



Poynton News

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 32-5

13th May 2020

Editorial

Welcome to the fifth edition of our new style newsletter. In this issue there are details of a scams awareness project and some interesting contributions from members.

As before, little new information is available and members' contributions are a more significant part of this edition. Thank you 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

Interest Groups

Photography Group have had a successful couple of virtual meetings and the Spanish Group are continuing with their weekly virtual meetings. Some other groups are communicating by email.

Contact Information

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. Alternatively, if you have any concerns regarding a vulnerable neighbour, ring the Town Council number during working hours - 01625 872238.

Remember 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/>

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>. The list is being constantly updated so is worth another look.

Information

Age UK Cheshire East Scams Awareness

Age UK Cheshire East has launched a timely new project to raise older people's awareness of scams and doorstep crime, at a time when, unbelievably, there are people out there trying to take advantage of older people during the COVID-19 outbreak.

In normal times, the project would be delivering face-to-face Scams Awareness Sessions to groups like ours. However, as people are self-isolating, a Scams Awareness Update bulletin is being produced instead. This can be found on the [Age UK Cheshire East website](#), along with more information about the project.

The first bulletin gave information on how to spot a scam and how to avoid a scam, so we thought we'd pass it on.

It might be a scam if...

- Something sounds too good to be true, it usually is
- You are contacted by a business out of the blue asking for personal information or bank details
- You are being pressured to make a decision or are being asked to make a decision immediately
- You are told you are promised money or a prize, but you have to pay something upfront first
- You are asked to keep quiet about what you are being told
- Someone asks you to transfer your money to another account to keep it 'safe'
- Someone asks you for access to your computer or mobile phone

Top tips for avoiding scams:

- Always try to stay in control of a conversation, whether that is face to face or over the phone.
- Ask yourself 'who is this person and why are they asking me for my details'.
- Your bank will never ask you to transfer your money to another account or send a courier to collect it
- The HMRC or Council will never call to tell you that you are owed a refund. It will always be carried out in writing
- If you are concerned your bank account has been compromised, call your bank on a number you have for them, wait 5 minutes for your landline to clear, or call from a mobile
- Use some sort of security software on your computer and update it regularly
- Just because someone knows you, it doesn't mean you know them. If you are called and someone refers to a service you have and they are asking for personal or financial information, ask them to put their request in writing


- If you receive a lot of nuisance calls call your telephone provider to see what call blocking services they provide

We hope this information helps keep you safe. Scams can be worrying so, if you are unsure about something, ask someone you know or call 0808 2505050 to speak to a Scams Adviser.

Members' Contributions

Rest now, e Papatūānuku

A poem and explanatory text written by Nadine Anne Hura and distributed via Jacinda Ardern, the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Rest now, e Papatūānuku
Breathe easy and settle
Right here where you are
We'll not move upon you
For awhile
We'll stop, we'll cease
We'll slow down and stay home
Draw each other close and be kind
Kinder than we've ever been.
I wish we could say we were doing it for you as much as ourselves
But hei aha
We're doing it anyway
It's right. It's time.
Time to return
Time to remember
Time to listen and forgive
Time to withhold judgment
Time to cry
Time to think
About others
Remove our shoes
Press hands to soil
Sift grains between fingers
 Gentle palms
Time to plant
Time to wait
Time to notice
To whom we belong
For now it's just you

And the wind

And the forests and the oceans and the sky full of rain

Finally, it's raining

Ka turuturu te wai kamo o Rangi ki runga i a koe

Embrace it

This sacrifice of solitude we have carved out for you

He iti noaiho - a small offering

People always said it wasn't possible

To ground flights and stay home and stop our habits of consumption

But it was

It always was.

We were just afraid of how much it was going to hurt

– and it IS hurting and it will hurt and continue to hurt

But not as much as you have been hurt.

So be still now

Wrap your hills around our absence

Loosen the concrete belt cinched tight at your waist

Rest.

Breathe.

Recover.

Heal –

And we will do the same.

