



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 36-3

11th Oct 2021

Editorial

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

As always, if you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, send them to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Poynton u3a Update

General Meeting – Tuesday 21st September and Tuesday 19th October

The first post-pandemic meeting took place on Tuesday 21st September. There were several positives including a higher than expected turnout (approximately 135) and a considerable number of membership renewals and new members. People were obviously keen to meet up with their friends again!

There was one major negative – a significant number of people were unable to discern what the speaker was saying. This was the first time the new public address system had been used with a large audience and the problems that were evident with the old system appear to be still with us. Part of the problem was that the speaker was talking too quickly even ignoring a request to speak more slowly. The other part of the problem is that the acoustics in the Civic Hall are not very good.

This matter was discussed at length by the committee. Do we change venue to somewhere smaller? Do we limit numbers? Where else can provide as much car parking space? In the end, it was decided that we should continue with the Civic Hall and do as much as possible to mitigate the problems.

The next General Meeting is on Tuesday 19th October. It will feature the musical duo Fool's Gold. If you are attending, please remember to bring your current membership card and a £1 coin. The correct money would be appreciated. Remember that social distancing is no longer required and face coverings are optional in the Civic Hall. There will be refreshments available after the presentation.

Looking ahead, the Christmas meeting is on Tuesday 21st December. As numbers are limited, entry will be by ticket only. Tickets will be on sale at the October and November General meetings. Tickets cost £2 which includes a raffle ticket.

Looking further ahead, the Committee has decided that financial circumstances allow the membership renewal fee for next year to remain at £5. Details of how to renew your membership will be contained in a future edition of the newsletter.

Poynton u3a Committee.

Poynton Relief Road Presentation - 5th October.

This was a very successful event, attended by 80+ members and non-members. One of the main objectives was to attract people, particularly men, to a post pandemic event. There were approximately 50 men in attendance. The presentation by GRAHAM about the Poynton Relief Road, from Nick Hodder (Project Manager) and Dan Cawthra (Stakeholder & Communications Officer) was informative and enjoyable, with the opportunity for people to ask questions. Nick mentioned that, despite the presence of archaeologists from Oxford investigating a possible ancient burial ground, no remains were found, much to the relief of the contractors. It was certainly encouraging to hear that they are on track to complete by November 2022.



This was followed by a presentation about the Poynton Together objective of Raising Awareness of Mental Health (in particular men's mental health) in the community. Leaflets including PACP's (Poynton Area Community Partnership) "Local Services Poster", Well Pharmacy's "Staying Safe as we come out of Lockdown", Mentell information and 12th Man Leaflet were available. Several attendees gave positive feedback on the event. Sharon Duke, Poynton Communities Co-ordinator, thought the event was very successful.

Jayne Barnes

Short Walks

The short walks programme for 2021/22 began on 14th of September. The weather forecast was not good – rain was forecast so we wondered if anyone would turn up. To our surprise the weather remained fair, no rain! Nine members in all came along to enjoy the walk that Ray Weaver had planned.

We set off from Nelsons Pit down the Macclesfield Canal until we reached Lyme View Marina where we stopped for a drink. Ray made several stops on the way to enlighten us with his knowledge of the area.





Then onto the Middlewood way to make our way back to Nelsons Pit.

The members really enjoyed getting out and about, seeing people they had not seen for some time, catching up with all the news.

We look forward to our next walk on the 12th October, meeting at Jacksons' Brickworks car park for an 11.00am start.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Joyce Streets

Photography Group

Friday 1st October marked the first face-to-face meeting of the photography group at Poynton Civic Centre since the pandemic. We used the opportunity to view photos of railway stations and trains that we had gathered for the quarterly project.

After September's outing to Leek, we went on to share photos of large and impressive buildings, some in Leek and others from a variety of locations around the country. Following an interesting talk on the photographing of machinery we will have the opportunity to put our new found skills into effect during our proposed visit to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester – something to look out for in the next edition of the newsletter.





Keith Batchelor

Members' Contributions

September Morning

The morning starts with rain,
Then it's sunshine again,
The garden comes alive,
As bees and insects arrive,
All looking for nectar,
On marigold and fuchsia,
On echeum and sedum,
Buddleia and antirrhinum,
And butterflies too,
Though only a few,
A dramatic red admiral,
My favourite of all,
With strong coloured markings,
On its outstretched wings,

Is attracted to a blue quite hazy,
The flowers of Michaelmas daisy,
A small tortoiseshell
Is feeding there as well.
White butterflies flutter by,
While a buzzard flies high.
Climbing nasturtium flowers can still be
seen,
Standing out on a background of green,
Magnets for passing bees.
On the branches of rowan trees
Are clusters of red berries for the birds,
Was that a robin I just heard?

