



Poynton News

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Editorial

Welcome to the fourth edition of our new style newsletter. In this issue there are details of how to help with Covid-19 research.

When you look through this edition you will see that we have reached the stage where little new information is available and members' contributions are much more important. Thanks to everybody who has contributed so far. If you feel you can contribute, please send text and pictures to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk, preferably text in Word format and pictures as jpgs.

Poynton U3A

Volunteers

The volunteering system is fairly quiet. It is presumed this means that the people are finding ways to obtain what they need using the many self-help groups and supportive neighbours.

Again, 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.

Information

Get involved fighting Covid-19

A research study is underway to track down the spread of Covid-19. This is being done by King's College London, Guy's and St Thomas' Biomedical Research Centre and others. The relevant web site address for more information is <https://covid.joinzoe.com/data>.

It involves downloading their app (C-19 from Zoe Global Limited via your appropriate app store) and spending 1 minute per day filling in how you are feeling. Already many people up to age 69 are involved and there is a plea that the over 70's join as well to help to monitor the spread of the outbreak. At the moment there are 2.5 million contributors but the researchers would like a lot more!

Information provided by Patricia Dye

Virtual Meetings

As a result of our trials here are some notes on having virtual meetings with Zoom and Skype. There are a multitude of documents providing information on how to use these two products. Unfortunately, the products, in particular Zoom, are undergoing changes which means that documented procedures quickly go out of date. However, the descriptions are still valid in general terms but the screen layouts may not be the same.

Both Zoom and Skype work on the same principle. There is a host who organises the meeting and then sends a link to invite other people to join the meeting.

It normally takes a while for everybody to join a meeting. The major problem seems to be not being able to hear people. Make sure your version of the program is “un-muted” and also make sure your computer’s sound is on.

The 40-minute limit on free Zoom meetings of three people or more seems to have reappeared. However, you can fairly easily restart the meeting. This works all right for smallish meetings (around 5 people) but is a bit of a problem for larger gatherings.

I think the key is to have a go with a couple of people (or 3 if you want to check what happens after 40 minutes with Zoom). Make sure you have some other form of communication to hand so you can talk to each other if the video conferencing part is silent!

Poynton Town Council

The Town Council website still has lots of information on its website - www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/poyntontowncouncil/>

In addition, you can [subscribe to the PUN](#) (Poynton Update and News).

If you need help or if you have any non-medical concerns regarding a vulnerable neighbour, ring the Town Council number during working hours - 01625 872238.

The current list of local businesses who are able to deliver provisions, take-away meals and food to residents collated by the Town Council can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF at <https://bit.ly/2J8OWxL>

Members' Contributions

Brought up in Adlington

My mother-in-law Doris, was born in a cottage on Brookledge Lane, Adlington in 1900. The stone-built cottage, about ¼ mile along the lane from the Legh Arms, was built with its gable-end abutting the lane, with a garden and orchard stretching along the lane. She lived there with a sister and five brothers, her mother, and her father who worked at Styperson Quarry.

She told me how she and her siblings walked down the lane, crossed the Macclesfield road into Mill Lane, passing the original smithy then Adlington Hall, bobbing or touching forelocks if they saw Squire Legh on their way. They walked to the school house, situated where Mill Lane meets the Prestbury Road. Being 'a bear of little brain' I asked her who saw them across the main road. "You could have sat in the middle of it for most of the day" was her rather scathing reply. The Macclesfield road had stone chippings and was much narrower than it is today, and it seems only the occasional drover taking sheep or cattle went along or sometimes iron-wheeled wagons.

In 1909 the school, with its separated entrances marked Boys and Girls, which still exists today was built on the left-hand side of Brookledge Lane, near to the small church locally known as the tin tabernacle, which was built in 1892. Worshippers no longer had to walk to Prestbury to attend a service.

Incidentally Doris's father, Alfred Scragg was informed by the Leghs, who owned his home that he could purchase it for £85, but he decided not to take up the offer as the place was so damp that perennial Sweet Peas grew behind the wallpaper and bloomed inside the cottage.

Helen J Stanley

Lockdown

It has dawned on me that since lockdown working days and weekends are the same. On a daily basis there are jobs that have to be done, housework and shopping, no shopping for me though. Weekends used to be different. I could meet my sister and friends in Manchester and go to the theatre or concerts in the afternoon. Some Saturdays I would meet my other sister, who lives in Handforth, to go clothes shopping and have a meal together. Sundays I would go to church in the evening and afterwards sometimes someone would say "Are we going sailing?" which means going across the road to the pub called the Ship Inn at Styal. I certainly miss meeting up with my family and friends. I think we will appreciate our freedom more when we are back to normal.