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Nadine added: thank you for the amazing response to this poem! I never expected it to travel so far and wide. Many people have asked who the author is so I wanted to clarify that I wrote this poem on the train home after the announcement of total lockdown was made here in Aotearoa, New Zealand. I felt like I could hear Papatūānuku exhaling in relief as we all began our journeys home. In truth, one month of lockdown is not enough. Even six months would not be enough! We need a total and sustained change of habit, globally and within our own communities. I hope so much we take our time to reflect on the fact that if we can do it to save ourselves for a month, we ought to be able to make similar habit changes for Mother Earth for the long term. The most telling thing for me was how empty our veggie plant aisles were after lockdown was announced - in a crisis, we will turn back to our mother to provide (and of course she will!).

Lots of people have asked for translations...

Papatūānuku - Mother Earth (the addition of the “e” in front signals the words are addressed or spoken directly to her.)

Ka turuturu te wai kamo o Rangi ki runga i a koe - means something like, “tears from the eyes of Ranginui drip down on you” (Ranginui is our sky father, it is common to refer to rain as the tears of Rangi for his beloved, from whom he was separated at the beginning of time

in order that there could be light in the world). Not long after the announcement we were moving to level 3, it poured with rain in Porirua after many months of hot and dry weather. I could feel my garden rejoicing.

Hei aha - This can be translated in many ways, but I meant it like the English "oh well, whatever"

He iti noaiho - "something small". Because our sacrifice feels enormous but in reality I think it is not sufficient to truly see Papatūānuku recover. However, in Māori, we often talk about the significance of small actions or gestures. We say "ahakoa he iti, he pounamu." Although it is small, it is a treasure.

Thank you so much for the support 🙌🍀

Sent from New Zealand by **Kate Marsham**

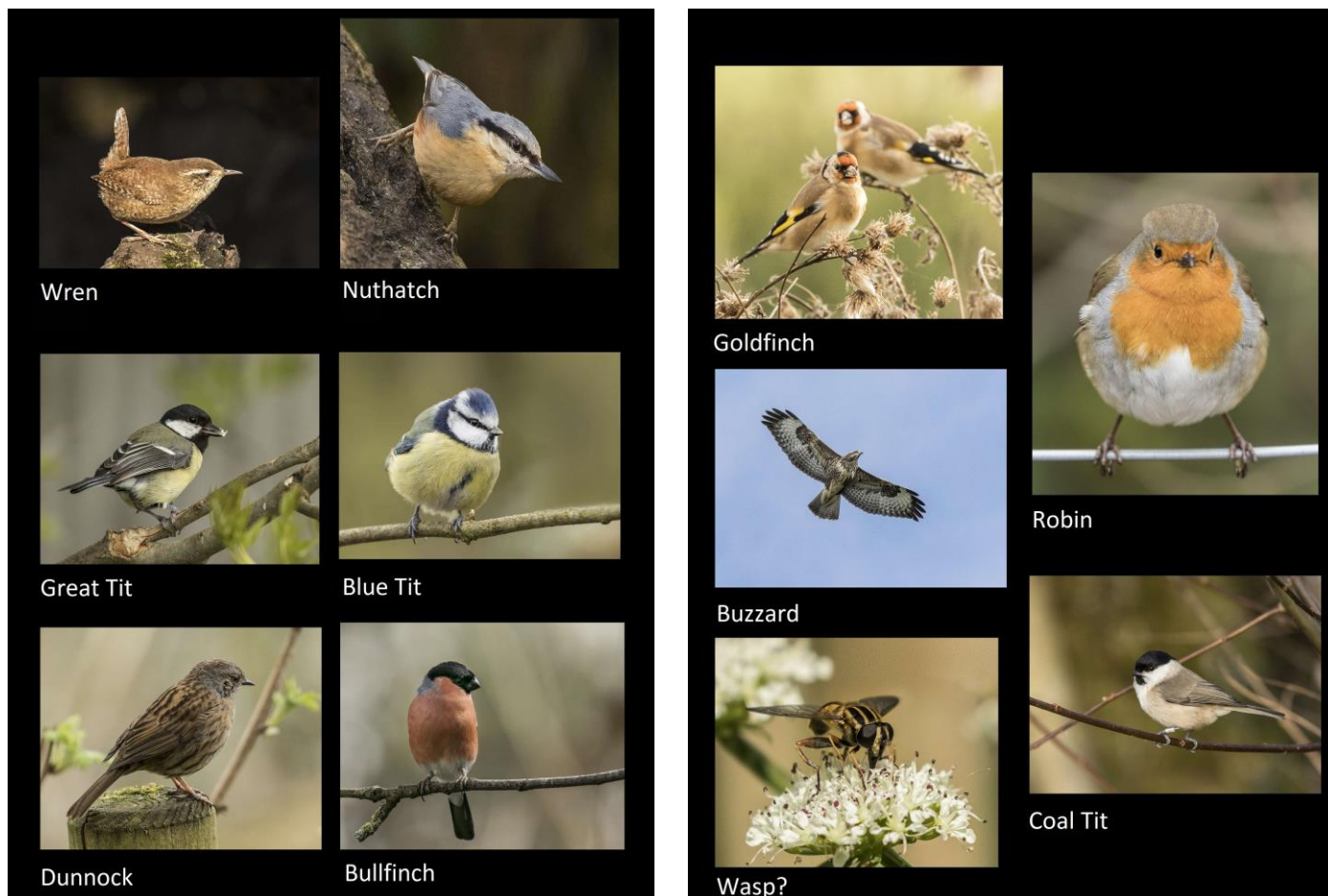
"Birdsong"

