

# Poynton u3a News

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

Issue 37-2

15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

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## Editorial

Welcome to the twenty-ninth edition of these electronic newsletters. It feels like we should go back to wishing everyone a Healthy New Year.

As always, 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

### Cancellation of Christmas Meeting

Unfortunately, the Christmas Meeting had to be cancelled just before it was due to take place. The Middlewood Medical Practice have thanked us for freeing up the hall, as they needed it in their drive to give as many Covid vaccinations as possible.

As you can imagine, a lot of work went into preparing for the party, and much of the food had already been bought, so some of the items, such as mince pies and nibbles, were given to local food banks. Other items can be used at general meetings. As raffle prizes had also been purchased, we did a draw and can confirm that Kathleen Horrocks and Eileen Shore have won a bottle of sparkling wine and a box of Thornton's chocolates respectively. They have recently received their prizes.

Regarding the tickets that were purchased, we are offering two options. If a refund is required, this can be provided at any general meeting. Alternatively, with agreement, the cost of the ticket can be treated as a donation to Poynton u3a, in which case we'd like to thank you.

### Poynton u3a Committee

#### Thank You!

Although our Christmas party couldn't take place, I would like to thank several people for their hard work and time taken to plan and prepare for the event. A few committee members formed a sub-committee in order to discuss different aspects of the party. This involved several meetings in a local coffee lounge! We started planning in September. Even then there was always the 'what if...' question hanging over us. For this reason, the food items chosen had a reasonable shelf life, just in case!

There was more than just the sub-committee involved with the organisation:



The tickets were printed by Derek. Nigel produced a Christmas crossword. Jayne saved empty gin bottles and inserted lights in them to decorate the tables. She assures me that she did not drink ALL the contents herself! Liz and John provided wooden candle holders, complete with candles.



These items will be stored for Christmas 2022 when hopefully we will be able to have our normal Christmas party.

Last but not least, thanks to the committee members who bought the food items, provided the quiz, raffle prizes, arranged the entertainment and gave me much needed support.

**Kate Marsham**

*[And thanks to you Kate for leading the organisation of the party! – Ed]*

## **General Meeting – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Our next general meeting is to be held on January 18th at 2.00pm in the Civic Hall when John Browne will give us a talk on *The Golden Age of Radio*.

The Council have informed us that they are installing a new loop system before that date and so hopefully this will enhance the audio system for those with compatible hearing aids.

## **Third Age Trust Magazine**

The Third Age Trust produces a magazine called Third Age Matters which so far has been free to u3a members. You just have to pay the postage. There are five editions a year (April, June, September, November and February). At present there are not many who subscribe from Poynton. We don't yet have the details for this year but, if you would like to know the details when they become available, email [membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk).

## **Poynton u3a Membership Renewal**

Membership renewals are occurring at a steady pace.

**Remember** you need to renew your membership **immediately** if you are involved in any Interest Group activities (Real or Virtual) or want to continue to receive our Newsletter. Details were in the previous newsletter which is available on our website.

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## Annual General Meeting - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Our AGM last year took place in accordance with the new constitution agreed at the previous EGM. Since face-to-face meetings were not permitted at that time the Committee had devised an electronic format which, together with postal support where necessary, could include all members.

In the past AGM meetings have been followed by a presentation from the Clerk to the Council which has provided members with an opportunity to raise questions on matters of interest in Poynton. This has always been much appreciated.

The view of the Committee is that such a face-to-face meeting in the Civic Hall, with an opportunity for electronic input as far as possible for those not able to attend, followed by a presentation from the Clerk to the Council would be the ideal method for the future. We should always plan for this -Plan A. However, experience of the last couple of years has demonstrated that there can be varying restrictions at varying times on indoor gatherings. Therefore, a Plan B may be needed and should always be part of the planning. This would be based on the experience of holding the 2021 AGM. We are basing our plans on an AGM on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Therefore, we are inviting from members:

1. resolutions which members would like to be put to the AGM
2. the names of those agreeing to stand for election as committee members

Resolutions and nominations for the election of new committee members together with names of a proposer and seconder should be sent to our Secretary, Jayne Barnes (using enquiries@poyntonu3a.org.uk or post to 72 Clifford Road, SK12 1JA).

