



# Poynton u3a News

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[poyntonu3a.org.uk](http://poyntonu3a.org.uk)

Issue 36-2

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## Editorial

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

There is more group news in this edition as groups restart but fewer items in Members' Contributions. If you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, send them to [news@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:news@poyntonu3a.org.uk).

## Poynton u3a Update

### General Meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September

At the moment the first General Meeting of the year is still going ahead on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2.00pm. You may have seen the most recent news from the Middlewood Partnership relating to the delayed Flu vaccinations. At the time of writing, they have not been given a new delivery date and therefore are unable to book any appointments. They are also awaiting guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JVCI) regarding the COVID booster vaccination programme. They expect to hear whether or not they will be able to give patients both a COVID booster and an influenza vaccination at the same time. At this stage, they anticipate giving all vaccinations at the Civic Centre. They will contact you via text message or phone call to invite you, as the clinics are likely to be confirmed at very short notice. If there is a last minute cancellation of our meeting, we will attempt to inform members by email.

Just a reminder that social distancing is no longer required and face coverings are optional in the Civic Hall. The kitchen will be available for refreshments as usual after the presentation.

The speaker will be Philip Caine giving a talk entitled "From Barrow to Baghdad and Back.....".

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

If you are attending, please remember to bring your current membership card (yellow) and a £1 coin. The correct money would be appreciated.

**Poynton u3a Committee.**

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## Moving Forwards and Making Links! – Poynton Relief Road – Tuesday 5<sup>TH</sup> October

Poynton u3a have arranged for Daniel Cawthra from GRAHAM, the contractors building the Poynton Relief Road, to give us a presentation at the Civic Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>TH</sup> October starting at 10.00am. We thought that it might be of interest to our members and the general public. There will be a fairly short presentation from the contractors about the building of the relief road followed by an opportunity for you to ask questions about the construction of the road, progress being made, access for cyclists and walkers, reinstatement of Public Rights of Way – or anything else related to it. We hope to link this to ways in which Poynton can move forwards from the pandemic – any ideas welcome. We want to make Poynton the best it can be for our residents.

**There will be no charge for this event**, bring along neighbours, friends and family – they do not have to be u3a members. **There will also be free tea, coffee and biscuits!** Use this event as a way to meet up in a social context.

See [Poynton Relief Road - Graham](#) for any up-to-date information before the presentation.

### Jayne Barnes

### Short Walks

The 'Short Walks' season begins again on Tuesday 14th September 2021.

Our first planned walk will be a trip along Poynton Canal until we reach Lyme View Marina, where we can stop for refreshments. We will then return via the Middlewood Way. It takes about 1hr 30mins.

Meet at the entrance to Nelsons Pit, for an 11.00am start.

Our second planned walk will begin at the 'Jacksons Brickworks' on Tuesday 12th October. We then walk through the nature reserve onto the Middlewood Way until we reach Nelsons Pit where we stop for refreshments. We return along the same route with a few diversions. Again, it takes about 1hr 30mins.

Meet in Jacksons' Brickworks car park for an 11am start.

Look forward to seeing you there.

### Joyce Streets

### Bridge Group

The Bridge Group are moving to a larger room at Davenport Golf Club, Middlewood Road and restarting on Monday 20 September 2.00pm – 4.00pm every other week.

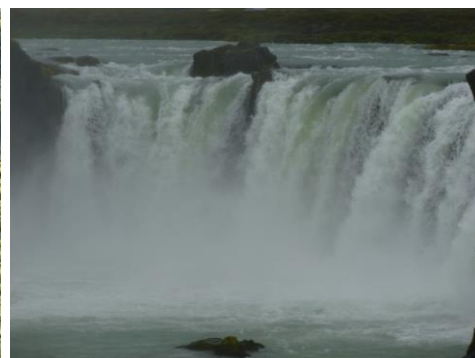
## Photography Group

We started the last Zoom meeting (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September) by sharing an interesting selection of waterfall photos, some from Etherow and others from around the world, some of which are presented below.

