



## Editorial

Welcome to the tenth edition of our new style newsletter. Back in the old days (before mid-March – You may remember those times!), the newsletter was issued three times a year and this was about the time of year when the Summer edition would appear. However, the start of lockdown prompted thoughts of “keeping in touch” and “providing something different” leading to the idea of producing a different sort of newsletter on a more frequent basis. Since then the newsletter has been emerging on a two-weekly basis (except this one which has awaited the conclusion of the revised AGM procedures).

As restrictions are being eased, the opportunities to meet family and friends are increasing and the amount of useful information to be communicated is decreasing. Hence this seems to be the time to decrease the frequency of publication. The newsletters will still appear especially if there is information to impart. You will just have to wait a little longer for the answers to those annoying puzzles to appear.

Member contributions are still welcomed so if you would like to participate in the next edition, send text and pictures to [news@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:news@poyntonu3a.org.uk).

## Poynton U3A Update

### AGM Outcome

Since we were not able to complete the AGM process through a physical meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March, we followed the Charity Commission advice that a “virtual” meeting could be held provided that all members were included so that decisions might be taken. This was accomplished for our 471 members by electronic or postal means.

The four items which needed to be considered to satisfy our constitutional and/or operational requirements were -

- Approval of the minutes of the 2019 AGM
- Approval for giving authority to the Executive Committee to increase (if/when it deems necessary within the next three years) the membership fees in order to cover increases in costs and maintain the integrity of Poynton U3A’s financial position, reporting back to the AGM on an annual basis.
- Approval of 3 new Committee Members
- Approval of an auditor.

The period for response has now ended and each of these proposals has been agreed.

We are now in a position to turn our eyes from the past to the future. There is a sense in which trying to come to terms with such an uncertain future which seems at the moment to lie before us is doomed to failure. "Anything can happen." But that's not an acceptable answer. Each month will bring changes and sooner or later these will lead to a post pandemic future. We need to design our own future to fit in with this as we see it develop. Your small committee cannot be expected to come up with all the answers alone – which is why we will be seeking input from the much greater knowledge and ideas base which is our members – YOU!

*This report is being sent by post to all Poynton U3A members who do not have e-mail.*

**David Sewart**

## **Members' Contributions**

### **My New Normal**

Having spent three months in New Zealand, the last two in various stages of lockdown but eventually to a stage when no new cases were being found, we knew that life back at home would be very different and take some getting used to. It was like going back six weeks! We stayed at home for two weeks only going out to the supermarket, with our masks on even then. The long-awaited reunion with family and friends had to wait another 2-3 weeks, even then we were only allowed contact with one of our daughters and grandchildren, at a distance in their garden. All my regular activities and meetings were cancelled for the foreseeable future, no walking netball, exercise classes, Morris dancing, U3A activities and monthly meetings. Fortunately, I have been able to 'meet' most of my various groups regularly thanks to 'Zoom'. Technology can be a blessing!

The garden however got a lot of attention! Fences were painted and repaired, weeding done, vegetables sown and borders mulched. The freezer was sorted out and out of date items binned. Last year's blackcurrants however were not wasted, they swiftly became jam!

I became aware of a lot of community sewing being done by friends and family, scrubs and laundry bags for medical staff, masks for anybody. This was something I could do! Both of my daughters were involved with different groups so I soon got the sewing machine dusted off and threaded up. Material was passed on to me that had been donated along with a pattern for a simple apron with a front pocket. I was soon in full swing!

In between sewing and gardening I felt I also needed some exercise, living so close to countryside this wasn't difficult. The Macclesfield Canal and Middlewood Way are easily accessed either on foot or by the local bus. In late June the National Trust started opening their country parks to the public via an on line booking system, followed a few weeks later by their gardens. My first visit was to Lyme Park where I normally work as a Garden

Engagement volunteer. During lockdown only the Head Gardener was allowed to work then later on the Assistant Head Gardener joined her. They obviously had to prioritise the work needing to be done so some areas were left to nature! Not a bad thing as I enjoyed seeing the wild flowers, including orchids, alive with insects! Our next visit was to Quarry Bank Mill, similarly there were areas left to go wild in the garden but this didn't detract from the enjoyment of the visit.