A U3A Member

The Joys of Deliveries

In these times of lockdown we, as others must have done, looked towards the backs of cupboards looking for ingredients still within date and hopefully not priced in old money. The search to produce a meal, at times has been interesting, making meals not from stuff you may choose or even like, instead from stuff you have. The other night I opened three tins and a packet and produced, pasta, tuna and mushroom something, which turned out to be quite good. I have had so many eggs recently that I am in danger of becoming broody.

Now there are deliveries available from various places, some by phone, some by email so we can now order food of choice. It is a great help, and interesting to see what you receive.

We ordered, we thought, two apples and got two packets so now have twelve apples. We also ordered 'three onions' but received eighteen. Two oranges turned out to be a net of oranges and a net of satsumas, we should avoid scurvy if not the virus or malnutrition. A friend of my daughter wanted a dozen eggs with her order and a bucket arrived with twelve dozen hard boiled eggs. Someone else thought to order chicken breasts for themselves and as a kindness for their sister and mother but received twenty kilos in a large box which he could hardly lift and then had to freeze them.

A Derbyshire farmer friend stopped his car to enquire why a group were out walking holding an Ordnance Survey map: they said it was alright because they were local, so he snatched their map and drove off saying "Well you won't need this if you are local"! A couple of weeks earlier a family of seven had knocked on his farmhouse door and asked if they could use his toilet as the National Trust ones were closed. The next day he started muck spreading.

Clive B Hill

You have to go to a football match

You have to go to a football match! I was always being told that when I was a teenager. I lived with my family in Stretford where Manchester United seemed to be every day words in Senior School, the girls had great crushes on many Man U players, but not me! I had been brought up in Portsmouth and Kent and football was NOT a sport or word we used, not even my brother!!!!

We lived a few doors away from a United player (Albert Quixall) and I sometimes got a lift to school from another famous player but to me they were merely nice neighbours.

On leaving school I became a junior bank employee. The bank was quite local and I reached it by cycling there daily. After working there for some time, the Manager told me that I would be expected to go by bike to various houses in the nearby Old Trafford area and take wages to various 'United players'!!

The wages in the mid 60's comprised of many pound notes, ten-shilling notes and coins!! I placed the money, as listed into different pockets of my coat. Then off I cycled to the players homes to give them their wages!!!

This work was a job to do and gave me some time out of the bank and I met several nice guys (THE FOOTBALLERS!!!!)

I did not recognise some of them and it never made me want to go to a football match, although the male junior bank clerk kept telling me to go to a match. He would have taken the wages but I suppose the Manager of the Bank thought it a bad idea!!

Years later, I was waiting in my car outside an acting academy in Cheshire, where my son was a student. I collected him and his friend each day. Whilst I waited outside the car I was

approached by a man and we were soon chatting away. As he left, my son and his friend approached me and my son`s gaze followed the man as he walked away.

"Do, do you know who you were talking to? " my son stammered.

"Just someone I knew years ago, in my teens", I replied. "When I worked in the bank, I used to take him and a few of his colleagues their wages."

My son struggled to speak without actually choking!! "That, that man is Denis Law!!!" he managed to blurt out.

"Yes, I know." I said. "Fancy him recognising me!!!!"

On one of my wage delivering visits, a player gave me two tickets to a match. I went with a friend and really have to admit that I was not impressed with the sport, especially the injuries some of the players sustained!

NO, going to a football match was not and still is not something I have an interest in, although looking back I enjoyed my job at the bank and taking the wages to such nice guys!!!!!!

Vivienne Tyler

Remember When....

Remember when you were quite young and there was going to be a coronation? And that meant the Queen was going to have her crown put on, and you wondered why she couldn't put it on herself because you put your pixie-hood on when Grandma said?

Fast food hadn't been invented, and only rich people had telephones, so your Grandma rolled her thick stockings up her thin legs and secured them to her corset by the dangling suspenders, because we were going to the Butchers.

Your Grandma selected her third-best hat and second-best coat and took up her woven basket, tucking her purse safely in the bottom. She tied your shoelaces and sent you off to "Go" before you both left home. She didn't lock the door, because you know, nobody would attempt to rob you; the neighbours all knew everybody's family, and who was a stranger. Besides, we were poor in those days and had nothing worth stealing.

She seized your hand firmly because you were known to wander off and get yourself lost.

Mr Lovelace was the Butcher and you hated him because he smelled, the metallic smell of blood; and because his large pink hand with thick stubby fingers reached out and grasped your cheek and shook it gently, and then he patted your head. And his vast white apron had red smears down the sides.

Butcher Lovelace's shop had his name above it in big gold letters and it told you he was a High-Class Butcher, in case you did not know by the goods displayed in his window on a sloping slab. Butcher Lovelace's walls were tiled in green and cream tiles and he caused

Kenneth, his pimply apprentice, to strew the floor with fresh sawdust every day. Your Grandma got cross when you scuffed your clean shoes in it, and made you stop.