Brian then gave an informative presentation in which he indicated how we might improve the quality of our photos of buildings. I, for one, will be looking at my existing photographs of buildings with a critical eye - possibly some improvements in the future? On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September the group plan to visit Leek where we can hopefully make use of Brian's advice.

Kate has a longstanding interest in wild flowers which she shared with us via some attractive scenes and several closeups, gathered locally and in Anglesey. We are certainly surrounded by a wide variety of beautiful wild flowers that are worth our appreciation, particularly during Spring and early Summer.

We are all looking forward to the next meeting on the first Friday of October in Poynton Civic Centre. The first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic, it will represent a major milestone in our return to (near) normality.



Keith Batchelor

## Walking Group

For the September walk we went from Poynton Pool across fields, roads and a railway, through Middlewood, eventually reaching Macclesfield Canal. After a brief stop for refreshments, we returned initially via Prince's Incline then crossing fields to Towers Road and back to Poynton Pool. Approximately 4.5 miles.

The next walk will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Kate Marsham**



## Community Matters Group

It has been suggested that we should start a Community Matters (working title) interest group. This group would be involved with items of community interest, for example, blister packs, fairs, mental health support, delivering messages and Middlewood vaccination information. If you are interested, please contact [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk).

## Bus Pass Explorer Group

The Bus Pass Explorer Group is not restarting. Information about local bus services is available from the Information Point in the Civic Centre.

## Members' Contributions

### Lancashire Looms

The mills stand sadly silent  
Shells of their famous past,  
The machines are gone forever-  
They simply couldn't last.

The cheaper cost of labour  
In Bangladesh or South Korea  
Meant textile death by inches  
For the folks who lived right here.

For decades they stood empty  
As symbols of their prime,  
Then businessmen took over  
And lifelines came in time.

Now offices and storage -  
Units rented for new space  
Small traders took advantage  
Of budget-priced new place

Life changes, this just happens,  
Flexibility is the key  
Humans find an answer -  
That's how always it will be.

**Ian Beverley**

## Memories of long ago

Early on in the pandemic my wife and I set ourselves the task of going through the many photograph albums which she had compiled and which contained effectively our family history. By far and away the majority of these photographs covered the 50+ years of our married life, bringing up our two children and helping with the next generation of grandchildren. However, each of us had brought to the party a few photographs of the previous generations of parents and grandparents. Other than our parents' wedding photographs, these were rare. The oldest from my family was one of my paternal grandfather in the back yard of a terraced Victorian house in Ardwick in which he and my grandmother had brought up their own family and which I knew well as a young boy in my fairly regular visits to see my grandparents on a Sunday morning. My grandfather was, as far as I'm aware, the first person in my father's family to have had the very special opportunity which became commonplace for his own children and is an assumption for all young people today. He was the first of my paternal relatives who had been taught to read and write.

From all the records I can find my grandfather's family had lived as farm labourers in tied cottages in the countryside of Lincolnshire and what is now Cumbria. Beginning from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the industrial revolution had made a significant impact on large towns such as Liverpool and Manchester and this was matched by industrial methods of farming which meant that fewer labourers were needed in the countryside. The increasingly redundant farm workers, who often lost their cottages as well as their jobs, were needed in the rapidly industrialising towns and most of my grandfather's family appear to have moved to the Manchester area gradually in the last three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. My grandfather had been to school between the ages of 5-10 which had only recently become law before he left Cumbria for Manchester. That might be surprising to us nowadays but in fact only 50% of the total population of the UK in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century could read – and less than 50% could write. If we look just at the "labouring classes" (as they were called), literacy figures were very much lower and a marrying couple would normally make a mark, rather than a signature, on the church register.

Perhaps it is hardly believable to us today but there was a wide-spread and real fear amongst the entrenched "ruling classes" (as they were called) that the wider provision of education was bound to lead to unwanted consequences and revolution.