Viv Arnold



Red admiral on Michaelmas daisy,
watercolour by Viv

At the end of the Day

Over the hill

Under the weather

Up the spout

Down the tube

Round the bend

Up himself

Into something

From time to time

Over the top

Under the thumb

Strange little expressions which, in isolation, really do not make much sense, but all are familiar and instantly understood by everyone. Phrases of convenience they convey far more information than the actual words they contain and tell an instant story, far better than a long-winded explanation of the actual situation or circumstances in full sentences and detail.

It is easy to see the derivation of some of them whereas others are a little more mysterious and obscure yet easily understood. While writing this I remembered numerous other similar expressions, but will not list them, rather leave it up to you to come up with many more if you have the time or the inclination.

Helen J Stanley

Autumn's Not For Sadness

Autumn's not for sadness - enjoy its fleeting span,
The dusty green of Summer's gone, replaced by handsome tan.
The berried bushes flank the lanes and stare with startled eyes,
Deserting graceful birds take wing and fly the steel-blue skies.
Harvest fields are closely shorn, bereft of golden grain,
Dewy leaves descend and cling like kisses in the rain.
Misty dawns are chilly but the tardy sun's benign
The bracken's turning russet, the creeper's red as wine.
The sap is falling lower, the Winter grimly waits
To give, at length, the order to frost the cooling slates.
Autumn's a romantic, recalling years ago,
Smothering wild moorland hills with drifts of crunchy snow.
Remembering the melodies, the haunting songs of youth,
The ageless tang of wood-smoke, the bitter-sweet of truth.
For halcyon days have joined the past, the past the seasons sever
And Autumns fade, yet bloom again, for Autumns are forever.

Ian Beverley

Cheshire

C: 'The happy spot where I was born' is how Charles Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll remembers Daresbury, Runcorn, in Cheshire. It is where he came into the world in 1832. He spent his formative years there, where his father was a vicar. In the church of All Saints there is a memorial window to Lewis Carroll depicting many characters from 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. It includes the Cheshire Cat with the quote 'Oh you can't help that most everyone's mad here. You may have noticed that I'm not all here myself.' Apart from a big grin.

H: Is for Huxley a tiny village in the south-west of Cheshire. It was the inspiration for Aldous Huxley's book 'Brave New World'. It was first published in 1931 and the novel anticipates the future of technology, learning, and a modern utopia. He was descended from a family who lived in the village at a beautiful Jacobean house called Huxley Hall.

E: Is for Edward Langtry, 'Who lies alone in his grave, as in life'. He was the husband of Lillie Langtry, also known as 'The Jersey Lily'. She was the favourite mistress of Edward VII. Edward Langtry lies in the Overleigh Cemetery, near Grosvenor Bridge, across the River Dee. In 1897 some say he was driven mad by the separation from his beautiful wife. But in truth, he fell off the gangway of an Irish ferry which resulted in a fractured skull. He ended his days in Chester Lunatic Asylum. Many people came to the funeral expecting to see the 'Jersey Lily' but were disappointed as she did not attend. She did send flowers and offered to pay any bills, using a generous allowance she received from the King at the time.

S: Is for salt and much of Cheshire is built quite literally on salt. You can tell by the names – Nantwich, Northwich, and Middlewich, ‘wich’ meaning a salt spring. The sea retreated from the area millions of years ago depositing salt. It has been mined since the Roman era. Salt has been used to flavour and preserve food since ancient times. It was considered precious enough to be worth its weight in gold. Once it was mined, men called Salt Hawkers sold the salt on. It was one of the ways that food could be preserved before refrigeration became the norm. Because salt mines are clean and have a constant temperature of 14°C, they are very useful for storage. Recently Manchester Library was renovated. During that time the books, pictures, artefacts and manuscripts were stored in the Cheshire mines, to preserve them and keep them safe.