A cool bright spring morning and I leave home at 8.30am for a walk in my favourite local patch. It is quiet everywhere. I follow the main track up Coppice Wood. Sunlight streams through the trees clothed in fresh green leaves. The silence is broken only by a chorus of birdsong, which sounds clearer than ever before. There is no background noise of planes flying overhead; they are grounded during the pandemic which is sweeping across the globe. And the sky is a more brilliant blue than ever - no pollution. Nature carries on as usual. Around the woodland birds announce their presence. Wrens, not easily visible, sing loudly, while robins welcome me, flitting between fence posts, bushes and branches, their song so familiar, like that of the blackbird. I hear the distinctive sound of a woodpecker drumming on a hollow tree trunk. The sound resonates through the wood. I detect where it is coming from, a bare branched oak tree close to the path. I catch a glimpse of a greater spotted woodpecker. A sudden burst of clear loud notes from a blackcap, and a more melodious song in the distance.

I continue up the main track and finally locate a song thrush at the top of a very tall conifer, repeating the three or four bars of its song which carry up into the air. I veer off the main track along a path edged by bluebells and spot a pair of colourful goldfinches and a pair of great tits which fly off calling "teacher, teacher". Now is that the same woodpecker I can hear, but drumming on a different tree? Down in the valley a pheasant calls, and a jay flies across in front of me.

Retracing my steps down the track I hear blue tits and chiffchaff, aptly named as they repeat their call "chiffchaff chiffchaff" over and over. But, on my way home I know there is no chance of seeing the kingfisher, grey wagtails and dippers at Wardsend. The ongoing repair works at Wardsend Bridge have forced these birds to quieter streams.

Vivienne Arnold



Two collections of her own bird photographs by **Joyce Streets**

Pictures from our Perambulations



These two pictures show remnants of buildings that were very significant in Poynton's history. What were those buildings?

Our ancestors become farmers

Since Great Britain had become an island, all possibility of summer/winter migration to or from what is now the continent of Europe disappeared. And that was true of course for animals such as deer, wolves and bear. Hunter gatherers were travellers. Experience had taught them where they might find nuts, berries and edible vegetation as well as animals, fish and birds which they might trap. But it was, quite literally, a hand to mouth existence. The concept of farming is almost the opposite. You stay in one place and establish around you a supply of meat and vegetation. You look after it and it looks after you. Your range of food might be somewhat less but the availability is likely to be far more secure. And of course, you might trade what you had with produce from another local group. Trade brought people together in larger and larger groups and a “good idea” (for example in making pottery and tools) spread widely and quickly with some individuals specialising on particular activities.

