

# Formby Civic News



The Formby Civic Society Newsletter

Registered charity No 516789



## Dru Haydon by Ray Derricott



As many of you know our Chair, Dru Haydon, has not been well for some time. Dru has an interest in a number of local community activities. Many of these focus on primary education, an area in which she had long professional experience as a teacher and at different levels of management. On retirement from teaching she became Governor of St Luke's Primary School and for a period she was Chair of this group. Her expertise was demonstrated when on the first National Civic Day in 2010, she used her links with local primary schools in the Society's project to encourage primary school children to draw paint, or model their own views of Formby, under the title 'My Formby', a Society project.

We had around 200 entries. Dru organized the judging of the entries and, with the co-operation of the management of the Pool Trust, put up an exhibition of the entries. This initiative was well received both locally and nationally. Civic Voice

awarded the prize to Formby Civic Society as the best local initiative in that year from the large number of activities that other Civic Societies had undertaken.

Dru likes to paint and her embroidery is creative and excellent. She was always in attendance at the Society's Summer Art Exhibition.

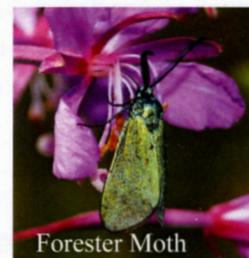
For the past three years she has taken on the onerous task of organizing our programme of general meetings. Despite giving full instructions on how to find the Community Centre, some of our speakers, new to Formby find this a difficult task. For the Meetings' Secretary there is increasing tension as the clock approaches 7-45pm.!

Dru has now taken the advice of her doctor and has had to reduce her commitments. She has, with great reluctance, resigned as the Society's Chair. I am however sure that we shall see her at our meetings. On behalf of members I wish to express our gratitude to Dru for her significant contributions to our work. We send her our very best wishes and hope she has a restful period in which she can paint, indulge in her creative needlework and find more time to devote to her reading group.

September 2013

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Forester Moth

## The Society's Achievements 1953—2013



*Profesor Tom and Mrs Edith Kelly, two of the Society's founders*

Since 1953 our stated original aim 'To foster and preserve the identity of Formby as a separate community and to safeguard its natural amenities', has been continuously pursued. It has involved amongst other things keeping a constant watch on the natural surroundings of Formby, building-development within the town and (particularly) monitoring planning applications. In doing this the Society has continued to host occasional public meeting to discuss matters of special interest. In 1974 the Society successfully opposed the development of the Freshfield Dune Heath for housing: this remains the only open land on the northern boundary of Formby and much of it is now a Nature Reserve managed by Lancashire Wildlife Trust as one of the few

remaining areas of nationally rare dune heath habitat.

Another success was the prevention of yet another golf course and the successful preservation and conservation of Ravenmeols Dunes, much of which is now either 'Local Nature Reserve' or, at Cabin Hill a 'National NR'. Understanding the history of this area and the development of some definitive Heritage Trails there, is a current Society project in association with Sefton Landscape Partnership. The Society also contributed significantly to the creation of the Trans-Pennine Trail, securing a public path for walkers, cyclists (and in part for horses) along the nearest section of abandoned Cheshire Lines Railway track. Preservation of the Green Belt has in the past been a key principle

but in 1985 within the built up area we also assisted in the recording and designation of the Green Lane Conservation Area. Smaller but worthwhile projects have included planting roses and shrubs on the site of the Smithy Green Luncheon Club, and sponsoring tree planting outside Barclays Bank and the Trustee Savings Bank.

On Local History we are proud to have amassed a very considerable local history archive, used along with relevant archives in the Liverpool Record Office, in establishing the primacy of Formby Lifeboat Station, now recognised as not only Britain's first but in fact the World's first. Apart from a considerable collection of documentary archives, our most valued collection is the 'Sibley Collection'. This consists of about 800 original watercolours and black and white sketches of mainly local subjects - notably older buildings, many now demolished, - done between 1950 to 1980. Very many of these illustrations are accompanied by notes compiled by Muriel Sibley, recording information she gathered about the subjects at that time and we also have a comprehensive collection of photographic slides of the many subjects she was interested in.

