



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Editorial

Welcome to the twentieth edition of these electronic newsletters.

There is quite a lot of content this month so there is just space to say send your contribution to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Poynton u3a Update

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The sole purpose of our recent EGM was the consideration of a new Constitution. The period for receipt of comments has now run its course and the result is that the new Constitution is now in operation. It is no longer a requirement that the Annual General Meeting should be a physical meeting at a particular fixed date.

At the moment at least we are still facing considerable restrictions and you will see from the accompanying note that we will be using similar methods for our 2021 AGM as we did for the 2020 AGM in July last year.

David Sewart

Possible New Group

Are there any Poynton U3A members interested in forming a motorcycling group? My idea is to meet with other motorcyclists on a fortnightly basis and go on organised rides around the local countryside with a stop for refreshments and a chat. Longer full day rides could also be planned if desired. Suggestions for rides would also be welcomed.

The group would be open to anyone with a full motorcycle licence and riders would be covered by their own insurance and be responsible for their personal safety. Weather conditions are also important. I would not wish to ride in poor weather (not easy in the UK!) and, as is normal, winter, late autumn and early spring would be avoided.

Current lockdown regulations limit us to groups of 6 riders, which I feel is a sensible number to keep even when restrictions are lifted or eased. If we end up with a higher number of members, we can simply organise additional rides.

If you are interested in joining me, please initially contact the Group Co-ordinator (groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk), who will pass your details on to me.

Alan Sherlock

Photography Group

We had a very full agenda for our April meeting. Firstly, we looked at our project photos for the first quarter of this year. The subject was 'dominant colour'. There was a lot of discussion about which colour drew our eye to the subject. Have a look at these photos and decide which colour you think catches your eye!

Joyce gave us a useful presentation on the subject of landscape photography, using some of her own photos as well as examples from the internet. We were shown landscapes taken with 40mm to 400mm telephoto lenses. We shall be looking at our own efforts of landscape photography at our May meeting.

The subject of last month's project was portraits, either human or animal. We had portraits of long-suffering spouses, pets, children (difficult as they rarely sit still), animals and even statues! (At least they stay still.) Some were in colour and others chose monochrome.

Peter outlined our next quarterly project which will be to produce a triptych, three images either identical or different, horizontal or vertical but all three as one photograph. Quite a challenge!



Members' Contributions

Bullfinch

Goldfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, colourful all,
But the most handsome though not quite so small,
Is the bullfinch, with a rosy pink breast and quite plump,
And when he flies off you can see his white rump.
The female is duller, with greyish buff breast,
Her plumage is definitely second best!
They both have a shiny black cap and strong bill,
To see just one is quite a thrill.

Those with orchards in days gone by
Were not happy in spring to spy,
Flying in low from skies of blue,
Bullfinches which normally hide from view,
Landing in apple, plum, pear trees, but why?
Fruit buds are what they most like to try.
This secretive bird has become a thief,
Taking fruit buds before trees come into leaf.
A feast for the birds, so farmers beware,
Before the bullfinches strip your trees bare.

Out for a walk on the Middlewood Way,
I stopped for a rest, it was a fine sunny day,
I sat on a bench, I looked and I heard,
A soft call, "deu,deu". What was that bird?
Not one, but five bullfinches in an almond tree,
Feeding on buds, they must be hungry,
Such a colourful sight, pinks, beiges and sky blue,
A watercolour painting, I must do!



Viv Arnold

U3A Winner of the Rotary Easter Quiz

Mike and Sheila Chivers were winners of the Rotary Easter quiz. On being asked to provide a caption for the accompanying photo, Mike came up with 'We are eggcited to have won the eggsellent prize, especially as our main interest "revolves" around quizzes!'

(That's eggcruciating – Ed)



Community Orchards

With the Heritage Garden now well established at the Civic Centre and looking its colourful best at this time of year, the volunteers responsible for that project have now turned their attention to a fresh initiative, namely community mini-orchards. A variety of fruit trees have already been planted at the Middlewood/Coppice Road junction, at Philip's Bridge play park on the Glastonbury estate, and near the Poynton allotments site off Coppice Road. In a separate exercise, local residents were recently canvassed by the Town Council and their views sought on establishing a mini-orchard at Brecon Fields. A majority of those who responded were in favour of the scheme, as a result of which eight fruit trees have been planted to date, with more likely to follow later in the year.

