

## Chelmsford U3A Travel Group – Liverpool September 2019

Thirty-three Group members participated in the Tailored Travel (TT) trip to Liverpool in late September. This company tailors the trip to participants' wishes and a full programme of cultural and other sites were included. After three pickups in Chelmsford the coach, exclusive to the Group, headed north. After a midday stop at the National Memorial Arboretum at Litchfield the party reached Liverpool and settled in a hotel where many had rooms overlooking the Mersey and near the famous Liver building. The hotel was well placed to walk around in the early evening the Albert Dock and the nearby sites although some of the evening meal arrangements might have been better.

And so to the first full day and visits to the twentieth century Catholic and Anglican cathedrals. Anthony Gormley's *'Another Place'*, 100 cast iron male figures moulded from the artist's own body placed on a beach at Crosby (somewhat drizzly and windswept on the day). Then there were Liverpool Library and the Walker Gallery. During all this the TT expert guide told us about Liverpool and conveyed her love of her city to us through her knowledge, stories and joy.



**Not everyone  
emerged in time for  
this one, but smiles  
all round outside the  
Walker Gallery**

And the guide remained with the party for the second full day with a tour around Port Sunlight, the Lady Lever Art Gallery on the Wirral, and a visit to the National Trust's Speke Hall. The third day saw a visit to Manchester and its fine Lowry gallery with free time at Salford Keys. Liverpool, however, is a city with an extraordinary range of things to do and see and some stayed behind to enjoy these as there were museums, buildings and preserved houses, and tours (not least the Beatles Tour) to enjoy.

The journey home featured a visit to the National Trust's Quarry Bank. Sadly, the weather had turned and everyone got wet. The site was far too large to fully appreciate in the time available but spirits remained undampened to conclude another successful U3A Chelmsford Branch trip.

Philip Heady