the Speaker Meetings there is a coffee morning in the Holy Trinity Church Workshop to which all are welcome. The coffee mornings are a chance to meet and chat with other u3a members and to pick up information about Formby u3a and Group activities. There is no charge for attending the coffee mornings or for the refreshments so do come along. Unfortunately the January coffee morning was cancelled because of the covid situation. Please check your emails and the website for a decision as to whether we hold the February coffee morning. This will depend on the local covid situation.

Parking As above.