The Constitution requires that we should give 21 days notice of the date of the AGM and its agenda. Proposed resolutions and proposals for committee membership should be received by the Secretary no later than **11<sup>th</sup> February 2022**.

The agenda for the AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> March will follow the normal pattern, namely:-

- Minutes of the last AGM (2021)
- Matters arising
- Proposed resolutions
- Election of committee members
- Trustees' report
- Group coordinators report
- Annual accounts.

There will be a further mailing which will contain the relevant papers for the AGM.

*[If you missed the email with the Nominations and Resolutions Form attached, the form is available on our website. – Ed]*

## Photography Group

Several members of the group took advantage of the cold weather at the end of November and beginning of December to capture winter scenes. The outing to Lyme Park on a mild and sunny day in the middle of December gave many of us the opportunity to photograph the hall and garden alongside scenes in the surrounding estate. After all that gentle exercise it was time to drive into Disley and tuck into Christmas lunch.

Protected from a damp and rather slushy Friday afternoon I, for one, was happy to go inside the Civic Centre for the first meeting in 2022 of the photography group. It was time for us to take a look at a dozen or so boards on which we had carefully arranged our annual project, "A to Z". This title provided plenty of scope for a variety of interpretations such as places in the UK and around the world, different food products, shops in Poynton, tools to make up the letters of the alphabet, as can be seen in some of the photographs.

At the end of a busy meeting, Lyn proposed "Street Art" as the annual topic for 2022. That will certainly require some careful consideration about what approach to take and what photos to include. Watch out for January 2023.





**Keith Batchelor**

## **Walking Group News**

Poynton u3a (long) walking group meet on the 1st Thursday morning of the month for an enjoyable walk with good company. The walks are approximately 5 miles long, starting in a variety of locations, and often end up in a hostelry of some sort for lunch, which is of course optional.



In November we started our walk in Bollington and walked to Rainow, then back via Kerridge Ridge, which was quite a challenge for some of us. However, it was a sunny day and we were rewarded with stunning views. On the ridge we slowed down to watch a shepherd who appeared to be training two young sheepdogs to round up his flock of sheep. His two trusted older dogs helped out in the end.



December was quite a different walk, fairly flat, starting in Wilmslow close to Lindow Common. Once again, we were lucky with the weather, as it had been extremely wet up to that day, but that day was cold and crisp, making it easier to negotiate some of the muddy paths. However, we hadn't anticipated the effects of storm Arwen the previous week, when a large tree blocked our path. Most of us negotiated it by crawling under it (bearing in mind it was also muddy) but one or two taller folk managed to climb over it! We

walked to Rossmere and through Newgate Nature Reserve, before returning to Black Lake on Lindow Common. Many of us then *drove* to the Honey Bee (about 2 miles away) for a festive lunch.

January saw us walking round Rudyard Lake, all pleased to get out in the fresh air after the Christmas and New Year break. It was cold, and the forecast was for sleet or snow but we were all equipped with thermals, waterproofs, and layers. When the snow started falling about 40 minutes into the walk, it was actually lovely to see, and snow somehow doesn't seem as wet as rain! (However, there were a lot of wet gloves and hats by the end of the walk.) We finished the morning off by having a very enjoyable lunch at the Rudyard Hotel. I'm looking forward to the next walk.



*A crowded station on the Rudyard Narrow Gauge Line*



*Rudyard Dam*



*The Tight Rope Walker, Rudyard*

If anyone is interested in joining the "long" walking group, please email [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk) for further details.

**Sandra Batchelor**

## Dining Group

The next meeting of the dining group will be on 17<sup>th</sup> February at the Farmers Arms, Park Lane, Poynton. The cost is £12.00 for two courses from the lunch menu. This includes a tip, and choices must be made in advance. I look forward to meeting everyone again.

**Norma Shreeve**

## Members' Contributions

### Learning from my grandfather

When I went round as a boy on Sunday mornings to see my grandparents my grandmother always seemed to be in the kitchen. The door at the back of the house was always "on the latch" and, when she heard me come in, she poured me a drink of sarsaparilla - the real thing in those days which came in a heavy stone bottle. My grandfather was provided with tea in the billy can he had used to take to work on his tram with his grease-proof paper twists of tea and sugar melded together by condensed milk.

