

# Formby Civic News

The Formby Civic Society

## Farmers Market Opinions

May 2004

In the last Newsletter we asked you for views on the idea of a Farmers' Market for Formby, this to be run on the same lines as the successful markets now being regularly held in Southport, Maghull and Bootle. Society members have given strong support for this idea. Of 67 replies, 74% are either 'interested' or 'very interested' 84% think that it would be 'good for Formby'. 56% would in addition, welcome more information. Two third of replies were from members who had actually shopped at such a market previously. Two members have written helpful and constructive reports.



Many of the stall holders we spoke to are keen to be invited to come to Formby but at a meeting of the newly established Formby Parish Council on Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> when this matter was raised, it transpired that Crosby is also bidding for this facility. This might mean that Sefton would then have more than its share. Meanwhile the Formby Parish Councillors have agreed to find out what the local shops and businesses feel about it. Our preliminary soundings suggest that the majority are strongly in favour and feel that, as has been proved in the other areas, it would be "good for business".

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## Freshfield Dune Heath Visit.

*The Wildlife Trust are seeking views on certain aspects of the future management of this new SSSI area. A visit for members of the Society to this hitherto forbidden area has been arranged for the evening of Thursday 10th June, to be lead by Fiona Robertson. (Please phone 872187 to confirm your participation).*



## Planning Matters by Ray Derricott.



*Ray Derricott discusses planning issues with the Civic Society's Martin Bacon.*

Since my report to the AGM the following planning and amenities issues have arisen: Hutchinson would like to erect a 10 metre 3G Base Station in the car park between the Pinewoods

Public House and the shops in Harrington Road to meet the demand for signals in Formby. That part of the car park is rarely used but the mast is near to a number of residences and there is some recent evidence that radiation generated by masts is higher than official allowed. The National Radiological Protection Board says that safety limits should be five times **lower** than they are now.

The Society is concerned about some basic necessities required by the local community. The possibility of opening a new retail outlet on the Kwik-save Car Park would reduce parking

places available to local motorists. Parking places are already at a premium in Formby. At a more basic level we are concerned by the proposal to demolish the Public Conveniences in the car park and replace them with a new facility. While this work is being carried out there will be no toilets available. At the moment it is possible to use the facilities in Safeway/Morrisons. What the community needs is a toilet block that is clean, attended and well managed. This cannot be said of the present facilities. The situation in Formby compares poorly with those in the centre of Maghull!

## Summer Outing to Norton Priory.

The Society Summer outing this year is to be to this interesting Museum and Gardens which were the subject of a BBC2 'Hidden Gardens' programme and also the opening chapter in the BBC publication 'More Hidden Gardens' published this year.

The Museum and Priory Museum Gallery tells the story of 850 years of exciting history from medieval Priory to Brooke family home. The St Chris-

topher Gallery, houses the museum's giant St Christopher statue, a wonder of medieval Europe, (Grade 1 listed), and the ancient Priory Undercroft.

The grounds include the Award-

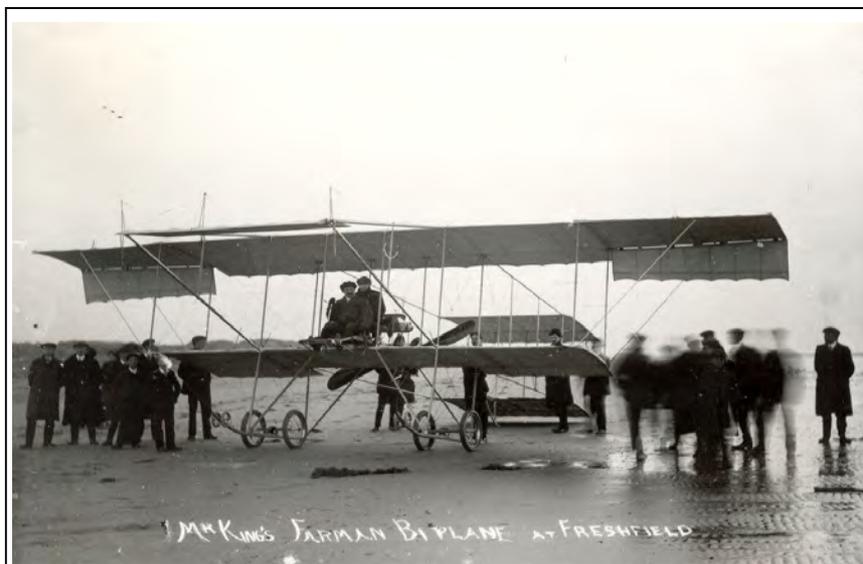
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*Over the past 2 years, the site has won seven major national and regional awards. These include the North West Tourist Board award "Tourism for All" for its excellent disabled access and a third, consecutive Sandford Award for excellence in education*

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winning 2.5 acre Georgian Walled Garden, an excellent Medieval Herb Garden (as seen on BBC2 Hidden Gardens'), and Woodland Gardens.

As if this were not enough there are unusual species of fruit trees, including the National Collection of tree quince, a Wildflower meadow, pear orchard and historic ice house. For further details and booking form see enclosed.



