



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 36-1

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Editorial

Welcome to the twenty-fourth edition of these electronic newsletters.

There are not as many contributors in this edition. If you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, send them to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Poynton u3a Update

General Meeting – September

We are planning to have our first General Meeting of the year on Tuesday 21st September at 2.00pm and have booked the Civic Hall accordingly. You will be aware that the Civic Hall has been used extensively for the vaccination programme. That programme will continue to have priority over all other Civic Hall bookings. At present there are no plans for vaccinations on 21st September but we are all aware that dates and restrictions can change at short notice. Until and unless this happens, we will be going ahead with the September General Meeting.

Our speaker in September will be Philip Caine delivering a talk entitled “From Barrow to Baghdad and Back.....”.

In accordance with the recent removal of restrictions, formal social distancing is no longer required and face coverings are optional in the Civic Hall. All the normal services will be useable and the kitchen will be available for refreshments as usual after the presentation. Increasingly members have chosen to bring their own cups but the normal disposable cups will also continue to be available.

There will be a container available for the collection of blister packs.

If you are attending the meeting, please remember to bring your current membership card (yellow) and a £1 coin. (Do you remember them?) The correct money will be appreciated even more than normal as we begin to get the show on the road again and make use of the new P.A. system which the Civic Authorities purchased just before the closure in March 2020.

Poynton u3a Committee.

Refreshment Helpers Needed

We have only two regular volunteers to serve refreshments at the end of our monthly meetings. Two is enough each month but if we had a few extra then we could have a rota so that the same two are not having to commit themselves every month. There is very little preparation involved, just making sure there is hot water for the kettles and putting out sugar, milk and biscuits. No washing up! Just tidying up afterwards. If you can help, please email me at enquiries@poyntonu3a.org.uk. The more helpers we have the fewer times you will be on duty!

Kate Marsham

Walking Group

The u3a walking group started out this month from the hamlet of Rowarth, going up to Cown Edge. It was my first time as leader, so my fingers were crossed that it would be enjoyable for all and that I wouldn't lose anyone.

This was a five-mile circular walk over quite varied terrain. The first half included a ford and quite a few stiles offering some challenges but all were overcome, thankfully. We made our way upwards through fields of sheep, taking in some great views of the Dark Peak. The weather had been pleasant on starting out but as we got higher a cold wind hit us. We reached an old quarry near the top and thought to shelter in it for a coffee break. We didn't linger there for long, however, as the shelter from the wind was minimal.

The second half of the walk, along Cown Edge, gave us excellent views across to Manchester, and then the Cheshire Plain. We met three horses who were grazing on the track - one of them found a walker's backpack worth an investigation! We descended gently back down into Rowarth, feeling a few droplets of rain, but nothing worse. I counted the walkers as we reached the car park and was relieved that we still numbered 12. A successful walk by my reckoning!

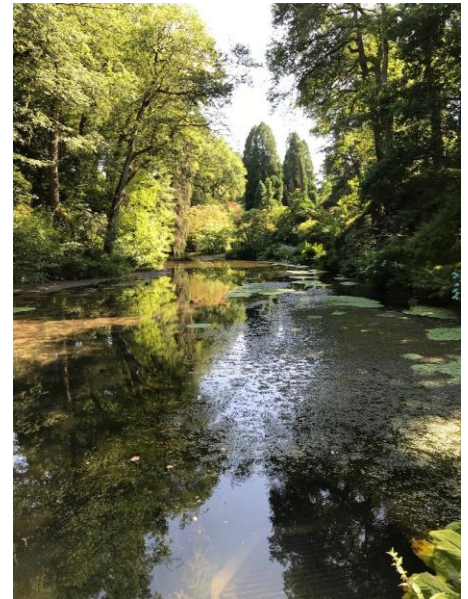


Cecilia Storr-Best

Photography Group

The photography group are not meeting during August but towards the end of July some of us visited Etherow Country park. Fortunately, it was a lovely day with plenty of sunshine which encouraged the group to walk around the lake and up to the weir. There was quite a selection of wild fowl and a small group of model boat enthusiasts provided an added attraction. Though I wasn't there myself, I understand that there was plenty of opportunity to take a variety of photos during the course of a very sociable gathering.

Rather than look at a particular topic this month, this selection of photos includes some from Etherow, some from Tegg's Nose together with one or two other interesting offerings.



The next meeting will take place on Friday 3rd September.

