

Birkenhead Park



Author, Judith Aspinwall.

Local History Group 9 enjoyed a delightful day out to Birkenhead Park by train followed by a short walk to the Visitor Centre. Yes it was the world's first public park based on the principle that it was a park for all classes of people rich or poor. There were routes for carriages and paths for walkers. The clever design by Joseph Paxton of the lakes meant that they looked like rivers curving away from view behind woods. The park is a Grade 1 listed landscape with Grade 2 listed structures and buildings celebrating cultures from around the world, for example the Swiss Bridge with a beautiful mosaic floor. Our guide, Chris, enhanced our visit and the displays in the visitor centre were really interesting with beautiful photos. Of course the fact most of



The "Swiss" Bridge

us know is that New York's Central Park was inspired after a visit to Birkenhead Park. New Yorkers have their own green oasis thanks to ours. The day was full of history. A Spitfire landed on the night pasture, the pilot fortunately only broke his ankle. We ended the day in the cafe within the Visitor Centre - a good day was had by all.

It is anticipated that the next Newsletter will not be published until the Autumn as many interest groups appear to be still inactive and few are reporting in the Newsletter. The Committee has, therefore, decided to limit the number of Newsletters. Please see the website for details of the deadline and publication date for the next edition.

Norton Priory

Author, Jeanette Smith.



Norton Priory, near Runcorn, is the most excavated monastic site in Europe, and members of **Local History Group 6** enjoyed a guided tour for their April meeting. Boasting the priory ruins, 12th century undercroft and an 18th century Walled Garden, it is located within an oasis of 42 acres of tranquil woodland and wildflower meadows. The museum includes two exhibition galleries which explore the site's history, including the

archaeological digs which are still being undertaken. Thousands of artefacts from Norton's 900 year history are on display, including the internationally significant 14th century statue of St. Christopher, which features in Lucy M. Boston's classic children's book, 'The Children of Green Knowe'.

Following a very knowledgeable tour the group tucked into a delicious lunch in the Priory's café before exploring the museum and gardens.

Music Appreciation

Author, Linda Sharratt.

There seems to be a bit of confusion about what the Music Appreciation group does! Members are often asked whether we meet up to perform and play instruments, or to sing together. No, we don't; we meet up to Appreciate recordings of music performed by professional musicians and singers, who do so to perfection, usually on CDs.

We're inviting you to come along for a "taster session" or two, to find out more and whether you would enjoy becoming a member of the group. You'd be very welcome. The group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month between 2pm and 4pm. Each session is held at a member's home and that person chooses and plays a variety of recordings, often with a theme. For instance, in February Pam chose to play music with the theme "Rainbow" so this was a colourful selection. In March Linda chose an eclectic mix including classical, jazz and Peruvian. After each track we discuss its merits, background or other memories of the piece. Halfway through the programme we stop for refreshments and have a catch-up chat.

If you are interested and would like to try a couple of sessions to see if you would enjoy Music Appreciation, please contact Rob Blackwell (group leader) on 875573 or email indigo4943@gmail.com

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions informing members of your group and activities are always welcomed.

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.

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 that show members involved in group activities are always appreciated. 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.*

Previous Newsletters: can be found by following the link on the Formby U3A website, formbyu3a.org.uk Newsletter tab, or by typing www.formbyu3a.org.uk/?page_id=331 into your web browser.

Group News

Author, Gill Brady.

Watercolour 2 is looking for new members if anyone is interested in painting for fun and a friendly chat.

New Members

Formby U3A is pleased to welcome the following new members.

Jean Carroll	Susan Copeland	Vivienne Gee
Doris Hankin	Margaret McDowell	Patricia Playfor
Alan Reader	Eileen Reader	Bernadette Stafford
Derek Walker	Patricia Williams	

Formby U3A Committee 2022-23

Chairman	Vacancy		chair@formbyu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Evan Bale (2020)		secretary@formbyu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Anne Rodmell (2019)	621835	treasurer@formbyu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec.	Andy Dickinson (2022)	643971	membership@formbyu3a.org.uk
Group Secretary	Gill Brady (2022)	643745	groups@formbyu3a.org.uk
Officers	Helen Beaver (2022)		1stofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Nikki Harrison (2021)	871308	2ndofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk
	Martyn Rodmell (2021)	621835	4thofficer@formbyu3a.org.uk

Speaker Meetings

Martyn Rodmell, 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.

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.

June 8th: Ken Pye, **Liverpool at work**; how the city earned its living over the centuries.

July 13th: Sue Prince, **Animals Asia Foundation**. Sue will give an illustrated talk about the work of the Animals Asia Foundation's work to rescue Asiatic black bears which are farmed for use in Chinese medicine and also to address the dog and cat meat industry in China.

August 10th: **No meeting.**

September 14th: Martin Lloyd, **Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies**.

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

Important Announcements

Chairman: Despite the efforts of the Committee leading up to the AGM, we were unable to attract anybody to stand for the position of Chair. As a result we were not able to appoint a Chair on the day and have not been able to fill the vacancy despite our continued efforts. The Committee is continuing to operate under temporary arrangements but we are conscious that this is contrary to our Constitution and this cannot go on indefinitely. Unless we are able to appoint a Chair, ultimately we will be forced to close the Formby branch of the u3a and any assets will be forfeited to the Third Age Trust.

The Committee is keen that this should not happen and are appealing once again for volunteers who would be prepared to join the Committee with a view to eventually taking over the role of Chair. Should you feel you are able to contribute and want to find out more please contact the Secretary or Treasurer for more information.

Thursday Coffee Mornings: Unfortunately, as we do not have a full committee despite extensive appeals, we are under resourced and combined with the lack of attendance on Thursdays, the Thursday Coffee Mornings are regrettably currently suspended until further notice. Committee members will be available at the Wednesday monthly talk if you have any queries.