In his advancing years my grandfather had commandeered a rocking chair in the dining room by the side of the huge cast iron range which had an open fire with a capacious oven to one side of it and on the other side a hob from which the iron kettle could be swung above the fire. Above it all hung a rack which could be lowered from the ceiling and on which washing was dried/aired. His eyesight had declined and most of his time appeared to be expended in what I can only describe as "fiddling about" with numerous small tools, tobacco and a wide range of pipes, mostly wooden but some of them made of a light grey clay which darkened when he had managed to get one lit for more than the odd few minutes. Central to his activity was a very large box of Swan Vesta matches. On occasions his actions resulted in a huge volume of smoke and sometimes sparks and my grandmother would rush in to save her washing and lament that he had yet again burnt a hole in his pullover and/or waistcoat.

His other passion was a gramophone which sat on a table beside him and was referred to by my father as having been "left by the Romans". On its side was a handle which wound up the turntable mechanism. You lowered the arm carefully onto the edge of a record and out came the sounds. Either there wasn't a method of changing the volume or it was broken. When it was playing the noise was considerable and the records had been played so often that the scratchy noise it made was not particularly pleasant. But clearly my grandfather enjoyed it. There was the band of the Coldstream Guards playing military music, five verses of the *National Anthem*, *Jerusalem*, *Rule Britannia*, *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, *There's a Long, Long Trail a-winding*, *Pack up your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag etc.* If I close my eyes, I can remember them all, none of them best sellers nowadays but an interesting reminder of a common culture not all that long ago. However, his favourite record (mine too) was the Stanley Holloway Monologues, redolent of the London Palladium

of the 1930s, and in particular *The Lion and Albert*. I heard it so often I can still after 70 years remember the 18 verses of the Ramsbottom family's visit to Blackpool where Albert was swallowed by a lion called Wallace.

I recall also one piece of factual evidence relating to my grandfather's rural beginnings, namely a staff about 3cms in diameter and perhaps about a metre in length. He used it now as if it was a walking stick. It was a hard wood, perhaps hickory, and had been polished by years of handling. He said that he had used it as a boy for counting sheep and around the shaft were four sets of five circular cuts/indentations, each set separated from the next by a sizeable gap. I assume that you counted by moving your finger over the indentations while looking at the animals and looked down at the stick at the end to arrive at the number. What happened if you wanted a number greater than 20 I never thought of asking as I was only very young at the time.

No visit was complete without at least one game of dominoes with granddad. And for this he taught me what he said was a secret language for the numbers (1-20) - a secret just between the two of us when we played dominoes so nobody else would understand it. *Yan (1), Tahn(2), Teddera(3), Meddera(4), Pimp(5), Settera(6), Lettera(7), Hovera(8), Dovera(9), Dick(10), Yan Dick(11) and onwards to Bumfit(15), Yan-a-Bumfit(16) and then on to Jiggot(20)*. "Stop filling his head with *mumbo jumbo*" my grandmother would say when she came in.

My grandfather died when I was about eight years old. But what you learn in the earliest part of your life, even quite useless things, sometimes stays with you as if it was just yesterday. Such was the case for me with the secret language of the dots on dominoes.

Over a decade later one of my university friends was completing a Duke of Edinburgh Award but his fellow participant had broken his arm. I agreed to meet him in a small village in the Pennines to help him carry the camping equipment back home on our bikes. It took me the best part of a day to get there and, as it was too late to travel back, we decided to stay in the tent overnight and start back early the next morning. The village pub beckoned and we each bought a pint of "mild" (one shilling and three pence in those days just as it was in our Students' Union bar). While we were talking an elderly man was helped into the bar and guided to his usual seat at the end of our table. As he sat down the barman shouted "the usual John?" and placed his beer nearby. He propped his walking stick against the table and I could see at once that it was like my grandfather's counting stick. The pint of mild gave me the confidence to ask him about his stick. He insisted in showing me the indentations and explaining how it worked. The second pint of mild gave me even more confidence. So, I held the stick, looked at the five glasses now on the table and moved my finger over the first set of indentations slowly saying Yan, Tahn, Teddera. Meddera, Pimp. My friend looked at me as if I had suddenly lost control of my senses – as did the landlord. Not so our new acquaintance John. What precisely this elderly man said is not for the ears of such gentle readers as yourselves but might be more respectably translated as

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“Goodness me – it’s over 50 years since I heard anyone your age counting like that. May I ask which graveyard you have escaped from?”