Unfortunately her drive, shared by other founder members, to

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artistically record Formby as it was, has now faded and the Art Group has itself folded. In parallel however, we have had, from the beginning, some very active photographers. The original photo-archive survives and in recent years has been considerably added to by more recent members - notably Tony Bonney, who, in addition to taking many new photos, has digitally copied the Sibley collection. This makes this

invaluable material not only more accessible to ourselves, but via Flickr and our website, to the rest of the world.

This brings me to our other recent major achievement - the creation and subsequent improvement of our website, (our digital showcase), recently redesigned by Noel Blundell to whom we owe a great debt of thanks.

As publications the Society pub-

lished Viking Village in 1973, (paperback version 1982); subsequently several books on local history have been published largely based on our archives, the most recent being '*Formby, Freshfield & Altcar* in 1999', '*Formby & Freshfield Through Time*', 2009 and '*Formby Then & Now*' in 2012.

*by Reg Yorke*

## Formby Asparagus Feast 2013 *by Reg Yorke*

The 'Formby Asparagus Feast' was organised by the Formby Civic Society as a contribution to the current Formby Asparagus Festival being held under the auspices of the National Trust Formby.

The event held at the RAFA Club, Victoria Road Formby, on Friday evening 31st of May with David Davis as master of ceremonies, was enjoyed by over 90 local people- "*an evening to savour local asparagus at the height of the season and enjoy hearing about some of the local history of this delicacy*" - through informal talks, poetry and songs - with 'asparagus-friendly' musical accompaniment by the Jill Fielding duo.

After an introductory talk, an asparagus-based three course supper was served by Priory Kitchen to soothing musical accompaniment. This was

followed by an interesting presentation by Andrew Brockbank of the National Trust explaining the background of the Trust's interest in the history of asparagus growing here and present day developments.

Following this the audience were entertained by a series of readings and poems relating to asparagus cultivation and enjoyment, together with songs on asparagus themes, followed by dancing to the Jill Fielding duo.

This was the second such asparagus feast to be organised by the Society and seems to have been much enjoyed by those who attended; the opinion was expressed that the venture should now become annual!

Winning poems included 'Freshfield Feast' by Dorothy Gerard, 'Asparagus circa 1950' by Anne Schofield and



*Asparagus themed songs performed by Ray Derricott and David Davis.*

'Asparagus Days' by Joan Turner.

The National Trust and Formby Civic Society are grateful for the public interest kindled by this event and the numerous stories, poems and indeed photos that were sent in. Finally our thanks also go to Ruth and Richard Woodward, Margaret and Ray Derricott and others, including Sandra of the RAFA Club.

## History Group Report



*Lunt Meadows Neolithic site visit*

As a 'warm-up' for the proposed Ravenmeols Heritage Trails a coastal guided walk from Lifeboat Road car park to Ravenmeols and back was organised for the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2013.

A further significant contribution to the information base we have built up on Ravenmeols was provided by a visit from the architectural historian Stuart Evans on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, when we were together able to visit Sandhills Cottage and discuss its famous 19<sup>th</sup> century architect, W. H. Macmurdo with the present owners.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May we enjoyed a very interesting visit to Lunt Meadows current Mesolithic settlement excavation guided by Ron Cowell, curator of prehistoric archaeology, National Museums Liverpool. This is a unique site and provides interesting new perspectives on life in the Alt Valley in the

Mesolithic period.

In connection with the heritage trails a formal application for funding for the proposed Ravenmeols heritage website has now been submitted, following encouraging discussion with Will Moody and Fiona Sunners, and a positive response is expected. We are also discussing the possibility of publication of a booklet on the coastal 'prehistoric footprints' already prepared by former member Gordon Roberts.