Keith Batchelor

Members' Contributions

'Remembering Victoria Wood'

She was a lassie from Lancashire,
Victoria Wood was her name.
She entertained us for many years,
Making all of us laugh was her aim.
Victoria worked hard to make that happen,
Writing through the day and night,
Till she produced the perfect lines,
For a chosen few to recite.
From 'As seen on T.V' and 'At it again'
There were brilliant stand-up performances.
Themes about life and all its significant moments,
The reaction was an uproar from the audiences.

Remembering the characters from her shows.
Using them to make comments, that lots of
People may think it, but never say it out loud.
With hilarious effect and told with much love.
Dressed in a full-length orange mac and yellow beret,
She would walk on stage, looking for her friend Kimberley.
'Have you seen her'? she would ask the audience,
To which everyone would melt into fits of hilarity.
'At the chippy' was a personal favourite, it
Was a brilliant piece of choreography and song,
The cast enjoyed every minute performing it,
All happy to sing-along.

In 'Housewife 49' she was more serious.
It was a play about daily events during WW2.
A straight part for Victoria,
Her acting ability came shining through.
And we've all visited the staff canteen in our time,
To catch up on all the gossip and cheeky chatter.
That's why 'dinner ladies' was so full of fun,
Whilst not avoiding any subject matter.
But who could forget 'The Ballad of Barry and Freda,'
A comical song performed at the piano, not meekly.
Victoria sang it from beginning to end, seamlessly.
The things you can do with the 'Women's Weekly'!

Susan J Pyett.

La'al Ratty

La'al Ratty ('Little Railway' in Cumbrian dialect) is the affectionate name for the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway. A 3ft gauge railway opened in 1875 to transport high grade iron ore mined near Boot, a village in the Eskdale valley, to Ravenglass on the coast where the ore could be transferred to the mainline which runs along the west Cumbrian coast. In 1876 the railway started taking passengers which made it the first public narrow gauge railway in England. Initially the passengers sat on chairs placed in the iron ore wagons.

The ore was mined in the hills high above Boot and brought down into the Eskdale valley floor using a technique familiar in our locality – the rope-driven incline – one full truck going down pulling an empty truck up.

The railway was forced to close in 1913 because of declining quantities of iron ore, falling passenger numbers and the equipment falling into disrepair.

In 1915 the model-makers W.J. Bassett-Lowke and R. Proctor-Mitchell, (representing Narrow Gauge Railways Ltd) were looking for a site to test their 15-inch gauge locomotives under exacting conditions. They purchased the railway and started re-laying the track to the 15-inch gauge. In some places, they used the existing sleepers and simply moved the track in to the new gauge. There was a slight reduction in length at the Boot end of the track and a new terminus was created at Dalegarth.

Granite quarrying commenced near to Boot in the 1920s which brought freight back to the line. By 1946 ownership passed to the Keswick Granite Company. In 1953 they decided to cease quarrying operations. Passenger operations continued throughout this time except for the war years.

Attempts were made to sell the line without success and it was announced that services would halt after the 1960 season. Local enthusiasts formed the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway Preservation Society and, with the help of two wealthy locals, they managed to purchase the line.

Since then, the line has prospered. New engines have been purchased and built, coaches have been built and maintenance is carried out on a regular basis. Dalegarth has a new station building which was opened by Pete Waterman in 2007. The Ravenglass Railway Museum Renovation Project was completed in 2018 and was opened by Paul Atterbury (of *Antiques Road Show* fame).

The line is 7 miles in length with a turntable at each end. There are a number of intermediate stations between Ravenglass and Dalegarth but at present they are temporarily closed.

Below are some photographs from our two most recent visits.



Ravenglass station with the Cumbria West Coast mainline on the left and the narrow gauge station on the right



Dalegarth for Boot station



*River Esk (2-8-2) built in 1923
Three of the steam engines are named after rivers which flow into the Ravenglass Estuary – Esk, Mite and Irt.*



Katie sitting in the museum. She is allowed out onto the main track every so often. Originally built in 1896 and rebuilt in 2017.



Northern Rock on the turntable at Dalegarth on a cold day in 2020



Northern Rock pictured from the new Observation carriage

Derek Gatenby

Pictures from Our Perambulations - RHS Garden Bridgewater Revisited

We revisited the RHS Garden Bridgewater six weeks after our first visit which was described in the previous issue. (RHS members and a guest don't have to pay for entry.) This time the garden looked more mature – bigger plants and more colour.



This picture shows a trial of courgette plants. This trial was apparently prompted by the fact that this is the Year of the Courgette.

Who knew!