Later as I took an interest in early languages it became clear to me that what my grandfather had taught me were the corrupted remnants of the old Brythonic Celtic languages which had existed in pre-Roman times and were never written down. Welsh and Gaelic are the ones we now know and they are still in daily use. What my grandfather had taught me was just one of various, but quite similar, sheep counting systems employed in the North of England when he was a boy. They tended to rhyme but with seemingly special words for 5, 10, 15 and 20. Vigesimal counting (counting in 20s) and the importance of the end of each group of five presumably arises from counting fingers and toes. Some of these dialects had been in use until the end of the nineteenth century and in some places even later as I discovered on trips to the Yorkshire Dales and Lincolnshire where I also learned that they were used in “knitting songs”. Of course, if you can’t read or write you pass on when you speak your own version of a word. Others, hearing you, repeat what they have heard but it might not be precisely how you said it. Then somebody else speaks their version. Gradually the sound changes and over time the original disappears or rather evolves into a different dialect. When schools appear all these ancient variations begin to fall victim to the standard reading and writing programme of schooling. “Eeeny, meeny, miney, mo” is probably one of the very few remnants which have survived and “Eena, mena, mona, mite” was the start of the counting system of the old Cornish language which was widely spoken instead of English in Cornwall until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

I’m grateful that my grandfather taught me bits of an old language – grateful too that he demonstrated clearly that learning to light a pipe is definitely not worth the effort.

**David Sewart**

**RSI**

With this extended holiday and all the bonhomie and largesse I am suffering from far too many fist pumps, elbow bumps, and unrequited high fives. What are these pretend hugs all about? We must look like two demented crabs approaching each other.

RSI seems to have gone out of fashion or maybe working from home prevents the onset. I don’t think you can O.D. on Fiery- Jack or Ibuprofen Gel, or even a combination of them both. I like to blame the PM because each and every night he is on the television news with sleeves rolled up, tie tucked in his shirt, elbowing some poor medic somewhere or other.

Will we get back to shaking hands again? Will we remember how we did it? Will that lead into hugs? Do we want it to?

**Clive B Hill**

*[For those that can’t remember or never knew, RSI = Repetitive Strain Injury – Ed]*

## Pictures from our Perambulations – Van Gogh Alive

We visited the Van Gogh Alive exhibition at MediaCity in November. It is situated in a large marquee on the Piazza outside the BBC building and features many of the artist's paintings in a combination of Van Gogh's own words, music and high-resolution, projected images.



I know that a number of members have visited the exhibition but for those who haven't made it, here are a few images that provide a flavour.

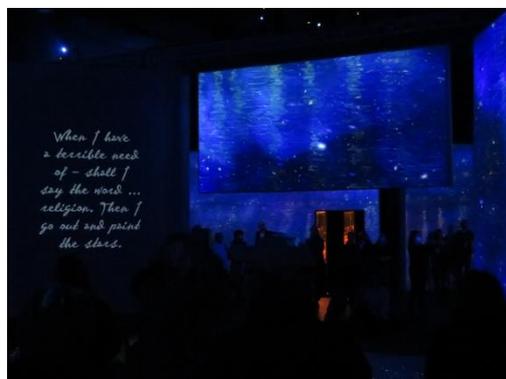
You can have your picture taken in a mock-up of the artist's bedroom and you can wander through a mass of sunflowers.



Then in the main area.....