Davies Gilbert MP, opposing the Parochial Schools Bill in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century had warned parliament that:-

*"However specious in theory the project might be of giving education to the labouring classes of the poor, it would, in effect, be found to be prejudicial to their morals and happiness; it would teach them to despise their lot in life, instead of making them good servants in agriculture and other laborious employments to which their rank in society had destined them; instead of teaching them the virtue of subordination, it would render them*

*factious and refractory, as is evident in the manufacturing counties; it would enable them to read seditious pamphlets, vicious books and publications against Christianity; it would render them insolent to their superiors; and, in a few years, the result would be that the legislature would find it necessary to direct the strong arm of power towards them and to furnish the executive magistrates with more vigorous powers than are now in force. Besides, if this Bill were to pass into law, it would go to burthen the country with a most enormous and incalculable expense, and to load the industrious orders with still heavier imposts. (No! I didn't make this up – it's from *Hansard*, the official report of all Parliamentary debates.)*

My grandfather's first job in Manchester was as a domestic coachman. But he soon moved on from this to horse-drawn trams. The availability of mass-produced steel in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century prompted the laying of rails. And horse-drawn trams on rails could carry many times more passengers than the early trams on very bumpy roads. Of course, the driver had to know all about horses as he had to unhitch them and hitch them up on the other end of the tram for the return journey.

By 1901 Manchester & Salford Tramways was using 5,240 horses to pull 515 tramcars over 140 route miles and based on 20 depots. Horses were the only mobile source of power and were ubiquitous. (It's no surprise that, when engines appeared, they were rated in "horsepower".) The livelihood of many was centred on horses – breeding, training, equipping, managing, feeding, disposing of their deposits in the streets and ultimately disposing of the animals themselves. My grandmother proudly used to tell us that it was my grandfather's reading skills which meant that he could read out to his colleagues in his Longsight depot the report in the evening newspaper at the end of July 1909 that a certain M. Blériot had flown in an aeroplane across the channel from France to England at c.45mph in 36 minutes and 30 seconds. By the 1911 census my grandfather had taken on one of the newly developed vehicles and his occupation is recorded as "Tram Car Driver, Electric".

As a tram driver in those days his position was in the open air in front of the more enclosed area of the tram and exposed to all the elements. I know that he had contracted rheumatic fever which left him with a weak heart. I also know that as the driver of an electric tram, like others in that profession in the depression of the late 1920's, he had the misfortune of having a young woman with her baby throw herself under his tram.

Horses had been domesticated for over 6,000 years. The Times editorial in 1894 warned that by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the streets of London (and indeed all major towns) would be buried under 9ft of horse manure. But we humans have shown ourselves extraordinarily good at making projections which completely fail to see, let alone grasp, aspects of technological change. What happened?

My parents grew up in a world where horses were ever present and, in the early post-war years, I saw horses still fulfilling some major roles. In my early years coal was still delivered to our house by a horse and four wheeled cart which travelled at walking pace and we rushed out into the street to get bread when we heard the bell which preceded the cry

“Staff o’ life – baker” from the two wheeled speedy gig. But, by the time I was at secondary school, horses had effectively disappeared from the streets of Manchester. It was their replacement by internal combustion engines in buses and cars which began the age of commuting greater distances to work and allowed the diaspora of families into the suburbs, mine included.

**David Sewart**

## **Pictures from our Perambulations – Carsington Water**

Carsington Water was constructed in the Henmore Valley (Derbyshire) which was naturally bowl-shaped but was further excavated and then a dam was constructed to retain the water.



*The dam can be seen in the distance running all the way across the middle of the picture.*

The dam is made of 4.2 million cubic metres of clay, shale and top soil. It has been designed to be protected from erosion by covering it in limestone which offers a natural, extremely hard-wearing barrier. The dam took over 10 years to build being completed in September 1991.

Carsington Water is the ninth largest reservoir in England. It is a centre for water sports, has a large sailing club and is a Nature Reserve.