In the last issue was a picture of the artificially created Ellesmere Lake. The west end of the lake has been drained and completely cleared before being refilled. This is the east end of the lake and shows what the whole lake must have looked like before work started.



Additional Visit Notes:

From September you can book but it is not a necessity. As before, the café was relatively quiet in the mid-morning but crowded at lunch-time.

Previously it was mentioned that there is not much cover should it rain. This time it was much cooler with a bit of rain in the wind – less pleasant (but the planting was more interesting).

Derek Gatenby

Frustration

Obviously, I have had far more frustrating things in my life but they are not for sharing in the u3a Newsletter. But these particular ones just seemed worthy of the telling as an example of the most frustrating two non-consecutive hours of my life, in fact they were separated by six months. The event in January was instigated by my Bramley apples in storage approaching their throw-away date, as they would soon start going rotten. At that stage in their maturity, they are as sweet as they will ever be. The other catalyst was there was cream in the fridge, a rare occurrence. So, my thinking was I would like an apple pie with cream, the only other component I would need was pastry. I was sure we would have all the ingredients.

First item was an instruction book, so out came Marguerite Patten Step-by-Step Cookery 1963, then a bowl, flour, salt, tablespoon, cold water and whipped up cooking fat. All straightforward, except for the cooking fat, the equivalent in our fridge was 100% vegetable baking fat. All the measures were imperial which I thought was great, better than metric. But everything we now buy is metric, so not that much better. In the book it said it would take 15 minutes to prepare, great, how difficult could it be? Pastry in various forms has been made all over the world, for hundreds of years, even by women and by my mother, whose pastry was very good.

So, fired by ignorance and enthusiasm, I started. Everything had to be cold even my hands, not a problem in January. I had to rub these dry ingredients together in mid-air to allow air into the mix which should resemble breadcrumbs, well I know what breadcrumbs look like so no issue there. Very small quantity of cold water, using a tablespoon, was to be added, then the mix gathered together. Gathering together was possible, staying together was not, so more water; at last, I could dust the board with flour and start rolling, as instructed only in one direction. I found that a strange concept, one direction but keep turning the pastry then it is multiple directions; but what do I know? What should have concerned me was no matter how much I rolled it didn't appear to be increasing in diameter. Eventually I had a lump half the size and three times as thick, which had taken four times as long; still that was what I had. The dish contained slices of apple sprinkled with sugar ready to be topped with my pastry, and then placed in the oven. When the allotted time had been reached and the pastry had browned, I lifted it from the oven, not with much hope or enthusiasm. The pastry was totally separate from the dish, so was I able to break a piece off to try, having tried, I dropped the remaining leaden lump into the pedal bin where it landed with satisfying thud, but I did have some beautifully stewed apple.

Hot July, raspberries ripening faster than we could pick, so six months on the only difference was the fruit. I felt I needed a pie, ingredients were still available, this time I asked for advice and supervision, not help, more a mentor. By the time I had made my way into the kitchen there was a large Pyrex dish full of fruit. Explaining I wanted something smaller because I was only going to make half quantity, so it wouldn't be such a waste

when I threw it away. Suggestions were made, like why not make a crumble, or buy pastry, both of which would defeat the purpose. I was able to roll out a piece which just about covered the dish. It was not going to be necessary to put holes in to let out the steam because even after the patching there were still enough cracks for that purpose. This time, after cooking, the results were acceptable not prize winning, but acceptable and thoroughly enjoyable. This second hour had been just as traumatic as the January one but for different reasons but the outcome was far more satisfying. I can't see it being repeated. I will just have to live without self-made pies.