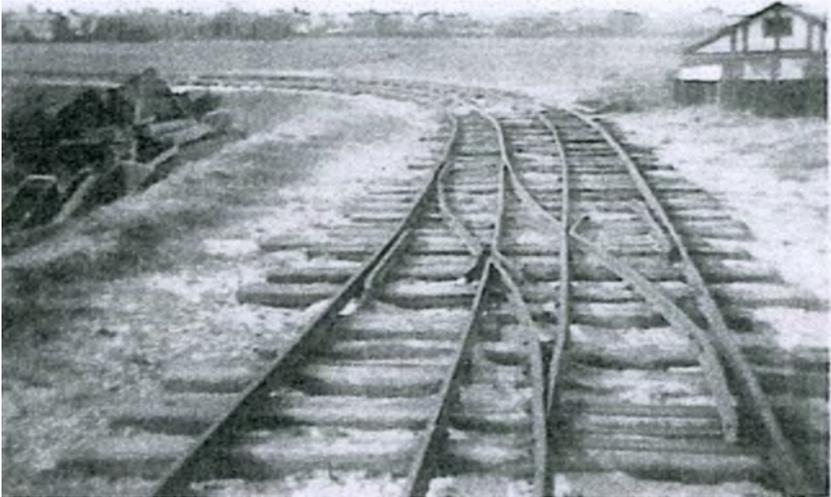
With the assistance of Jack Gore we were able to organise a very interesting 'guided visit' to the Ravenmeols 'Cold-War' Nuclear bunker for the Festival of British Archaeology on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July,

accompanied by several members of the former wartime crew. At the invitation of the Landscape Partnership I gave a talk on the history of the Formby Lifeboat-station at St Luke's meeting room on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Our publication on this is now out of print. Logically the next step would be to republish it as an e-book, particularly as it is now recognised as having been the 'World's first', not just 'Britain's first'. The BBC are interested in including something about it in a future programme.

Finally our audit of the Sibley 'originals', kindly being undertaken by Colin Cooke, is progressing well. It has been suggested however that the watercolours should be rescanned as the images at present displayed on the web do not do justice to the originals. Finally, further consideration needs to be given to their final 'resting place' in the light of the very considerably improved facilities at the Atkinson Library and Gallery and the willingness already expressed by Sefton to accept on-going responsibility for them. R.A.Y.



## The taking of Cabin Hill by Reg Yorke



*The derelict Cabin Hill Light Railway siding, photographed in 1954 after sandwinning ceased. The locomotive shed is shown in the middle distance accessed by a track which runs left to right beyond the curve at a lower level, entering the shed from the left hand side. Also of note on the extreme left is a pile of steel V-skips piled up at the bottom of the embankment - a sure sign of abandonment (Photo Courtesy Narrow Gauge Railway Society and Keith Burgess).*

In the mid-19th century Cabin Hill was a particularly large sand dune in one of the most remote areas of the Sefton coast. There, a small area of land close to the trackway which ran east of Cabin Hill between the dunes and Marsh Farm, and which provided a footpath to the original Formby Chapel from the South, was enclosed from the sandy waste as a smallholding. A simple wood-framed cottage erected on this site may have been the ‘Cabin’ from which the giant sand hill to seaward subsequently took its name. The only other neighbouring structure of any significance was a tall wooden beacon, a lonely but important landmark for ships entering and leaving the Mersey and clearly shown on navigation charts.

Cabin Hill farm, situated on land owned by the Formby family was in fact right on the boundary between Formby and Altcar, a straight line running from Hoggs Hill right down to the sea. The Rifle Range was established in 1860 on the southern side of the boundary and included an area recovered from the sea at the mouth of the Alt, known as Balling’s Wharf. Between this small area of farmland and the sea the dunes reached a considerable height.

‘Sand winning’ on the coast in the late 19th/early 20th centuries enabled local farmers to extend their activities towards the sea, particularly for the cultivation of asparagus. This was of course encouraged by the landowners,

who in Ravenmeols were the Formby family. The landowners were very happy to sell their sand, originally at six pence per ton, but ‘sand-winning’ was initially on a small scale in scattered areas among the dunes. By the early 20th century, however the process became truly industrialised, nowhere more so than here on this remote area of the coast and on a somewhat surprising scale.