Drinks were available to take out and toilets were open. The third garden visit was to Dunham Massey. Again, enormous effort had been made to provide a worthwhile visit to the garden despite staff having been furloughed. The rose garden was looking lovely as was the long border alongside the stream.

Even if you can't get to these gardens, just on a walk round Poynton you will come across some very pretty, well-tended front gardens.

With the Leisure Centre not due to open until early September and no U3A meetings/activities going on, I shall enjoy my new 'normal' routine instead!

If you have taken up a new hobby or interest since lockdown, please consider sharing your experience with other U3A members by writing about it! Send your article to [news@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:news@poyntonu3a.org.uk).



Top left: Lyme Park

Top right: Quarry Bank

Bottom left: Dunham Massey

**Kate Marsham**

## Buses, Boats and Birds

On 10th July I retrieve my bus pass from the bag where it has lain untouched since before the start of “lockdown” on 19th March, and decide, as restrictions ease, it is time to use it again. With a little trepidation I board the bus at 9.24am, wearing compulsory face mask on public transport. The 391/392 bus between Stockport and Macclesfield is brand new, one of a fleet run since April by the company “Go Goodwins”. The hourly timetable is unchanged and it is no longer necessary to pay a fare if travelling before 9.30 am. There are very few passengers on these buses at the moment. It is a ten-minute ride to the Boars Head at Higher Poynton, my stop. I thank the driver and ask if the buses are sanitised daily, he replies “Yes” and I am reassured.

Before starting my walk along the canal towpath. I make for Braidbar Boats to see what is under construction. Two canal boats are nearing completion. They are the traditional shape and size and look very modern and chic in livery of maroon, black and cream. The Trading Post is open for boat supplies. Refreshments on sale in the shop include ice cream, hot and cold drinks and snacks. The outside seating area has been cleared of tables and chairs.

It is a cool damp day, and as I expect, the towpath is quiet, so there is no problem with social distancing, and I can concentrate on nature. I come across a swathe of wildflowers growing along the canal bank - tall rosebay willowherb and knapweed, and in the grass red clover and common orchid, a palette of shades of pink and green.

There are some birds to be heard, a hovering buzzard mewing in the distance, a woodpecker flies over, calling, and a small flock of goldfinches chatter to each other as they flit from bush to bush. Then I hear the unmistakable twittering of swallows, and I spot three young ones, perched, in a row, on the wire fencing on the other side of the canal. They call insistently to their parents to come and feed them. There are similar small family groups all along the side fence of the sheep field. There must be twenty adults swooping over the field and canal, adeptly catching insects. The recent unseasonal wet weather means a bonanza. Every few moments the young swallows take off to be fed by their parents on the wing. As their forked tails are not yet fully developed, they lack the aerial agility of the adults.

It is a forty five-minute walk to the turn off at the Miners Arms, then I take the road down towards Wardsend where the damaged bridge is still under repair, open only to pedestrians. Coming to the end of my walk I consider my next bus ride, to Middlewood for Jackson’s Brickworks, or to Bollington for a walk along the Middlewood Way?

**Vivienne Arnold**

## Lockdown Numbers Quiz

I would like to thank all those who supported this quiz. It was intended to be a bit of fun to help to pass a few hours while we were in these rather strange times. Over the years I had set a number of quizzes for different groups mainly to help with fund raising. Lockdown seemed the appropriate opportunity for a quiz but distribution was the initial problem. Various groups to which I belong helped with this and I hope has helped to pass a few hours of Lockdown. Fund raising was not the initial aim but I know that many have sent donations to various charities as U3A has (£50), and I have received donations totalling £140 for the EC Hospice and £95 for the EC Eye society.

Thanks go to Angela White who has checked the marking for me.

Sorting out the prizes is the most unsatisfying part of the job. I feel very mean docking half a mark when a word has not been filled in but I think it is fair. From members of Poynton U3A I received 17 entries but many of you passed it on to friends, so I have had entries from as far afield as Edinburgh and Hampshire. Prizes have been arranged for each of the groups mentioned and, if an entry did not fall into one of the groups, then a prize has been arranged for the "Others"

The following were the all correct entries from Poynton U3A.