H: Hazel Grove, a historic Cheshire village is made up of the ancient hamlets of Norbury Moor, Torkington and Bosden cum Handforth. In 425AD, Norbury was a Roman settlement and was also mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The Warrens of Poynton co-operated with the Leghs of Lyme, to work the Cannel and Sheepwash coal seams at Norbury Hallow. In 1849, these areas were incorporated and became Hazel Grove. Before that, this area was also known as Bullock Smithy. When John Wesley preached in Bullock Smithy he said, ‘one of the most famous villages in the county, for all manner of wickedness’! It also provided stables for the horses that had made the ten-mile journey from Manchester. They were fed, watered and fitted with iron shoes. Some horses were rested and replaced with other horses for the onward journey to Buxton. People often stayed at the numerous Inns that opened in the village at the time. Horse drawn trams used London Road and terminated at The Rising Sun pub. Another pub in Hazel Grove called the Bull’s Head recently changed its name to The Bullock Smithy in remembrance of the old name for the village. The character of Hazel Grove was dependent on its people and the personalities of the ‘Grovers’. This is still true today but to a lesser extent. The hustle and bustle of the present day, seems to have stifled the creation of a real village and personalities. Then, ‘Grovers’ had time to reflect on life. Enjoying the freedom to sing in the middle of the road if they so wished. Many of them calling at the seventeen pubs, which lined the main road at the time. Major industries then were, coach repairs, inns, weaving, hat making and mining.

I: Represents Imperial Chemical Industries, one of the world’s leading chemical companies. It grew out of the Cheshire salt mines. In 1873 Sir John Brunner, a politician and business man, joined Dr Ludwig Mond, a pioneering chemist, to form Brunner Mond. Together they bought the 18th century Winnington Hall on the River Weaver and built their first chemical works. Winnington Hall is now the I.C.I. staff club.

R: The Roodee or Rood Island lies on the site of the old Roman wharves. It is Britain’s oldest sporting venue. Horse racing has been there since the reign of Henry VIII, making Chester races the oldest sporting event in Britain. It is still held at the original site today. The racecourse lies by the River Dee. In the centre of the field is a very old stone cross on

the top of a small mound. According to local legend there is a statue of the Virgin Mary buried there. It was sentenced to death for falling on and killing Lady Trawst, wife of the Governor of Hawarden of Hawarden Castle in Flintshire. She was praying for rain during a service in the local church, when the statue broke loose and fell on top of her. As it is not possible to hang a statue, it was buried instead.

The Rows, which are situated in the centre of Chester, date from the 14th century and are charming black and white timber buildings, made up of two tiers of shops. One tier is at street level and one above. It has a covered walkway on the higher tier.

E: Emma Lyon, better known as Lady Hamilton and mistress of Lord Nelson, was born in 1765 at Swann cottage by the River Dee, Neston on the Wirral. When she was fifteen Emma met Sir Henry Featherstone. He hired her for several months and she was a hostess, entertainer at many lengthy house parties. It is said she entertained Sir Harry and his friends by dancing on the dining room table. She later met and married Sir William Hamilton on 6th Sept 1791. In 1798 Emma became the mistress of Horatio Nelson and allegedly gave birth to Nelson's daughter Horatia on 29th Oct 1801. Horatia married Phillip Ward and went on to have a large family of her own – seven sons and three daughters. Some of the boys were given the name Nelson or Horatio as one of their Christian names.

Susan J Pyett

Things to Do

Sudoku No 26

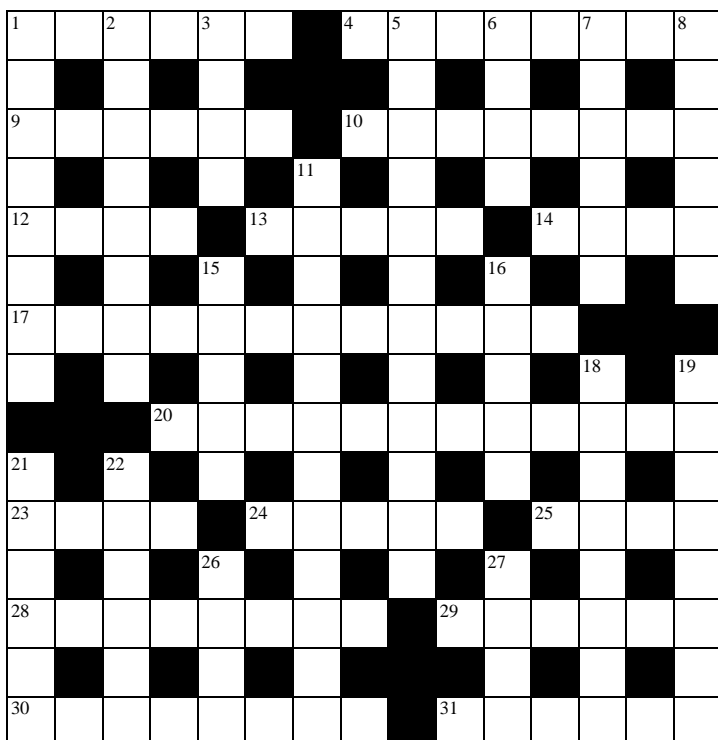
7							2	
	3							
5			6			4		
	7			1	2			
3								
	1		5	3	7	8	6	
					1		4	
	2				4	3	8	
1			7			5		