The key operators of this ‘industrial’ approach were not from Formby but were in fact two Birkdale Coal Merchants - Ernest Edwin Sherstone, originally from Yorkshire, and Harold Owen, who in August 1931 formally created ‘The Southport Sand Company Ltd’, a limited company registered under the Companies Act 1929 with a nominal capital of £1,500 divided into 1500 ordinary shares. Their Memorandum of Association states their ‘objects’ in extremely sweeping terms beginning with:-

“to establish, purchase, or by any other means acquire and carry on the business or businesses of sand and gravel getting, quarrying, mining, developing and exploring and working sand pits, and loads, mines, quarries and deposits and dressing, manufacturing or otherwise treating sand, gravel, stone, clay, metals, coal, minerals or mineral substances and products of any kind” Harold Owen was Company Secretary, and the company was registered

on 8th August 1931. It remains in existence to this day.

Until the late 1940s working sand on private land was largely outside any official control, simply a matter of negotiation between landowner and contractor. There are no official records until the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act came into force. But it may be significant that in 1931 the health and highways committee resolved that the police be informed of the dangerous speeds at which sand wagons were being driven along Andrews Lane. It seems to be at that time that the Southport Sand Company invested their capital in a "Sand Railway".

Mr Brian Young living in Andrews Lane from a boy, being a railway enthusiast, is able to remember much about the rail activities connected with sand-winning. "As far as I can remember, the sand railway ran from an elevated platform alongside the Liverpool to Southport electric line opposite the old Lancashire & Yorkshire Power station to a point west of Cabin Hill farm. The track which has now been adopted as a footpath to the beach was of a gauge of about 2ft and a number of four-wheeled chassis side-tipping wagons were hauled by a Simplex petrol engine. Sand was loaded into the wagons by some mechanical means - drag line or bucket digger - and then brought in to a wooden elevated structure alongside the standard gauge siding of the main line which held

up to six standard open wagons into which the sand was tipped and collected the next day by a pick-up goods train which left 'empties' to be filled".

This and other sand winning efforts in January 1964 caused the Formby Times to ask "*are the days of sand-dunes numbered? The threatened extinction of this precious hilly asset is nearer than many would hope. Already it is forecast that the sand-dunes will disappear completely by the early 1970's..... unless stronger measures of control are implemented by local authorities at Crosby, Formby and West Lancashire. Sand-winning has continued for 60 years, and only in the past decade has the voice of officialdom called a stop along the coast.....*"

Finally a minute of the Formby Urban District Council, Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee, dated 27th February 1956, stated:- "Sand working at Cabin Hill, Formby, for the Southport Sand Company Ltd. - the Engineer and Surveyor reported on the decision of the County Planning Committee to refuse planning consent to this application, for the following reason:- "*That further removal of sand from the area of application would be detrimental to the amenity of the area and will give rise to the risk of inundation by the sea.....*"

*Resolved - that the report be received".*

We can assume that the planning

application was in fact refused and this was the end of sand-winning at Cabin Hill but unfortunately not in Formby as a whole, as permission was finally given for the last sand extraction at two sites between Lifeboat Rd and Wicks Lane on appeal in 1967.

The one sand contractor who had revolutionised sandwinning on this coast by the Southport Sand Company was Yorkshireman Ernest Sherstone who decided that the 'horse and cart' method of transporting sand was "laborious , inefficient and slow" and built his own narrow gauge railway from the Liverpool -Southport line to the dunes and in a space of 20 years "flattened numerous dunes"

Historical aerial photographs do clearly show an extensive area of sand winning at the seaward extremity of the sand railway extending in a northerly direction towards Range Lane, carried out apparently without planning permission. According to Alan Crosby this work had seemingly breached the sandhills behind the shore and it was stated in 1952 that "if retrospective approval were to be granted, the developer must build up a 23 foot high sand barrier, 10 yards deep, to fill the breach". This does not seem to have happened as an authoritative report ten years later on 'Coastal problems between Southport and Crosby', commissioned by Lancashire County Council, pointed out the possibility of the dunes being breached by a storm surge to the inland area and

proposed a clay bank, “along the east side of the training ground to the higher ground south of Formby” with a top-level of 25 feet above Ordnance Datum. The coast protection authorities then made orders prohibiting further removal of sand without permission but the proposed flood-barrier was not created until 1970/71, when following a report by the Hydraulics Research Station, the then Mersey and Weaver River authority finally built a flood defence barrier 780 m long costing £23,000.