Wendy Bailey  
Kate Burton  
Susan Edwards  
Peter and Janet Gill  
Madeleine Kingham and James Hogan  
Susan Knight  
Vicki Miller  
Patricia Pawley  
Rosemary Spencer  
Mrs Chris Williams

From this group, a winner was drawn and the prize winners were **Peter and Janet Gill** (pictured right with their prize).



**Eileen Shore**

*(The answers to the Lockdown Numbers Quiz are on Page 11.)*

## The People You Meet Online in Lockdown.

Like lot's of people in lockdown I had been catching up with the unread books on the bookshelf at home. Until I finally ran out of my favourite writers. As our local library was closed as were the bookshops, and there was also a wait for books to download, my husband suggested ebay for a new or second hand book. One of my favourite authors is Susan Hill. She is famous for writing, 'The Women in Black' which is still playing, or was, at a theatre in the West End and has been for the last twenty-seven years. She also writes short stories, novels, ghost stories and the Serrailer series of crime writing. I pondered the books on ebay trying to remember which stories I had read and others I hadn't, in the end choosing a paperback of the Serrailer series. As my husband has an account on ebay he dealt with the technical side and ordered the chosen paperback. I waited a while for the book to arrive but it didn't. My husband emailed ebay to enquire where it was.

1) email, husband to bookseller via ebay,

Hi, The book ordered on 16th June has not arrived, can you please advise.

2) email, bookseller to husband,

Hello, It was definitely posted. I am sorry I am not sure if I have another. If I find one I will let you know and post it, otherwise I will refund you. No idea what happened, post lets me down rarely but not 'never!' Best Wishes.

3) email husband to bookseller

Hi thanks for the prompt response, if you have another that's fine. Not to bothered if it has the authors signature. Regards

4) email bookseller to husband

Well, I am upset about that! Best

At this point we reread the email and was a little puzzled about the response? At the bottom of the email the bookseller had put the name of the author and the title of the book. We thought, as a reminder of what we had ordered. Why would the bookseller be upset about a signature? We checked the eBay tag at the top of the email and didn't recognise the name. We gave this some thought! People use different email address, other than their own name. You don't always know who you are really talking to, especially online. We reread the other emails and again noticed the bookseller had put the authors name on the bottom? We then had a light bulb moment! And after some discussion and head-scratching we realised, could it be we were actually speaking to Susan Hill herself? If so, an apology was needed.

5) email Bob to Susan

I must apologise if you are the author Susan Hill I didn't make the connection. The book was purchased for my wife (also called Susan) who is an avid Susan Hill fan and she sends warmest regards. This cock-eyed approach by me will make a smashing topic of conversation when my wife's writing group next meet. Regards Bob.

6) email Susan to Bob

Ha, well I have managed to dry my tears and get over myself. Please don't worry and I just posted your replacement, Though I'm afraid I tried to erase my signature but failed. Best wishes Susan.

7) email Bob to Susan

Thank you that's excellent and with your help I have just scraped back into my wife's good books. Best wishes Bob.

A couple of days later I heard the postman deliver a parcel through the letterbox. It hit the floor with a loud thud. I picked it up, it felt quite heavy for just a paperback? I took it into the kitchen and placed it on the windowsill to 'air a bit'. (Not sure if this dilutes any 'Covid-19' germs on the post, but worth a try!) On opening the parcel, we discovered that Susan Hill had sent us her latest novel 'With the Benefit of Hindsight' A signed hardback copy. For me this was a real treat as I knew I hadn't read it. As the book was worth far more than the paperback plus postage, we felt we should offer to pay the difference or give a donation to one of her favourite charities. She sent us a link to her chosen charity.

8) email Susan to Bob

Hello, no payment of course but if you would like to, I know the charity I support would be extremely grateful for anything. It is a charity I greatly admire because every penny goes to those needing support... it is [www.acts435.org.uk](http://www.acts435.org.uk) Thank you I hope the book will be enjoyed and I read that lemon juice may work in attempt to erase the signature. Best wishes Susan.

It did cross our minds why a very successful author would be selling her books online. But if you think about it there was no bookshops open, no literary festivals, no book signing for any new novels and the theatres are all closed. It was the logical place for any author to sell their latest work, online. To be able to converse with them personally, all be it in a small way, lightened the lockdown mood.