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

Below is the solution to No 25

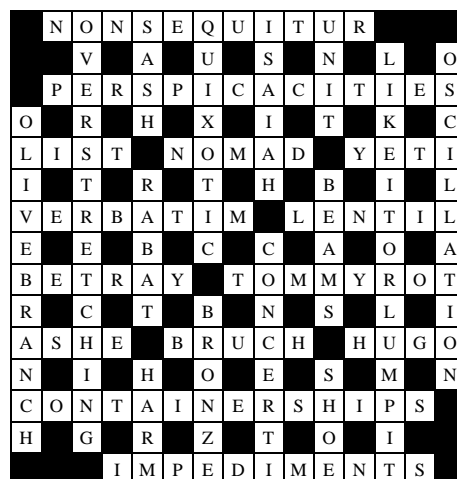
8	7	9	2	6	3	5	4	1
5	3	6	1	8	4	2	7	9
2	1	4	5	9	7	3	8	6
4	5	8	3	1	2	6	9	7
6	9	1	7	5	8	4	3	2
3	2	7	9	4	6	1	5	8
7	6	5	4	2	9	8	1	3
1	8	3	6	7	5	9	2	4
9	4	2	8	3	1	7	6	5

Crossword No.36



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 35



ACROSS

1. Incursion in the suburbs of Brussels seen in the hair salon (6)
4. Come to terms with account convention (8)
9. Response in the lab (6)
10. Uncertain reacts on forebear (8)
12. Picked up unattractive fruit (4)
13. Tail off corgi, say, preceding Queen (5)
14. Risk a letter (4)
17. Apply hock, guy becomes free and easy (5-2-5)
20. Star of Bethlehem, for example, revealing an important person (7,5)
23. Style of the Spanish article (4)
24. A tax for small island (5)
25. City where you can reportedly wander (4)
28. Material made instrument fade away (8)
29. View from the rare garden (6)
30. Payment for coat by Irish lake (8)
31. Mentioned gallery in South Dakota (6)

DOWN

1. Cry of pain in exposed carriage (8)
2. Animal: one leapt out (8)
3. River run (4)
5. Trick heartless monarch in flamboyant style thus (12)
6. Drug addict heads for urban site expecting rendezvous (4)
7. Songbird was first to be named (6)
8. What can destroy wall, or hold bricks together? (6)
11. Alternative choice in back row (6,6)
15. Pieces of information obtained through unfinished exam (5)
16. Brainbox uses art with change of centre (5)
18. Mixing argon with tin is uneducated (8)
19. Was there in a bike race and finished (8)
21. Trump excuse (3,3)
22. More spacious, particular German houses (6)
26. Release from peacekeepers' party (4)
27. Measure of length from payment over time (4)

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. "Someday my Prince will come" is a song from which musical?
2. Who was the Queen of England who was the mother of two kings, following the death of her husband the Danish-born king Canute?
3. Birth name of the singer Prince
4. Who was Queen Salote and which country did she rule?
5. What "may look at a King"?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. In which year was the guillotine last used in France?
1977 on 10th September
2. What is the religion of the Amish people in the United States?
Protestant - breakaway group of Swiss, German and Alsatian Anabaptists who came to Pennsylvania in the early 17th century.
3. What was significant about the birth of Louise Joy Brown on 25 June 1978?
She was the world's first test-tube baby
4. Where was the constituency of Labour MP Bessie Braddock?
Everton, Liverpool
5. In how many James Bond films did Sean Connery play 007?
Seven

Interest Groups

At the September General Meeting, there was considerable interest in the Groups board which was difficult to access because of the layout of the seating.

In the hope of answering some of the questions, the next page shows a list of the current Poynton u3a Interest Groups plus the groups which are not part of the u3a but are open to u3a members.

Groups' information is understandably changing continually at the moment but the list is thought to be correct at time of writing.

Interest Group information is also available on our website – poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Page 11 has been removed in line with our data protection policy.