Having exhausted Cabin Hill, the

Southport Sand Company shifted its interest northward, introducing a new method of sand winning at Southport which involved sucking sand by machinery from sandbanks at low water, a short distance from the water’s edge. The sand obtained by this method was said to “contain the necessary properties for furnace and industrial operation and prevents further mining in the dunes”. It continued until very recently. The Southport Sand Company, whose work base on Marine Drive recently closed, still officially exists with two directors and has

continued to produce annual reports but is now part of the larger Paul Armstrong group of companies based in Workington, Cumbria.

Meanwhile, as Phil Smith has recorded, there was some benefit, the Cabin Hill ‘borrow-pits’ from which sand was excavated to make the flood barrier has become one of the most important Natterjack Toad breeding sites on the coast; this was then the prime reason for the establishment of the Cabin Hill National Nature Reserve!

## Wildlife Notes by Dr Phil Smith

The spring and summer of 2013 were characterised by extreme weather, starting with the coldest March since 1962. However, we were lucky to avoid the deep snowfall that affected many other places. With temperatures averaging 3.6°C below normal, most spring migrants were in short supply; I didn’t see a wheatear until 26<sup>th</sup> March – a smart male on Birkdale shore. A few skylarks were singing that afternoon but the icy breeze was more reminiscent of January.

Tragically, seventeen Herdwick sheep were killed by a large dog on Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve, meaning that the survivors had to be sent back early to Cumbria and just in time for the late March blizzard. This was doubly unfortunate, as the valuable work

done by the livestock in keeping coarse vegetation under control was curtailed.

Continuing the same theme, April was the coldest since 1989, resulting in most wildflowers appearing several weeks late, a trend that was maintained well into the summer. Thus, many of the dune annuals, including Spring Vetch, were still flowering in June. Insects were also badly affected; I saw no dragonflies in May, while only a handful of Orange Tips and Speckled Woods could be found in the Ravenmeols woods.

There was some good news, however, with record numbers of Green-winged Orchids at Altcar Rifle Range (over 26,000), much enjoyed by visitors on several guided walks to

this normally restricted site. Then a new plant for the coast turned up on road verges at Hightown - Clustered Clover (*Trifolium glomeratum*) - a southern species that has only been recorded once before in northwest England. Patches of the plant were found along almost the full length of Thornbeck Avenue but how it got there is a mystery.

In late May, the presence of Red Band Needle Blight was confirmed in the Sefton Coast woodlands. This serious fungal disease mainly affects Corsican Pine, the dominant conifer here. The characteristic reddening of needles, especially on young trees in sheltered locations, was widely visible. Having stopped planting Corsican Pine, the

Forestry Commission recommends other plantation owners to find alternatives.

Early spring was also excessively dry, resulting in a spate of grass fires along the coast at the end of March. The most serious extended for a kilometre along the frontal dunes at Ravenmeols and Cabin Hill nature reserves, leaving a blackened and apparently lifeless landscape. There was great concern about possible impacts on Sand Lizard colonies and the overwintering stages of butterflies and other insects. Fortunately, however, the burn was quick and superficial. The lizards were probably safe hibernating in their burrows and the dunes rapidly greened up again. By July, the abundance of wildflowers and butterflies, such as Common Blues, Gatekeepers and Peacocks, in the burnt areas suggested that adverse effects were minimal, while the removal of a dense thatch of dead grass may even have been beneficial.

Warmer weather in June led at last to a spectacular hatch of dragonflies, Four-spotted and Broad-bodied Chasers being especially widespread on the coastal wetlands and in good



*Four-spotted chaser dragonfly*

numbers. The now regular appearance of White Satin moths on Ainsdale Sandhills Local Nature Reserve was also up to standard, with swarms of these startlingly white moths appearing from mid-June, this being one of the great wildlife spectacles on the Sefton dunes.

Although the dry spring led to the rapid loss of some Natterjack breeding pools, others fared better and several sites, including new scrapes dug the previous winter, produced good numbers of toadlets, probably the most successful breeding for five years.

