

Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Editorial

Welcome to the thirtieth 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 Meetings – Tuesday 18th January 2022 and Tuesday 15th February

Our last general meeting was held on January 18th when John Browne gave us a talk on *The Golden Age of Radio*. For John, The Golden Age stretches from the end of the Second World War to the late Fifties. There were many positive comments after the meeting as memories were stirred of radio programmes seemingly long forgotten. [*Who said nostalgia was a thing of the past? How many people remarked that Mrs. Dale's Diary was on the radio when they got home from school? Lots! – Ed*]

At first hearing, the new sound system installed by the Council was a distinct improvement over recent offerings. However, the jury seems to be still out over the new loop system.

The next meeting is on 15th February at 2.00pm in the Civic Hall when Nikki Parmenter will be talking about the development of her art work from paper to wood, mixed media and textiles.

Third Age Trust Magazine

We now have the details for ordering the Third Age Matters magazine which is produced by The Third Age Trust. The magazine is free to u3a members. You just have to pay the postage of £3.35. There are five editions a year (April, June, September, November and February). If you would like to subscribe, email membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Poynton u3a Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are now overdue. You need to renew your membership if you are involved in any Interest Group activities, want to be involved in the AGM or want to continue to receive our Newsletter.

Details were in the December newsletter which is available on our website.

Annual General Meeting - 15th March 2022

Papers for the AGM will be sent out from 15th February by email or post as appropriate. They will only be sent to members.

Photography Group

During this month's meeting we took the opportunity to review the three photographs of trees that we had taken in October, November and December. Though we are all aware of the seasonal changes to expect during this period it was fascinating to see how the images actually changed from month to month. Most contributors successfully photographed the same tree from the same position (no mean achievement). However, two major difficulties arose for some of us, including me: selecting the same tree over successive months and choosing the same spot from which to take the photograph.

The January outing was a visit to Alderley Park where we were offered landscapes across and around the lake and/or the opportunity to capture images of the business park that is adjacent to the lake. We were unable to join the photographic group on their midweek visit so we went along on Saturday morning at which time the whole site was completely empty except for the occasional dog walker so walking around the business park in particular was a weird experience.



Peter gave an interesting presentation in which he drew our attention to the use of “negative space” in photographs, that is the use of otherwise blank space around the intended subject with a view to drawing attention to the subject.

Hilary then used photographs to show alternative types of walls and boundaries together with a variety of wooded areas that we might encounter in the countryside. It was particularly interesting to see the very different types/styles of dry-stone wall that exist in different regions.

The February outing will be to Salford Quays to see the poppies at the Imperial War Museum. Some of the group also plan to visit the Van Gogh exhibition.

The next group meeting will take place on Friday 4th March at Poynton Civic Centre.

On the next page are some examples from our recent topics.



Keith Batchelor

Photography Group Bonus



This was a larger than life (4.5 metres tall) piece of artwork that I saw when Geraldine and I were visiting RHS Harlow Carr near Harrogate in September last year. “The Four Seasons, an extraordinary collection of busts inspired by the seasons and created by contemporary American artist and filmmaker Phillip Haas.” This one is entitled Autumn. As you can possibly tell from the photo the bust has been put together using plants, fruits, vegetables and crops harvested in the Autumn. The display will continue until Summer 2022.

Brian Johnson

Needlecrafts Group

Before the pandemic, the needlecrafts group used to meet at the Civic Centre, and it proved to be very popular. However, it hasn't met since March 2020, but I believe there is some interest in starting up again. I have also heard from one or two new members that they'd be interested in such a group.

At the moment there isn't an organiser for the group, but nowadays it is quite common for two or more people to share this role, so it is not down to one person to do everything.

The group is looking for both old and new members and an organiser, so if you are interested in needlecrafts or want to learn more, please send an email with your name and telephone number to groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk, or give me a call, or see me at a General Meeting.

I'm afraid I don't have the names of those of you who were previously in the group, so if that applies to you and you are still interested, please contact me.

Sandra Batchelor - Groups coordinator

Bird Watching Group News

On a recent Bird Watching Group visit to Poynton Pool and its environs, a kestrel was sighted. Apparently, since there are now no sheep grazing on Poynton Park, the grass is beginning to grow longer and in clumps. This has led to an influx of small mammals that can hide in the tufts of grass. No picture available as yet,

Walking Group - Tatton Park

Eighteen members set off to do this circular walk. Starting from the Mobberley Road lay-by we crossed the railway and turned left towards Knutsford. Passing the town green and pond we made our way up to the main park entrance. On the way we admired old cottages on Drury Lane and an impressive building called The Ruskin Rooms. From April 1944 this building housed 'The Welcome Club' for officers of the American 3rd army prior to them participating in the liberation of Europe. It was opened by General George Patton.