**Susan J Pyett.**

## Things to Do

### Colourisation

Something else to try – adding colour to old back-and-white photographs using software available on the internet – a process known as colourisation (or, if you are American, colorization). Here is an example.



The black-and-white photograph was taken around 1900

I used the site <https://demos.algorithmia.com/colorize-photos>. I'm sure there are other options available. You simply upload a scanned copy of your photograph, the result is displayed on your screen and then you can download the outcome. The ones I have done have been free but there may be a charge if you try and do lots of colourisations.

I don't know how this process works. The website says the process uses Artificial Intelligence presumably performing training using many photos with known colours. In the above example, we cannot check if the jacket was red but the other colours look acceptable. Also, with other examples, areas that are grass or trees appear as greens.

(Limited) experience has demonstrated that not all colourisations turn out as well as the one shown above!

**Derek Gatenby**



## “Connect” Puzzle

How did you get on with the first one? Here is another one to have a go at with the answer to the first one below. As before, re-arrange the words below into 4 categories and state the categories.

Peep	Maker	Under the Weather	Ottery St Catchpole
Sodor	Royston Vasey	School	Sick
Unwell	Downton	Doctor	Midsomer
Work	Poorly	Brookside	Peaky

Titles:	Earl, Duke, Baron, Viscount
Things to go on toast:	Butter, Nutella, Jam, Cheese
Lady...:	Madonna, Marmalade, Gaga, Bird
Singers:	Prince, Sting, Rihanna, Adele

[The “Connect” puzzles were created by **Mat McClaren** (not a U3A member) and supplied with permission by **Wendy Bailey**.]

Sudoku No 10

						8		
	5	4					7	
		1	7		2		5	
7								
		2		4	5	3		
6	3	8	1			4		
5							4	
3	1				7	6		
				8				

Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9

Below is the solution to No 9

1	4	2	3	9	6	5	7	8
3	5	9	8	7	1	2	6	4
7	8	6	5	4	2	9	3	1
6	1	4	2	3	7	8	5	9
5	3	7	4	8	9	6	1	2
2	9	8	1	6	5	3	4	7
4	6	3	9	1	8	7	2	5
9	7	5	6	2	4	1	8	3
8	2	1	7	5	3	4	9	6

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Whose postal address was 1 London?
2. Who had a house with the sign “Trespassers *W*” outside?
3. Who was the owner of “Manderlay”?
4. Which house in Poynton was used as an auxiliary hospital during WW1?
5. Who lived in Bateman’s in Burwash?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. What was Christian name of the character played by Yul Brynner in the 1960 film *The Magnificent Seven*?  
*Chris – surname Larabee-Evans*
2. Which 1950s film was banned from being shown in cinemas in Stockport because of fears of rioting but was shown at The Brookfield Cinema in Poynton?  
*1956 Rock Around the Clock*
3. Who played the title character in the 1979 film “Mad Max”?  
*Mel Gibson*
4. Name the Korean film which won the Academy Award for best picture in 2019.  
*Parasite*
5. Former child star Shirley Temple became U.S.A. Ambassador to which two countries?  
*Czechoslovakia and Ghana*

## Internet Culture

The amount of free online content has now declined. For example, the National Theatre productions are becoming available in cinemas. The Proms continue on platforms across the BBC (as Sue Barker has said of Wimbledon in previous years).

## Keeping in Touch

If you know of any U3A member who is feeling isolated and not on email, please contact them to let them know that they can phone Jayne or Sandra to be added to our telephone list.

## Town Council Information

The Town Council website has up-to-date information about Poynton on its website - [www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/poyntontowncouncil/>