Clive B Hill

Things to Do

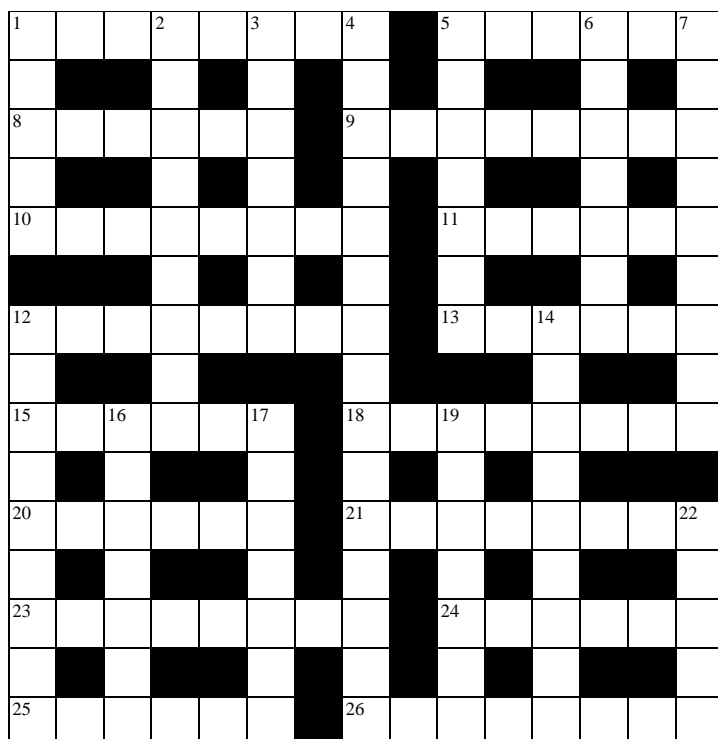
More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. In which sport has the 2021 World Cup been postponed until 2022?
2. Tony Jacklin won Lytham St Annes Open Golf in 1969. Where was he born?
3. Name the founder of Stockport Grammar School and the date it was founded.
4. Who were the stars appearing for the first time in the short cartoon 'Puss Gets The Boot' made in 1940?
5. Which local village was known as Eduluintune in The Domesday Book?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. For which English League Football Team does Finnish international Teemu Pukki play?
Norwich City
2. The Queen has personally met more US Presidents than any other living person; how many?
Fourteen
3. Name the new musical which Andrew Lloyd Webber is putting on in the Gillian Lynne Theatre in London.
Cinderella
4. What is the name of the unique medieval clapper bridge over the River Barle in the Exmoor National Park?
Tarr Steps
5. Name the city in Ohio where Jerry Springer was mayor in the 1970s.
Cincinnati

Crossword No.34



ACROSS

1. Glass apt to shatter is rescued just in time (4,4)
5. Within which Rob is hoping to see church leader (6)
8. Virginia in temper will pillage (6)
9. Old boys reportedly get to grips with barrier (8)
10. Jolson joins degree centre for fish (8)
11. Press on in charge but outcome is opposite to that expected (6)
12. Dubious lead in game but has a gilded result (4,4)
13. Seen at Lyme Regis, say, but reportedly at the top of a leg (6)
15. Notice of queen entering empty bar (6)
18. Initially Ark Royal with cricket club on board precedes ebbing tide to assign (8)
20. A child's horse with colourful border is badly worn (6)
21. I follow Hilary, perhaps, before student body comes to the end (8)
23. Oil giant rebranded for engraving (8)
24. North is in debt but is having possessions (6)
25. Five of young eels are replaced by five hundred older ones (6)
26. Disturbed cat finishes and defers (8)

Submitted by **Nigel Burin** and **Eileen Shore**. If you are interested in being part of a u3a group to compile crosswords, please contact Nigel via groups@poyntonu3.org.uk.

Solution to Crossword No 33

H	O	U	S	E	O	F	C	O	M	M	O	N	S	
	N	T	E	R	E	O	R							
	F	O	U	N	T	A	I	N		D	E	U	C	E
C	A	A	T	A	A	R	S							
L	A	K	E	C	H	A	T	E	L	A	I	N	E	
I	E	C	E	E	L	S	A							
F	I	D	D	L	E	R	S		F	I	S	H	E	R
F				O	S	K	O							
H	A	H	N	I	A	T	O	P	N	O	T	C	H	
A	O	S	M	H	S	E	I							
N	E	G	O	T	I	A	B	L	E	O	M	E	N	
G	A	E	R	R	M	P	G							
E	R	R	O	R	R	E	A	L	I	S	E	D		
R	T	E	O	B	N	S								
S	H	A	D	O	W	M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R	

DOWN

1. Girl holds five tadpoles, for example (5)
2. A great den made for a cuppa (3,6)
3. Name strange individual in plant (7)
4. Parrots force pin open for numbers that are not vulgar (6,9)
5. Nothing lost in bragging about cooking process (7)
6. Cut back Japanese currency in London (7)
7. Visionary caught one in here (9)
12. Talk to the Queen, and after eat in old school raincoat (9)
14. Bee I'd once disturbed showing submissive behaviour (9)
16. Denied having obligation to include upturned label (7)
17. Makes holes in puzzles (7)
19. Incentives as vehicle decays (7)
22. Time in ship for the wise (5)

Sudoku No 24

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

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

Below is the solution to No 23

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

And finally – A crowded English beach in mid-July



Seascale beach on 20th July at 10.00 in the morning.