Following the line of trees on the left of the drive, we headed for the courtyard where we had refreshments. The sun broke through as we headed across parkland aiming for the memorial to the parachute regiments who used the parkland to practice their jumps during the war. After a brief stop by the memorial, we headed over towards the mere. On route we were able to observe two herds of deer, the red deer herd and the fallow deer. After following the side of the mere and then walking through Dog Wood, we arrived back at our cars.

A pleasant lunch was enjoyed by the majority of the group at the Edgerton Arms in Chelford.



Group photo



Monument to the Parachute Regiment



Red Deer herd

Kate Marsham

Members' Contributions

Happy in the moment

The friendly receptionist goes to find him. As they steadily descend the wide staircase, arm in arm, he is smiling, pleased to have visitors. Ever the gentleman he always was, he tries to recall who I am, yet even when told, cannot place me.

"Have I known you long?" he politely enquires, and laughs with me when I tell him it is almost fifty-three years since we first met.

This man married my mother in 1946, but is not my father. The marriage lasted almost 60 years.

He works hard to piece together the jigsaw of facts and place me in context and appears to succeed. "Have you seen Cecilia lately?" he wonders. "She lives up north, near Manchester. A long way for me to go to visit, you know."

"Well, that's amazing" he says, when I tell him we have just had lunch with his daughter Cecilia. He wants to know if we have come far to see him: it seems unnecessary to burden him with the fact that he no longer lives in Bognor Regis, but in Stockport, close to this daughter. This is an intelligent man. It is his memory which is failing him, not his brain.

I have brought photos of my own family for him to see. He is godfather to my eldest son, yet his memory does not oblige him with a name. It is not until I produce a picture of my own father, a friend of his for many years, that the memory flickers into life.

"I wouldn't have recognised him from the picture" he admits, "but when I see the name I know him immediately, and remember him well. How is he?"

"Oh dear! Did I know he had died?" he asks. We blame his mischievous memory, again.

Inevitably he asks "My Peggie is still alive, isn't she?"

I have been forewarned, but the question still comes as something of a shock. I gently tell him that his wife, my mother, died seven years ago. He fumbles for his handkerchief, apologises for the tears, and shakes his head to recover his composure.

More photos, more struggles, tempered with pleasure at being told that his godson is teaching, and writing books. "You must be so proud of him" he says, and means it.

"My Peggie's father wrote books" he suddenly offers, conversationally. "I must tell her. "Is she upstairs?"

The conversation is cyclical. It goes around and around, the same questions to establish forgotten facts, re-established yet immediately lost once more. Reality appears to reign if we can unearth reminders from decades ago. The tin of biscuits I have brought him reminds him of his boarding school in Brighton, and of his sister and his brother. With no difficulty at all, he can tell me that his sister was born in 1917, during the Great War, his brother in 1919 and he in December 1920.

Inevitably we run out of conversation. It seems cruel constantly to remind him that he is not in his own home, nor the town in which he lived most of his life. He is happy, or so it seems, in the moment of our visit. Better, perhaps, to accept the reality of his life now. Loss of memory is invisible, yet it seems to me that one's whole life disappears when one's memory departs.

We start to take our leave. The smiling receptionist directs him towards the shiny grand piano which graces this beautiful, large room.

"Why don't you play just one tune for your visitor, before she goes?"

Confident and willing, he opens the piano lid and begins to play. Always a competent pianist, his fingers find a Cole Porter tune to fill the air. No memory loss here. The chords, the keys, the tune all recalled without pause.

We leave him, happy in the moment.

Submitted by **Cecilia Storr-Best** – Written by her step-sister Diana in 2012.

Two poems from **Ian Beverley**

My Green Delight

When I was young and strong enough to
climb -

My favourite tree was in its prime,
It was a very special thing
Gently greening in the spring.

Standing tallest in the glade
It put the others in the shade.
In the long flamboyant Fall
It looked the handsomest of all.

Festooned with snow at Christmastide,
It glittered I am sure, with pride.

But it had, of course, grown old
Yet didn't perish in the cold
Nor yet of some abhorrent ill
That took a weary time to kill
But went with dignity and luck
One stormy day when lightning struck.

Sensory Perception

The past is gone? I don't agree;
The past is fixed in memory.
Aromas on the page of youth
Enchant the years of mellow truth
And still the scents that turned one's head
In flowered solitudes are spread;
Fresh-mown grass smells Summer-sweet
And Autumn yields its spicy treat.