You recall the headless pink bodies of skinned rabbits, their legs stretched out as if they had been trying to run away; and the pile of pig's trotters. Next lay a tray of dark wet, red shiny slices that Grandma said were liver. Things hung on hooks and he pulled them down and laid them on a wooden block and chopped at them with a great chopper.

"Mrs P." he called your Grandma, or "Madam." Grandma pointed to the white furry heap that was tripe because it was cheap and your Grandad liked it boiled in milk and onions.

Mr Lovelace brought forth joints of beef and reverently held them for Grandma's inspection.

When she had chosen, he assured her that it was "very good. Madam." Grandma asked for some dog bones and shushed you quickly when you lifted an excited face to ask when the dog would arrive.

Mr Lovelace placed the meat on some paper and added a lump of leaf fat, and Grandma said it kept the meat moist. Made nice dripping, too, said the butcher because he knew dripping was a staple food for us. You'll remember the savoury taste of dripping spread on bread, sprinkled with a bit of salt? It was champion, too, to take down the pit in your snap-tin, your Grandad said.

But you were glad to leave the shop, being frightened of the names of animal parts. Ox-tail, brains, pig's cheek and sheep's head, heart and kidneys.

And besides, the next stop would be the sweet-shop to spend your threepenny-bit pocket money.

Ruth Howard

Britain becomes an island.

It's only quite recently that the North Sea has yielded the detailed secrets of its geological history. And the search for oil has played no small part in this. Our earliest ancestors had not crossed the sea from Europe to an island. They had just walked to the far edges of the peninsula of Europe. At that time Britain wasn't an island. The movements of land and sea are normally measured in tens of thousands of years. But it would not be unreasonable to suggest that Britain effectively became an island in the space of just 24 hours.

We now know that one day around 6,200 BC and some 70 miles off the coast of Norway a long section (perhaps 80 miles) of the Great Edge (what Norwegians call *Storegga*) broke off and slipped deeper into the North Sea. Geologists refer to this as the "third slide" but it was far larger than its two predecessors. The sudden movement of 1,000 or more cubic miles of sediment and rock launched a tsunami which rushed across the low lying area between Britain and continental Europe, scouring out everything and leaving behind various deposits which it was carrying, as well as temporarily inundating an area up to 50

miles inland in low lying areas. It was responsible for example for depositing the whale bones discovered in the Carse of Stirling to the west of the town of Stirling and in the middle of Scotland! When at last it subsided, it left what we now call the Irish Sea, North Sea and English Channel.

When we think of a tsunami we think perhaps of the 2011 Japanese tsunami which filled our television screens at the time and was responsible for some 16,000 deaths. Not so well recorded and only brought to our living rooms by the technology of the earlier times was the far more extensive 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in the Indian Ocean which killed some 275,000 people. This began off the coast of Sumatra in Indonesia and its 30 metre front travelled at 500mph (the speed of a jet aircraft) arriving in South Africa only 8 hours later. I arrived in Chennai on the east coast of India only nine days later to witness the impact on the coastal communities there. But it was as nothing compared to the total destruction - complete obliteration – I was to see in Banda Aceh (Sumatra) a few months later. Yet both of these tsunamis came nowhere close to the size of the *Storegga* slide which, in effect, changed the geography of part of the world in a matter of a few hours.

A tsunami is not a single wave as it is often depicted. It's a series of long waves which can be miles long and more like a series of tidal bores except that its front wave is very much higher, in this case quite possibly over 10 metres. Its speed was also greater and it has been suggested that this one might have travelled up to 100mph, despite the distance it had travelled from Norway.

As a result of this huge natural disaster a very significant part of the population of the island which we now call the UK would have disappeared, not least those living on Dogger Land. Their possessions and artifacts still appear regularly in the nets of trawlers. The original hunter gatherers who had first arrived belonged to the Middle Stone Age. By 6,000 BC they were being influenced by the techniques of farming which were gradually arriving from the east, the New Stone Age as it is called. Hardly surprisingly the newly created islanders were a bit slower in taking this great step forwards into farming now that they were isolated and most of them had been wiped out.

Farming allows a larger number of people to populate the same area. It is a much more efficient and normally more reliable way of producing calories than hunting or gathering. But it also requires communities to live together and so to develop ways of settling disputes which are some way short of killing one another! An expansion of the very simple languages of hunter gatherers was also required – words describing processes and ideas rather than just “things”. At least as important was a more precise understanding of the seasons – a calendar.