While it will be some time before all these trees become established, once they do Poynton's residents will be invited to help themselves to the fruit. If this start-up venture proves successful, there is scope for more mini-orchards to follow at other locations in Poynton accessible to the public, subject to local approval. Volunteers of all ages are very welcome to help further this initiative, and get involved in maintaining the current orchard sites, and the Heritage Garden. Please e-mail any expressions of interest to Diane Penny at enquiries@poyntonu3a.org.uk.



Top Left: Coppice Road Allotments
Top right: Brecon Fields
Bottom Left: Philip's Bridge play park

Diane Penny

The Fighting Temeraire

The Fighting Temeraire is a painting by Joseph Mallord William Turner. He was born 1775 in Covent Garden and died 1851 in London. He was the son of William Turner, a barber and wig maker, and Mary Marshall. His mother came from a prosperous family of butchers and shopkeepers. He never married but he did father two daughters by his house-keeper Sarah Danby, who was a widow. Evelina was born in 1801 died 1874 and Georgiana born 1811 died 1848.

One of the reasons for not marrying was that Turner made disparaging remarks about matrimony. Sarah Danby was also a Catholic, Turner wasn't. She also depended on a pension from the Royal Society of Musicians from her first husband. This would have stopped, if she had married Turner. At the time it is possible that Turner was not as well known or as prosperous and maybe the pension was better than his income. If only she could have looked into the future, she would have been a very wealthy widow. Turner died ten years before her, leaving nothing in his Will for her or his surviving daughter. She was reduced to selling some of his work to make ends meet. Sarah died in 1861 age 96.

The Fighting Temeraire, by Turner, is a painting of a large sailing ship. It is being towed into a port by a tug boat in the foreground. The ship was first launched in 1798, and was built at the Chatham Dockyard.



In the painting the Fighting Temeraire is slightly left of the picture, with the light reflecting on it to make it appear ghost like. It has also been described as skeletal. The tug in the foreground takes on the appearance of a large beetle. It has a tall chimney with steam pouring out of the top, using all its energy to pull the famous ship. The Fighting Temeraire was at the battle of Trafalgar. She also served with the Channel Fleet and joined Horatio Nelson's blockade of the Franco-Spanish

fleet in Cadiz in 1805. After that time, she became a prison ship, supply ship and guard ship. In 1838 she was tugged to her final berth to be broken up and this is reflected in the famous painting. Steam power replacing sail had made her redundant. The painting is held in high regard and was voted Britain's favourite painting in 2005, ordinary people appreciating the service the ship had given to the nation over many years.

The picture was painted by Turner near the end of his life and feelings of his own mortality were portrayed in the painting. A mighty ship being led away to meet its final end.

There is a picture of a younger Turner on the back of the recently introduced twenty-pound note, plus his signature which he didn't always use on his paintings. It is known as a 'Turner Twenty'. There is a quote on the back from Turner, 'Therefore light becomes colour'.

Susan J Pyett

No Man is an Island.....or is he? (John Donne)

A few days ago, my wife announced that she could tell what I was going to do at any time of the day. After 59.75 years of marriage, I wondered whether this related to all that time or just during the period of the pandemic. Fearing the worst, I decided not to ask.

I suppose, like most boys, I always imagined what it would be like to be marooned on a desert island with a friend. I supposed that you would spend your time building and maintaining some kind of shelter, hunt and fish daily for food, swim in the sea and sit on the sand wondering when and if we would be rescued.

Further to this, I feel that COVID has led me to similar limited daily activities. An outing to the Post Office or Pharmacy and then back home to do a little gardening (weather permitting) or small jobs around the house; some reading and TV and short periods of reflection.

I go into the kitchen around 5pm and my wife stands to one side. She knows that I am there to get my 2nd dose of tablets from the cupboard. Standing by the window, glass of water in hand, I gaze outside, looking for some signs of waving palms and a bright blue rippling sea.

FAT CHANCE!

Ian Beverley

Spring in our Step

Hawthorn pin-pricking into greening,
Blackbirds busy - in their prime,
Time to clean off garden tools,
Longer days with Summertime.

Hedging needs a tidy crop,
Bushes looking for a trim.
Outside paintwork looking tatty,
Lots of jobs for her and him.

Good to leave the inside haven
Spread our wings on brighter days,
Breathe the varied scents of springtime,
Drink in the sights that meet our gaze.

Ian Beverley

A Novel Idea

You know I want to be a writer!