## Flying at Freshfield

'Sun, Sand & Silver Wings' is the title of a book published this month. Written by former pilot, John Mulliner, it describes the development of flying on the Sefton Coast. The first two chapters on the remarkable origins of flying here, deal with the period when no less than one third of the UK's licensed pilots, (five), had their planes at Freshfield. These chapters includes a good number of photographs from the Society archives. Copies are available from Pritchards Bookshop; £9.99p.



## The Society Website

The Committee recently looked at the Society website [www.formbycivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.formbycivicsociety.org.uk) 'live' for the first time as a committee by means of digital projection and discussed it with our Web-master Sam Gerrard. We hope that the text is easier to read now that the font-size has been increased. The amount of information on the site has increased since it went live and it will soon need an index or search facility. Having the Sibley Collection Data base 'on-line' is now something to be thought about. If we want to add many digital images we would need to pay for 'hosting'. (At present the website is not costing the Society anything, thanks to Sam). Sam had expected that more members would have contributed items and we wondered whether a 'Members Forum' or 'Guest-book' section would assist this? Please let us know what you think via our e-mail address which is [yorke@formbycivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:yorke@formbycivicsociety.org.uk)

## Society's Annual General Meeting.

The following were elected:-

Chairman; Dr. R. A. Yorke,

Vice-Chairman; Mr Alan Burton,  
Hon. Secretary; Mr David Willis,  
Hon Treasurer; Mr Mike Belshaw,  
Amenities Secretary; Mr Ray Derri-  
cott.

Additional Committee Members:-  
Mr. John Houston. Dr John Turner  
and Mr. Louis Procter.

History Group Secretary; Barbara  
Yorke. Art Group Secretary; Barbara  
Mossop.

In standing down from the Chair Barbara Yorke said that she has enjoyed her five years term of office and expressed her thanks to the committee and members for their support. She was in return thanked with a magnificent bouquet of flowers by David Willis on behalf of the Society for all her work. She was also thanked by the former Secretary who now takes over the Chairmanship. Alan Burton becomes the new Vice-Chairman and David Willis. Hon Secretary. Dr Yorke will remain Newsletter Editor.



*Barbara Yorke*

## Art Group Programme; Secretary Barbara Mossop

May; *Breakfast with the birds*—Sketching at Lydiate Hall Farm, followed by Breakfast.

June; *Painting horses*.

26th June *Open Air Art Exhibition*; Help with this would be appreciated.

July *Visit to the National Wildlife Exhibition* at Garsdale Nurseries, Burton; followed by sketching.

**Please Note:-** Any members interested in the above should contact me as soon as possible so that I can arrange dates to suit as many people as possible. (Tel 01704 873920).

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## The Formby Civic Society

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### Formby, Past, Present and Future

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

*Were due 1st April 2004*

Subscriptions for 2003 remain unchanged:

£10 Family. Husband, Wife and children under 18

£7 Individual Member

£1 Individual Member under 18.

A renewal form was enclosed in the last Newsletter for use by those members who pay by cheque or cash. The use of a Bank Standing Order is very helpful and forms for this purpose are available from the Treasurer, Mike Belshaw, Tel 874940.

The Society has benefited by reclaiming tax paid by members who are taxpayers under the Gift Aid) Scheme. At the present level of 28p in the £ this means a benefit to the Society of £2.80 for a family subscription and £1.96 for a single. Members to whom this is applicable. ie Taxpayers, who have not previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration are urged to use this facility to enable the Society to recover this money which will help us maintain subscriptions at the current level. If you are unsure whether you have completed a Gift Aid Declaration and wish to do so please telephone the Treasurer, (Tel 874940), who will check our records and supply the necessary form

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## Sefton Coastal Heritage Conference

**This Conference is to be held on Wednesday, 15th September 2004 at Formby Hall Golf Club, Formby, Nr. Liverpool**

Topics will include The Shore and Mosslands in Prehistoric times, Archaeology and History on a changing coastline, The Origins of Britain's First Life Boat Service, Human Influence on Sefton Dune Landscape, Fishing and Smuggling.

The conference, the first to discuss Sefton's history and archaeology, is being organised by the History and Archaeology Task Group on behalf of the Sefton Coast Partnership, with support from the Formby Civic Society.

Aimed at the general public as well as those with a more serious interest in the history and archaeology of the coastal area, it will stimulate interest, and encourage participation, in research, information and presentation of our Coastal Heritage.

Contributions will be presented in 'jargon free' language and illustrated by good quality visual material. Topics will include the results of recent research; the academic content will be high. Speakers will include staff of Liverpool Museum's Field Archaeology section, Sefton's Sites and Monuments officer, the authors of recent works on the origins of the Lifeboat service, Coastal Fishing and Sefton's

Rural Fringes and all are well known in their fields.

It is intended that the proceedings of the conference will be published

The organisers are grateful to Sefton MBC for financial support. Coffee Lunch and tea will be included in the cost of Registration which will be no more than £7 for the day.

**To register your interest in attending or for further information, contact Dr R. A. Yorke, Chair, Formby Civic Society, 3 Wicks Lan, Formby, Merseyside L37 3 JE**

Tel 01704 872187