More extreme weather, this time a prolonged heatwave, gave rise to the hottest July since the record-breaker of 2006, though rainfall was about average. Duneland insects responded to the increasing temperatures, with the



*Pallid Marsh helleborine*

welcome appearance of large numbers of butterflies, such as Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Small Skippers and Common Blues. Even Small Coppers, which had been non-existent earlier, began to be seen in small numbers. This

was a relief as recent inclement summers have contributed to the well-documented large-scale declines of many British butterfly species over recent decades. The extensive, flower-rich dunes of the Sefton Coast still provide a refuge for butterflies and moths that were ubiquitous when I was growing up but which have been excluded from much of our countryside by agricultural and other changes.

Dragonflies also enjoyed the heatwave, nine species being recorded at a group of ponds in the Birkdale frontal dunes that were restored in March 2012 as part of a Landscape Partnership Project. Both the variety of species and population numbers have increased since the overgrowth of aquatic vegetation and scrub was controlled. Also in July, hundreds of Common Darters emerged from the still-flooded Devil's Hole blow-out at Ravenmeols, their gold-tinted wings shimmering in the sunshine. Nearby, the drier dunes supported huge numbers of bright pink Pyramidal Orchids, while wet-slacks in several areas along the coast produced a dazzling display of Marsh Helleborines. I

was particularly pleased to find a new population of the rare pallid form var. *ochroleuca* of this orchid at Cabin Hill National Nature Reserve.

Although the news didn't get out until later, Cabin Hill also provided one of the ornithological highlights of the summer when a pair of Garganey bred successfully, producing six young. Confirmed breeding of this southern duck has rarely been recorded before in Lancashire or North Merseyside and then usually at the RSPB's Leighton Moss reserve, Silverdale. Another unexpected breeder at Cabin Hill was the Reed Warbler.

Amongst many ongoing surveys of dune flora and fauna is a study of Isle of Man Cabbage at Crosby Marine Park. This British endemic, confined to Irish Sea



*Forester moth*

coasts, is one of our most iconic species but its important Crosby colony was damaged by sand-removal for a coast protection scheme in 2011. However, the silver lining is that the population has recovered well from seed uncovered by the disturbance. Patricia Lockwood and I counted 1170 plants, many of them flowering vigorously on the area

from which sand was removed. Nearby, a transplanted population, though much smaller, seems to be getting established. Meanwhile, new colonies have grown up at Hightown from seed carried in the Crosby sand used to reinforce the eroding dunes.

At the end of July, a group of friends took part in a 15 minute "big butterfly count" for Butterfly Conservation at Pinfold Meadow on Ainsdale NNR. A total of 81 individuals of seven butterflies and three moths was logged, the most numerous being Meadow Brown with 38 counted. Among the moths was the Forester, this site being the best on the coast for this rare "Lincoln green" day-flyer. Indeed, a visit a few days earlier had found 21, equalling last year's highest count.

## Hoghton Tower and Brockholes visit; by David Poole

On Thursday 18th July 2013 a party of 37 members and friends joined the coach in Formby on a beautiful sunny day for the short journey to Hoghton Tower, which is situated between Blackburn and Preston. On arrival we were greeted by the staff and guides before moving into the restaurant for coffee and biscuits. We were then divided into two groups to tour the historic



*The group outside Hoghton Tower*

fortified manor house which was built by Thomas Hoghton in 1565 and is still lived in by the De Hoghton family. The

house retains many of its original features and, we were told, many ghosts from the past. In fact it is considered to be amongst the most haunted houses in the country according to the British Paranormal Society!

We were told of the visit of King James I when he refused the offer of a bed in the state room in favour of his straw filled palliase in a much smaller room with only one door, such was his fear of assassination. He also surprised the host by riding his

horse up the staircase to his room – but what can you say to the King? Later he was famously so impressed by the joint of local loin of beef that he took out his sword and knighted it on the spot – hence ‘sirloin’.

Our guides also detailed the house’s connections with William Shakespeare (who tutored the family’s children) and Charles Dickens, who used the Tower as background to one of his novels. Finally we were able to view the mediaeval well and its working wooden gearing, and also the underground tunnels used for storage and access for the servants to the various wings of the building so that they would not be seen by the family or their guests. Our guides were extremely knowledgeable and were able to bring the whole experience to life.