But farming did demand a greater understanding of the seasons – a calendar.

Thousands of years ago one of our ancestors looked up at the stars and saw the pale orb in the sky wax and wane. It moved through predictable phases and it was possible to count the nights between when it was full, half full and had completely disappeared. An insomniac observer of all of this could now accurately predict the future and, of course, calculate the dates of what had happened in the past. In addition, there was an almost countless array of stars which moved in their own pattern. In the last few weeks – and for me personally for the first time in my life - we too have been able to look up at this moving tableau which has emerged from the pollution and see it just as clearly as our early ancestors saw it in this country. There is of course a completely different tableau which I had the good fortune to see 40 years ago in Australia.

All calendars are based on the succession of days and nights, their relationship to the waxing and waning of the moon and movements of the sun. There were two simple points for starting a day – sunrise and sunset. Most people used the former but for the Romans a day began and ended at midnight. And of course, that’s what we use today. But what about a month? The basis of the month had been defined by the cycle of the moon’s phases. Exactly where you started was a matter of convention. Our ancestors noted that these lunations didn’t quite fit in with days. Sometimes the interval was 29; at other times it was 30. And none of this fitted in with the astronomical year. This is the period which our ancestors, believing we were the centre of the universe, would describe as the time it takes for the sun to complete the full circle of the zodiac. More careful observations of the

sun had resulted in the creation of the 12 divisions of the zodiac with the sun appearing in each sign in turn as the year progressed. Nowadays, after the work of Copernicus and Galileo in the 16th century showed that we were not the centre of the universe, we would describe the astronomical year as the time it takes the earth to complete its orbit of the sun. Just as with the phases of the moon it didn't matter too much where you started – the spring or autumn equinox, the summer or winter solstice. Stone Henge is a monument to the summer solstice but we count our years from mid-winter.

The ancient Greeks based their year on 12 lunar months averaging 29.5 days. They were by no means alone in doing this as the Stone Age merged into the Neolithic Age. But that means a year of 354 days. It made the calendar run 11 days fast each year. In fact, in 16 years it would replace the summer solstice with the winter solstice! Such a calendar was, to say the least, not a lot of use for people who needed to know when to plant their crops! This confusion was to rage until Julius Caesar gave us what we now know as the Julian Calendar. He brought it back into line by making what we know as 46 BC into a year of 445 days! His was a calendar on which some reliance could be placed. But the length of a year continues to change as the earth's rotation gradually slows down. The year 2000 was 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds. It slows by half a second every century.

The hunter gatherers had concerned themselves almost wholly with the ground and what lived on it that might sustain them. The same was true of early farmers but the importance of calendars which could identify the seasons for farming activities was undeniable. Eyes which had always been focussed on the ground now looked to the sky and to the moon and stars which they now realised controlled the seasons, their fates and effectively all the aspects of the world in which they worked and lived.

And so, some 5,000 years ago people began to make efforts to reach out to these powerful elements in the sky. They were clearly supernatural – gods who had certain human characteristics. If you did something to please them, it might reasonably be expected that they might respond favourably to you. To this end monuments and circles were built and people were guided by priestly experts who combined a knowledge of astronomy and astrology. If you climbed to the top of a hill you could get nearer to the gods. But communication was best achieved through smoke and fire which rose high in the air on its way to the gods in the heavens. Such fires could involve the sacrifice of animals in return for a favour. But we know from archaeological remains that there were human cremations at Stone Henge. Cremations in those days required a lot of preparation and time so were probably confined to significant leaders whose spirit would be quickly freed from the body

perhaps so that it could return as soon as possible to be born into a new body which would become an equally significant leader.