David Sewart

Things to Do

Sudoku No 4

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

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

Below is the solution to No 3

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. In which year did A V Roe start the factory at Woodford?
2. What were the iconic wartime bombers called which were built at AVRO?
3. Name the pilot who made the test flight, flying solo, in the first full sized prototype Vulcan bomber?
4. Identity number of the last Vulcan whose final flight took it over its Woodford birthplace on 28 October 2015?
5. What was the name of the company building aircraft at the Woodford factory when production ceased and the works was finally demolished?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. What was the name of the Queen's first corgi and who gave it to her?
Susan, given to her on her 18th birthday by her father King George VI
2. Who rode into battle on a horse called White Surrey?
Richard III
3. Another horse question – name Alexander the Great's horse.
Bucephalus
4. In Robert Louis Stephenson's "Treasure Island" what is the name of Long John Silver's parrot?
Captain Flint
5. Name the lion purchased from Harrods in 1969 and kept in a flat on the King's Road before being released in Kenya.

Christian was a lion cub purchased from Harrods in 1969 by John Rendell and Anthony Bourke for 250 guineas. He was later released into the wild in Kenya and when the 2 men visited the reserve years later Christian remembered them running up and hugging them both. A remarkable film of this can be viewed on line.

Internet Culture

The National Theatre is still broadcasting some of its most popular productions for free. The two-month National Theatre at Home programme began on April 2nd with *One Man, Two Guvnors*. The films start being shown at 7pm every Thursday and are then available on demand for seven days. **'Twelfth Night'**, starring Tamsin Greig finishes at 7pm on April 30th.

After that there is Danny Boyle's 2011 production of *Frankenstein* which provides the chance to watch Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller play two different roles in the same show. The actors alternated the roles of the doctor and his creation for the production of Mary Shelley's classic novel and the two versions will be shown over two nights on April 30th and May 1st.

It will be followed on May 7th by Simon Godwin's 2018 production of *Antony & Cleopatra*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals' films are also still going. They start being shown at 7pm on a Friday and are available for 48 hours (except when they are only shown for 24 hours because of "rights" issues!).

If you would like some classical music education, the 'Classical 100' music education resource is being made available free to everybody. In 2015, Classic FM partnered with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and Decca Classics to launch Classical 100, a music education initiative aimed at school-aged children. This is a unique collection of 100 classical recordings, complete with learning activities and information on each piece.

Here are some more options courtesy of **Elaine Roe**.

The BBC has announced further programming for its *Culture in Quarantine* scheme to run while arts venues are locked down.

The company will broadcast six of the RSC's recent productions on BBC Four and BBC iPlayer:

Macbeth with Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack

Othello with Hugh Quarshie in the title role and Lucian Msamati as Iago

Romeo and Juliet with Bally Gill as Romeo and Karen Fishwick as Juliet

The Merchant of Venice with Makram J Khoury as Shylock

Much Ado About Nothing with Edward Bennett as Benedick and Michelle Terry as Beatrice

Hamlet with Paapa Essiedu in the title role

They are on iPlayer from 23 April, Shakespeare's birthday.

The BBC is also collaborating with The Space to present new filmed recordings of Mike Bartlett's *Albion*, Emma Rice's *Wise Children* and Battersea Arts Centre's *Frankenstein: How to Make a Monster*, as well as BalletBoyz's new piece *Deluxe*. In addition, Russell T Davies' TV version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Anthony Hopkins' *King Lear* will be repeated.

[As part of *Culture in Quarantine*, the BBC is also providing a series of programmes called *Museums in Quarantine* which will be available on BBC Four and iPlayer over the next few days. – Ed]

Chichester Theatre is streaming the award-winning musical *Flowers for Mrs Harris*.

Curve Leicester and Theatre Royal Bath's 2017 production of Joe Orton's hit play 'What the Butler Saw' is being streamed online. The venue's productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Memoirs of an Asian Football Casual* are also available.

The Hampstead Theatre is streaming Howard Brenton's *#AIWW: The Arrest of Ai Weiwei* from 27th April to 3rd May.

Original Theatre Online is showing Alan Bennett's *The Habit of Art*.

Dawn French's West End show is available to watch online. You can watch the performance of *30 Million Minutes* on iPlayer and Netflix. The show sees French reflect on her career in comedy and writing, encompassing her partnership with Jennifer Saunders and work on series including *The Vicar of Dibley* and *Lark Rise to Candleford*. It opened on a tour in 2014 before coming to the West End in 2015 and returning for a second run in 2016. It will be available until 9 May on iPlayer, while streamable on Netflix now.

Northern Ballet is putting shows online for free – including the lauded production of George Orwell's *1984*.

Virtual Visits

Lots of places that you would have previously visited are now providing virtual visits. The popular ones include Google Arts and Culture, National Trust, Canals and Rivers Trust, Woodland Trust and Wildlife Trust.

Chester Zoo are still doing their Virtual Zoo day on Fridays without much fanfare with the videos subsequently available on Chester Zoo's Channel on YouTube.

For all of the above, simply go to your favourite Search Engine and enter the relevant theatre or visit. The theatres are looking for donations during this period when they are unable to open.