After a slight delay due to an unfortunate fall which resulted in

one of our party being taken to Preston Infirmary for a check-up, we re-boarded the coach and travelled the short distance to the new Brockholes local nature reserve for lunch and free time to explore. The visitor centre and restaurant are unusual as they are built on a floating ‘island’ on one of the many lakes and therefore provide an excellent viewing platform for the wildlife. The afternoon however proved to be rather too hot for comfort so many of the party decided to relax with ice creams and just enjoy the summer afternoon!

The party returned via Preston Infirmary where we were reunited with our other members before driving back to Formby. You will be pleased to note that all was well that ended well as our fallen colleague was given a clean bill of health.

## Memories :-

1. *A History Group ‘Archive Evening’.*
2. *‘Viking Village’, published by the Society 1973.*
3. *Book Launch, ‘Formby, Through Time’ 2009*
4. *The Parish Boundary Walk, May 2000*
5. *The Asparagus Feast , 2013*
6. *Society Local History Display*
7. *Society visit to ‘Devil’s Hole’.2010*
8. *Society visit to Liverpool Cathedral*
9. *National Archaeology Week, 2006*
10. *Dickensian Day*
11. *Visit to Tide-poles*
12. *12 & 13 Celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2013*

## Treasurer’s Report by Jack Gore

At the end of March and the close of our financial year, there was again a deficit - this last year it was £1038. Our Annual Dinner at Formby Golf Club lost us around £200 as we had budgeted for a higher number of attendees. Nevertheless we have been supported by royalties from the books published by Reg and Barbara Yorke, £98, and indeed, direct sales of the latest publication which raised £51.

However the main impact on our cash flow comes from our running costs, over which we have little control. There is good news: since the year end there have been two significant functions. The Asparagus Feast was a considerable enterprise and I am pleased to report that we emerged with a small surplus of £1.50. The Summer Trip was unusually well subscribed; consequently we were able to give full refunds to those

who could not attend and we still made a surplus of £168. Subscriptions have now come in, but membership is falling and we face increased costs. Whilst we have adequate reserves to carry on for some time, I believe we must seriously consider whether the subscription needs to be raised. I should add that under the Society’s Constitution, my term of office ends in March 2014.

# Memories are made from this.....!



## Events Programme; September-December 2013

Thursday 12th September            “*My Work as a Local History Detective*”; Steve Halliwell,8

Thursday 10th October    ‘*A Missionary in Bangladesh*’; Valerie Hamilton;

Thursday 14th November        ‘*Classical Liverpool - An Inside Story*’; Hugh Hollinghurst.

Thursday 12th December        ‘*Fact or fabrication?*’; Pauline Mulford;

**2014 will be published separately later this year.**

### **Acting Chairman**

Dr Ray Derricott,

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1NT, tel 876661

### **Hon Treasurer**

Mr Jack Gore,

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1NN, tel 871411

### **Hon Secretary & History**

#### **Group Secretary**

Dr Reg Yorke,  
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### **Membership and**

#### **Distribution**

Mr Tony Bonney, 25  
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***The posts of Amenities Secretary and Programme Secretary are vacant at present;***

**Committee:-** Mrs Jean Beer, (Minutes Secretary), Noel Blundell, Colin Cooke, David Willis, David Skelton.

**Newsletter Editors:-** Margaret Cooke and Reg Yorke.

## 60th Anniversary Celebrations

***A note to convey to the Formby Civic Society and its members, the congratulations of the Merseyside Civic Society (MCS) on your reaching this major milestone in your existence.***

***You will be aware that this happy event is taking place in the year in which MCS is itself celebrating its own 75th anniversary. We thus share with you the satisfaction, and a certain amount of pride, at being able to reflect on such a long period of local civic commitment and achievement.***

***We are pleased to recognise that the Formby Civic Society has been among the most active and effective of the civic societies with which we share an affiliation with Civic Voice.***

***We trust that the Formby Civic Society can now look forward to a thriving future and will continue to build on its past achievements in rising to the fresh challenges that it faces.***

***Peter Brown (Dr)***

***Chair Merseyside Civic Society***