The priests marked the procession of the year through the calendar. Certain days in the calendar were deemed to be good, others less so. During the night the sun cannot be seen. The same is true of the stars during the course of a day. But just before dawn and just after the sun has set, it is possible to see the rising and setting of stars, in particular the “heliacal” risings of the 5 planets which were known at that time with the sun. These were seen as very important occasions, particularly when Jupiter (the King of the Gods) was involved. The magi who followed the star of Bethlehem would have been astrologers (wise men) wishing to witness a very significant birth and astronomical event. Pope Benedict made plain in his 2012 book that “The actual date of Jesus’ birth was several years before” the traditional date of 1AD since King Herod died in 4BC. Perhaps not surprisingly astrologers have looked closely at significant astrological dates about this new time.

As hunter gatherers gave way to farmers and then larger gatherings of people in more complex economic and social structures, notions of superior beings in the skies seem to have sprung up spontaneously throughout the inhabited world. A whole family of these often argumentative, jealous and interfering gods surface from the epic stories in Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey which date back to c.800BC.

David Sewart

Things to Do

Sudoku No 5

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

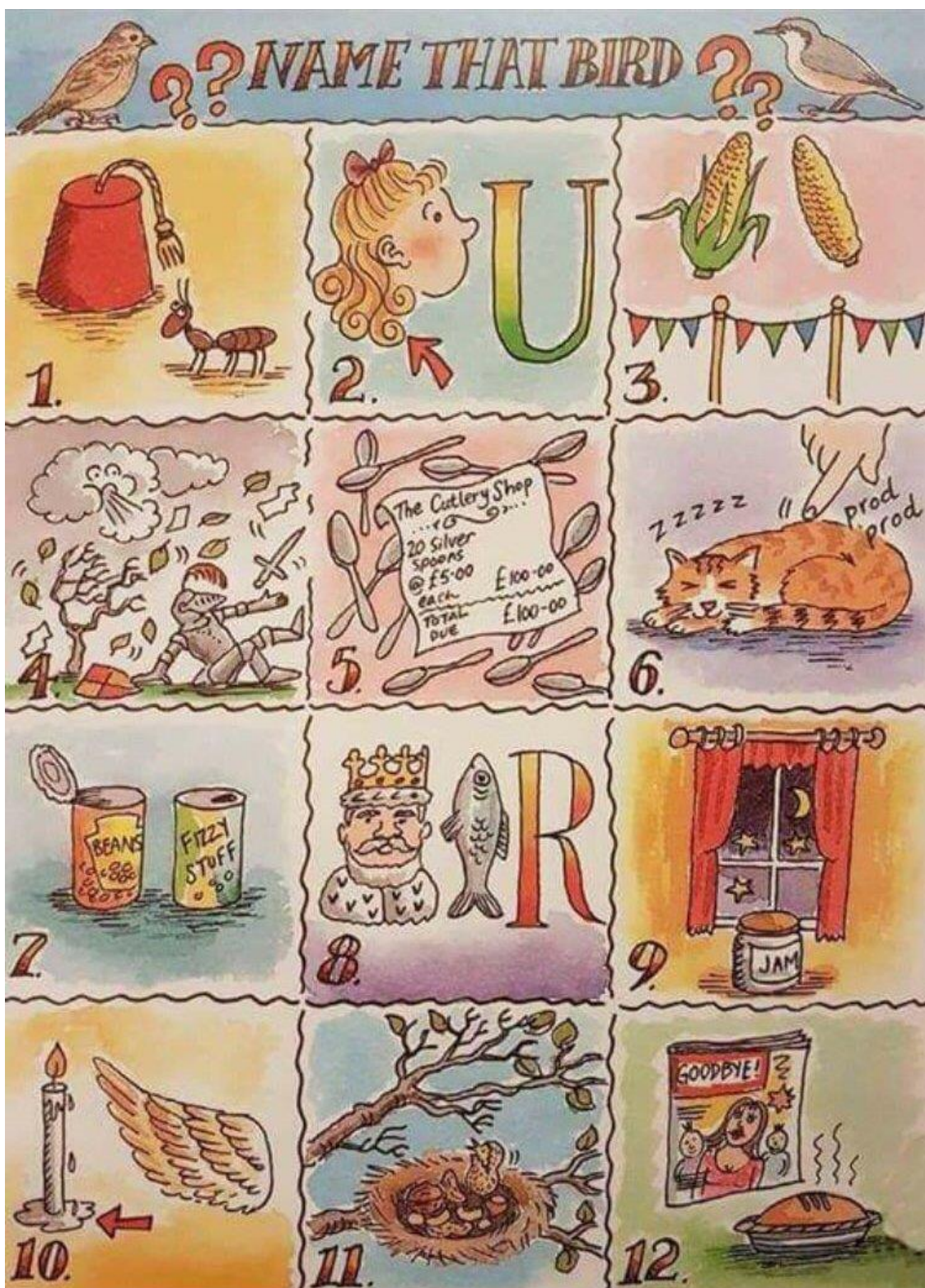
Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9