*"When I have a terrible need of - shall I say the word ... religion. Then I go out and paint the stars."*

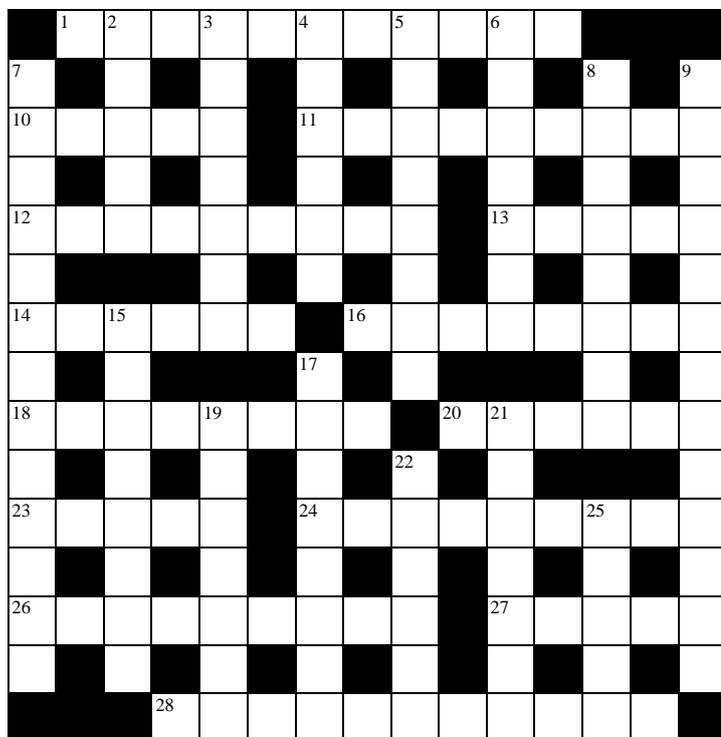


The exhibition was planned to finish at the end of January but it has recently been announced that it is continuing until the end of February.

**Derek Gatenby**

## Things to Do

### Crossword No. 39



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 38

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

### ACROSS

1. Smooth call by actor at Royal house (11)
10. Briefly line up in plant (5)
11. Construct a brief act in play (9)
12. Labour returned – I afterwards get in with both sides' agreement (9)
13. Put off, in crude terms (5)
14. Stripper has old Charlie gripped by lecherous desire (6)
16. Upper-class and rich – one sadly is cowardly (8)
18. Break spell (8)
20. Country finally changed this dictator (6)
23. Tongue, pound a can (5)
24. Ball-play is deficient? Not usually, with them (3,6)
26. Demanding porridge, then fish (9)
27. Strange falsehood in article (5)
28. Not even Chopin's friend finishes such a miscellany (4,3,4)

### DOWN

2. Horrify a sound apostle (5)
3. Gives a note in to teachers (7)
4. Sneak attending class? (6)
5. Talking turkey? (8)
6. Song bringing up death of Theseus's lover (7)
7. Comprehensive settlement for our small planet (6,7)
8. May find what's wrong with instrument (8)
9. Give way here – animal in transit (5,8)
15. Share of proceeds I offer? Stop it! (3,2,3)
17. Is able to sign for Norwich City (8)
19. High status took precedence, and caused grievance (7)
21. Free issue (7)
22. Uphill task with a new motto (6)
25. Youngster guarded by neurotic Hilda (5)

Sudoku No 29

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

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

Below is the solution to No 28

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Name the prominent gritstone hill on the Cheshire Staffordshire border, just north-east of Congleton.
2. Helen Mirren is taking the part of which Prime Minister in a forthcoming film?
3. What is the collective name for a group of Highland Cattle?
4. Who was Roy Plomley's first castaway on 29th January 1942 on Desert Island Discs?
5. Name the two football teams who played in the 1989 FA quarter-final match which culminated in the Hillsborough disaster which resulted in the death of 97 people.

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. Lady Gaga appears as Patrizia Reggiani in a new film about which designer's murder?  
*Maurizio Gucci*
2. In which 1962 film did James Mason paint the toenails of his young co-star?  
*Lolita*
3. In 1987 at what age did former silent movies star Lillian Gish appear in her last film "The Whales of August"?  
*93 years of age*
4. Which 1960 Western was a remake of the Japanese "The Seven Samurai"?  
*The Magnificent Seven*
5. Name of 1982 animated film based on the 1978 Raymond Briggs picture book.  
*The Snowman*