*A closer view of the reservoir control tower and the dam wall*

**Derek Gatenby**

## Things to Do

Sudoku No 25

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

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

Below is the solution to No 24

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

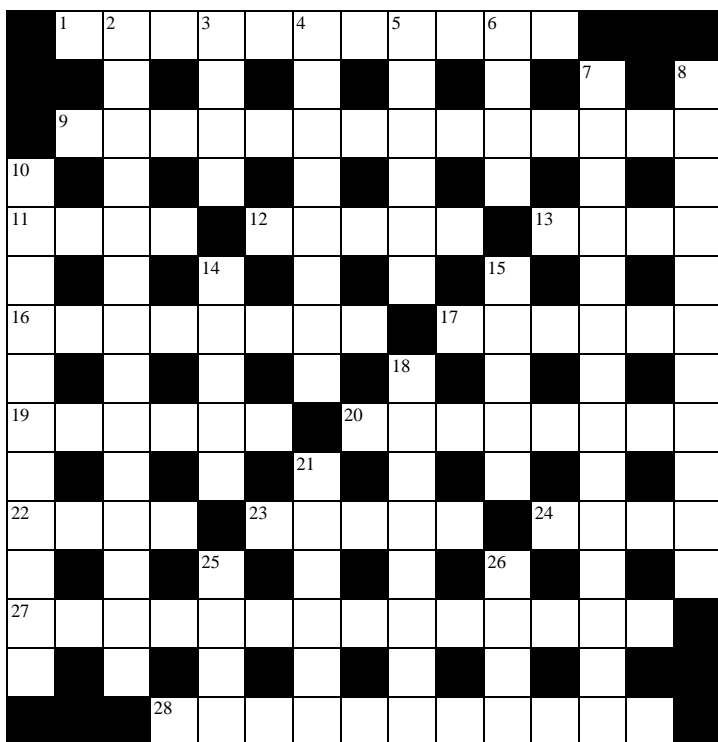
1. In which year was the guillotine last used in France?
2. What is the religion of the Amish people in the United States?
3. What was significant about the birth of Louise Joy Brown on 25 June 1978?
4. Where was the constituency of Labour MP Bessie Braddock?
5. In how many James Bond films did Sean Connery play 007?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. In which sport has the 2021 World Cup been postponed until 2022?  
*Rugby League*
2. Tony Jacklin won Lytham St Annes Open Golf in 1969. Where was he born?  
*Scunthorpe*
3. Name the founder of Stockport Grammar School and the date it was founded.  
*It was founded in 1487 by Sir Edmund Shaa. He was Lord Mayor of London in 1482 and also founded a chapel in St Mary's Church in Stockport.*
4. Who were the stars appearing for the first time in the short cartoon 'Puss Gets The Boot' made in 1940?  
*Tom and Jerry*
5. Which local village was known as Eduluintune in The Domesday Book?  
*Adlington*



## Crossword No.35



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](mailto:groups@poyntonu3.org.uk).

### Solution to Crossword No 34

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

### ACROSS

1. It doesn't follow to hurry back around strange question (3,8)
9. Insights gained from crazy epic raps on urban communities (14)
11. Heel over register (4)
12. Wanderer to show approval about mother (5)
13. Even so, one hasn't been shown to exist (4)
16. Repeated faithfully from proverb at Imola (8)
17. Advanced by one large pulse (6)
19. Risk taken by fish shop (6)
20. Rubbish English soldier seen on hill, retreating (8)
22. Wimbledon champion involved in smashes (4)
23. Composer with initially beautiful renditions under conductor's hand (5)
24. Embrace old French writer (4)
27. Big vessels destroyed pier stanchions (9,5)
28. Tips men off about American coin defects (11)

### DOWN

2. Reaching too far is beyond challenging perhaps (14)
3. Band from southern tree (4)
4. Dreamy and impractical, like Don? (8)
5. Is first-class and given a head to become Old Testament prophet (6)
6. Group of soldiers, peacekeepers with computing department (4)
7. Dismissive comment, I left impolite Turk confused (4,2,2,4,2)
8. Colonialist playing swing (11)
10. Peace offering from Popeye's girl, born on farm (5,6)
14. Artist, one allegedly blind, in African capital (5)
15. Smiles and supports (5)
18. Works caught on, sure thing one concludes (8)
21. Third place for Brown (6)
25. Damage limb at hospital (4)
26. Odd parts of schooner used for footwear (4)