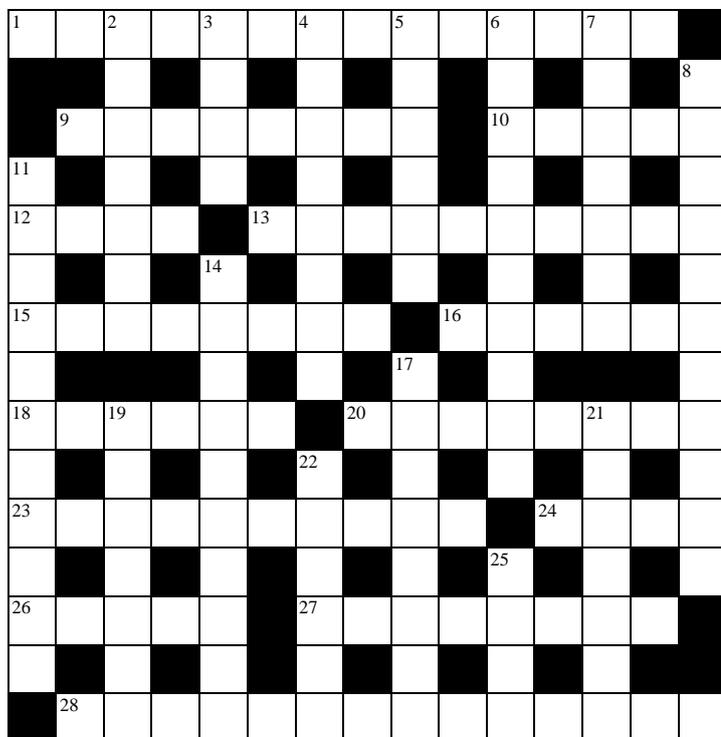
The past is gone? The past re-lives;
Old master colours it still gives;
Crimson twilights, poppies wild
Whose fragrant petals charmed a child.
Slim poplars stand erect in rows
And wood-smoke stacks on hillside blows.

The past is timeless, it is NOW
If one values oak-tree bough,
Takes pleasure in a perfumed rose -
Appreciates artistic pose,
Of Winter branches stripped and bare
Like ballet dancers in mid-air...

Look up and harvest-moon delights;
Still bright the stars on frost-nipped nights;
And, like the past, this has not died -
The gentle scent of countryside.

Things to Do

Crossword No. 40



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 39



ACROSS

1. Sequels paid in a strange way are long-winded (14)
9. Freeloader not alive to the throb of the music (8)
10. Panorama of street surrounded by Roman road (5)
12. In Johnson lying is a unique case (4)
13. This tree sounds like a slow producer. (10)
15. Game in which Diana is dressed in guipure (8)
16. For example, Dorothy's back for filling food (6)
18. Delving into French ancestry we find a possibility (6)
20. Country where agents hold wild bloom (8)
23. Wildly tended Lyme, very wildly (10)
24. 500 is about record (4)
26. Right behind one French article encapsulating another of the moon (5)
27. Pulp space so develop rapidly (8)
28. Hold two cricket teams with unsolvable problem (5,6-3)

DOWN

2. For varnish lady has two pounds on account (7)
3. Going in round other side we get release (4)
4. One short in the House of Lords is unmatched (8)
5. Couldn't stand touring Croatia's capital, back in Split (6)
6. Not in for invitation to the French rising (10)
7. A degree on Germany brings about escape (7)
8. Manic Annete forms conservation work (11)
11. Indulge Ms Malone by cooking an egg (11)
14. Like onion rings swindle small coin with little Richard (10)
17. Merge drinks in county church (8)
19. Chemical backing first class French name by morning (7)
21. Eject to save your bacon (4,3)
22. Lived alone on Channel island but had technology (6)
25. Citation was right in shrewdness (4)

Sudoku No 30

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

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

Below is the solution to No 29

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. What is baleen?
2. What animal have the Chinese authorities recently banned from Hong Kong after 11 cases of Delta variant of Corona virus having been found in these animals?
3. Who has recently been appointed Colonel in Chief of the Grenadier Guards, replacing Prince Andrew?
4. Who originally recorded the song "If I were a carpenter"?
5. Frank Matcham designed which northern Opera House which opened on 1 July 1903?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. Name the prominent gritstone hill on the Cheshire Staffordshire border, just north-east of Congleton.
Bosley Cloud
2. Helen Mirren is taking the part of which Prime Minister in a forthcoming film?
Golda Meyer who was Prime Minister of Israel in the film "Golda"
3. What is the collective name for a group of Highland Cattle?
A fold
4. Who was Roy Plomley's first castaway on 29th January 1942 on Desert Island Discs?
Vic Oliver, 1930s music hall entertainer
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.
Nottingham Forest and Liverpool playing at Sheffield Wednesday's ground