Below is the solution to No 4

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

Bird quiz

This quiz first went to the Bird Watching group but looks as though it has wider appeal.



Answers in the next edition. Thanks to **Jane Ellis**.

[If you enlarge Picture 11, you will stand a better chance of getting the answer – Ed]

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. What is the name of the farm on which Poynton High School was built?
2. Where was Poynton's original cinema?
3. What was the colloquial name given to Lyndhurst Kindergarten School on Chester Road, Poynton?
4. When was the row of cottages at Worth Clough built?
5. When did post-war food rationing stop in the UK?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. In which year did A V Roe start the factory at Woodford?
1924 when A V Roe bought New Hall Farm, Woodford. The original buildings were lit by hurricane lamps and water was brought from a nearby stream.
2. What were the iconic wartime bombers called which were built at AVRO?
Lancaster Bombers
3. Name the pilot who made the test flight, flying solo, in the first full sized prototype Vulcan bomber?
Roly Falk was the original test pilot of the prototype Vulcan, first flown from Avro Woodford on 30 August 1952. He flew it solo in a temporary pilot seat with ejector, wearing a pinstriped suit with shirt and tie. When he displayed at the Farnborough Airshow he barrel rolled it and was reprimanded for such a manoeuvre in an 80 ton aircraft with a 99ft wingspan.
4. Identity number of the last Vulcan whose final flight took it over its Woodford birthplace on 28 October 2015?
XH558
5. What was the name of the company building aircraft at the Woodford factory when production ceased and the works was finally demolished?
BAE Systems

Internet Culture

Epiphany

Epiphany is an adaptable music ensemble of professional musicians offering creative musical events with an emphasis on improvisation and innovation. They are based in Poynton and many of you will know them from their Coffee Concerts at the Methodist Church on a Sunday evening. They offer a wide range of musical styles - from more formal classical concerts to their unique 'Sound Portraits'. However have a look at this video -

<https://www.facebook.com/rwilliamson/posts/10157152421886845>. (You don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the video.)

Chelsea Flower Show – May 18th – 23rd

Every day there will be new videos and articles from regular Chelsea exhibitors with tours from well-known garden designers, florists and gardening personalities of their own private gardens as they share their top design tips, favourite planting combinations and gardening trends with virtual visitors. [*This is according to their publicity – Ed*]

The National Theatre

Finishing at 7pm on May 14th - Simon Godwin's 2018 production of Antony & Cleopatra, starring Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo.

Starting at 7pm on May 14th - Inua Ellams' Barber Shop Chronicles

Starting at 7pm on May 21st - A Streetcar Named Desire, starring Gillian Anderson

Starting at 7pm on May 28th - James Graham's This House

Starting at 7pm on June 4th - Coriolanus, starring Tom Hiddleston

For any of the above, simply go to your favourite Search Engine and enter the relevant theatre or visit.