Well, I've had this fantastic idea for a book. I'll have to write it down before I forget the ending. I'll just go and find a notebook...or some paper....this will do. It says "shopping list reminder" but never mind. This pen won't work so I'll throw it in the bin, or I'm sure to pick it up again like I did yesterday. *This* pen doesn't work, either.

This one has red ink. Where did that come from? It's years since teachers used red ink on kids' work. But it will do. My heroine might be a teacher.

Oh, this shopping list reminds me. We have run out of caster sugar. I need it for the cake I'm going to make, my famous Lemon Drizzle. I'll need two large juicy lemons for the topping. Better write down that as well. My heroine wears a daringly low-cut evening dress.

While I'm here I'll get out my cookbook; I know the recipe but can never remember the oven temperature.

Here it is; I've marked the page with my last bill from the supermarket. Wow! Did I really spend £7.85 on lamb chops? Yes, I must have done.... that reminds me, I'll just go and get them out of the freezer to defrost. They are jolly cold. Should I set my novel in the Arctic, or, better, a posh ski resort?

No, because my hero first sees her in a bikini on the beach....oven temperature, hot. Like my heroine.

While I'm in the kitchen, I might as well get out the jar of mint sauce. You can't have lamb without mint sauce, can you? My heroine is saucy. Now I know we've got some in the...with the ketchup ...on top of the.... behind the packets ofNo, it's not in the fridge with the mayonnaise and French dressing....could my hero be French?

I'm supposed to be writing this novel and the villain is called... Fray Bentos? Heinz? Or better, Hellman. The hero could be John West Boneless Sardines...no, wait...I've got it; Tate Andlyle.

Oh, look here, the mint sauce. Who put it with the custard powder? I knew we had some baked beans, but I couldn't find them...got lost like my heroine...so this week I bought another tin, and hello, here we are, four tins!

Now where did I put my pen? Not with the mint sauce...oh, here it is, rolled under the cookbook. She does some lovely recipes, this Delilah Smith does. Her ginger biscuits are to die for...my heroine has ginger hair.

I was going to make a cake, wasn't I? So why have I got out the mint sauce, then?

Really, I must get organised. These baked beans might fit nicely in the cupboard; my heroine has four friends, and they are plain and ordinary but nice like these beans. I'll

move the instant custard over there. Next to the curry powder. My heroine moves to a really exotic place...India, China, Saudi Arabia? Custard near to curry powder, really?

I'll set my novel in England, as English as fish-and-chips with H.P. and Worcestershire Sauce. Yes, and the hero's love rival could be named Lee Perrins.

My heroine could be a cook. No, because I couldn't have her smelling of fish. It would be nice to have fish for dinner. I'll get some out of the freezer to defrost.

Well, who put Boneless Sardines next to Golden Syrup? My heroine could have golden hair.

Anyway, she goes for a meal. She chooses fish cakes. I'm going to make fish cakes for dinner today, I remember. Of course, her sweetheart chooses lamb chops.

Why have I got lamb chops defrosting on the kitchen counter?

Honestly, I must be losing my marbles. And the hero is a sculptor who makes a statue out of kitchen worktops. No, out of marble.

Back to this novel.

I tell you, it's going to be a big hit, and I shall be as famous as Earnest Hemmingskirt or Robert Looses Steamingson. Eat your heart out, O.J. Rowing with your Henry Porter and Hogswatch School.

My heroine is called...just a minute...I wrote it down somewhere... yes here it is, she is named "Casta Sugar."

Now read on.....

Ruth Howard

The Joys of Spring

You know it is spring when.....

All the Christmas goodies are finished.

You can leave your vest off.

You can daydream in colour...yellow sands and blue waves.

Your nose doesn't go red with cold.

The plants you didn't prune are sprouting furiously.

You find out that the lawnmower is broken.

You watch television without a blanket wrapped round you.

The garden pond bubbles with frogspawn.

The contorted hazel wears dangling catkins like ornate earrings.

The first daisy winks at you from the lawn.

Curtains open early and close late.

You assure yourself that rain is good for the garden.

The supermarket is selling strawberries and Easter Eggs.

Clouds show their blue undershirts.
Mrs Next-Door hangs her washing out on the line.
Weeds have colonised the vegetable patch.
You can't find the summer tog duvet.
The local sheep have bellies bigger than yours.
Country paths are as sticky as uncooked pudding.
You vow to start a diet.....tomorrow.

Ruth Howard

Pictures from Our Perambulations

Some wild-life think it is Spring.....