## Lockdown Numbers Quiz Answers

1. 1 MAN and his DOG
2. 2 PINTS in a QUART
3. 3 MEN in n BOAT
4. 4 SEASONS in a YEAR
5. 5 GOLD RINGS
6. 6 BALLS in an OVER
7. 7 DAYS in a WEEK
8. 8 TENTACLES on an OCTOPUS
9. 9 SYMPHONIES of BEETHOVEN
10. The 10 COMMANDMENTS
11. 11 PLAYERS in a FOOTBALL TEAM
12. 12 MONTHS in a YEAR
13. 13 in a BAKER'S DOZEN
14. 14 POUNDS in a STONE
15. 15 PLAYERS in a RUGBY UNION TEAM
16. 16 OUNCES in a POUND
17. 17 is the 7\* PRIME NUMBER
18. 7 COLOURS of the RAINBOW
19. COVID-19 PANDEMIC in 2020
20. 20 in a SCORE
21. 21 SHILLINGS in a GUINEA
22. 22 YARDS is the LENGTH of a CRICKET PITCH
23. 2 GENTLEMEN of VERONA
24. 24 HOURS in a DAY
25. 24 BLACKBIRDS BAKED in a PIE
26. 26 LETTERS in the ALPHABET
27. 12 DAYS of CHRISTMAS
28. 14 LINES in a SONNET
29. 29 DAYS in FEBRUARY in a LEAP YEAR
30. 3 FEET in a YARD
31. 3 MUSKETEERS
32. 4 INCHES in a HAND
33. 10 DOWNING STREET
34. SNOW WHITE and the 7 DWARFS
35. 3 WISE MEN
36. 4 FIRKINS in a BARREL
37. CATCH 22
38. 1 FLEW over the CUCKOO'S NEST
39. FULL FATHOM 5 thy FATHER LIES
40. 40 DAYS in LENT
41. 7 HILLS Of ROME
42. 10 GREEN BOTTLES HANGING on the WALL
43. 1760 YARDS in a MILE
44. ROUND the WORLD in 80 DAYS
45. 1952 The YEAR the QUEEN came to the THRONE
46. 3 LITTLE MAIDS from SCHOOL
47. 39 ARTICLES or RELIGION
48. 76 TROMBONES
49. 6 FEET in o FATHOM
50. 20,000 LEAGUES under the SEA
51. 101 DALMATIONS
52. 1066 BATTLE of HASTINGS
53. 4 GOSPELS
54. 7 DEADLY SINS
55. 220 YARDS in a FURLONG
56. 26 MILES 385 YARDS the length of a MARATHON
57. HEINZ 57 VARIATIES
58. The 39 STEPS by JOHN BUCHAN
59. 66 BOOKS in the BIBLE
60. 60 MINUTES in an HOUR
61. 147 MAXIMUM BREAK in SNOOKER
62. A TALE of 2 CITIES by CHARLES DICKENS
63. 1914 START of the FIRST WORLD WAR
64. 365 DAYS inn YEAR
65. 12 DISCIPLES
66. 4840 SQUARE YARDS in mi ACRE
67. 3 WHEELS on a TRICYCLE
68. 1000 MILLIMETRES in a METRE
69. 12 Pairs of RIBS in the HUMAN BODY
70. FAHRENHEIT 451 by RAY BRADBURY
71. The 6 WIVES of HENRY the EIGHTH
72. 3 COINS in a FOUNTAIN
73. 8 PINTS In a GALLON
74. OVERTURE 1812
75. 150 PSALMS in the BIBLE
76. 650 MEMBERS of PARLIAMENT
77. The 64000 DOLLAR QUESTION
78. 20 QUIRES equal I REAM
79. SING a SONG of 6 PENCE
80. 1815 BATTLE of WATERLOO
81. APOLLO 11 took the FIRST MEN to the MOON
82. The 7 WONDERS of the WORLD
83. 8 AUGUST 1963 The GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY
84. It TAKES 2 to TANGO
85. WHEN I'M 64 by the BEATLES
86. The 3 DEGREES
87. The 4 HORSEMEN of the APOCALYPSE
88. 8 NOTES in an OCTAVE
89. 1969 The FIRST MAN on the MOON
90. 6 FACES on a CUBE
91. 8 LEGS ono SPIDER
92. LADY JANE GREY the 9 DAY QUEEN
93. 21 SPOTS on a DIE
94. 2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY
95. 6 of ONE and HALF a DOZEN of the OTHER
96. The 9 TAILORS by DOROTHY L SAYERS
97. The 7 YEAR ITCH
98. 2012 OLYMPICS in LONDON
99. 4 STRINGS on a VIOLIN
100. 5 JEROBOAMS in a NEBUCHADNEZZAR