A pair of great crested grebes at Poynton Pool

Side view to the left and back view to the right



.....whilst others think it is still Winter.

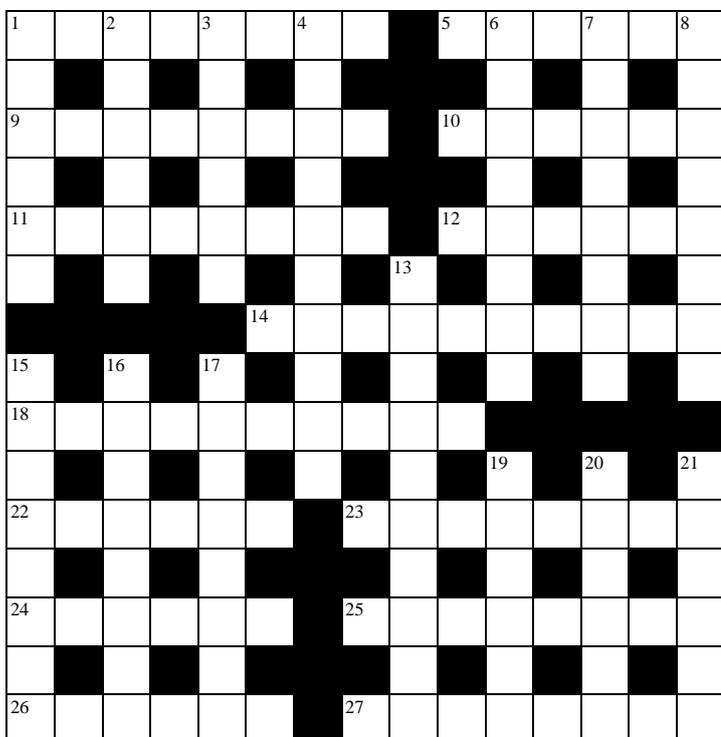


Tulips with frost-patterned leaves and in the snow



Things to Do

Crossword No.30



Submitted by **Nigel Burin** and **Eileen Shore**. As before, if you are interested in being part of a u3a group to set crosswords, please email Nigel at groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk

ACROSS

1. Round has to be played in Central America (8)
5. Pulsating in unwrapped bathrobe (6)
9. Shock after dark for bird (8)
10. A copper around for each entertaining point (6)
11. Key place for a beer in *Star Wars*? (5,3)
12. Radiate with reverse of iron bond (6)
14. Short celebrity, posh Swiss in refuge is most reliable (10)
18. Devotee here in Paris working, with a loud commotion outside (10)
22. Outsized after haul by current Dracula star (6)
23. German friend briefly taking back help sort of slips (8)
24. Disinclined to move; need to prod it about (6)
25. What French is inside a tube for channel (8)
26. Full stop to era of advancing years (6)
27. Summit, not Swiss, for the best outlook (3-5)

DOWN

1. Perfect good person and truthful (6)
2. Lack of ambition in outcome from VAR (2,4)
3. Peacekeepers on varied diet let loose (6)
4. 80s pop singer in Spain is intransigent (10)
6. Model to confront Broadway, perhaps (8)
7. Diverted engineers on wild detour (8)
8. Dark haired lout draws in catch (8)
13. Bit of money for band. Fair exchange (4,3,3)
15. Dance to backwards with Ed as opinion sought (8)
16. Bowie briefly has a time around ancient city to see temple there (8)
17. White lies circulating within gang (8)
19. Serving dish painted in picture enclosed (6)
20. Varied menu, it gives enhancement to the dance (6)
21. Beginning and end of season on long grass (6)

Sudoku No 20

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

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

Below is the solution to No 19

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Who wrote the pop standards “Wichita Lineman” and “By The Time I Get To Phoenix”?
2. Where is Pocahontas buried?
3. Which painter was the first President of The Royal Academy?
4. Name the world’s highest capital city
5. Who designed the well-known diagram of the London Underground?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. Who played the fourth Doctor Who?
Tom Baker
2. In which year was Sputnik launched?
1957 (on the 4th October)
3. Who wrote the song about a Trip to the Moon on Gossamer Wings?
Cole Porter wrote “Just one of those Things” which included that line for the musical Jubilee in 1935.
4. When did Florida’s Cape Kennedy revert to its 400-year-old name of Cape Canaveral?
1973
5. How old was Yuri Gagarin when he was the first man to be sent into space?
He was 27 years old.