

Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 39-1

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Editorial

Welcome to the thirty fifth 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

Clive Hill – An Appreciation

For those that are unaware, sadly, I have to report the recent death of Clive Hill. Clive made significant contributions to our u3a and will be greatly missed.

Clive served on the committee most recently as vice-chair. He and I put together the newsletter for several years with Clive writing pieces himself showcasing his dry humour and urging other members to produce articles. He was the organiser of the Creative Writing group and was an enquiring member of the Science & Technology group. Together with his wife Helen, he acted as a “greeter” for the general meetings.

Clive was born and brought up in Poynton and lived here all his life, a true Poyntoner. In his pre-u3a days, Clive was a keen sportsman, gardener and family man. Although he was involved in many activities, Clive will be mainly remembered for his caring nature and his friendship.

Derek Gatenby.

Discussion Group

The Discussion group meets on a Thursday morning once a month at Wetherspoons in Poynton. This morning (Thursday 21st July), a small group of us met and had a lively discussion about the causes, measurement and impact of obesity particularly in the UK. Over previous months we have discussed such topics as “the changing roles of men and women during our lifetimes”, “housing in the UK” and “the tipping (gratuities) culture here and abroad”. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 11th August at 10:00am in Wetherspoons when we will discuss “schooling and the education system, particularly in the UK”.

All new ideas and suggestions for future topics are very welcome. If you fancy joining us for an animated discussion over a cup of coffee or two, then please contact me by email at groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk. I look forward to seeing you in August.

Keith Batchelor

General Meetings

After the cancellation of two general meetings – the one on Tuesday 19th July because of worries over the extreme heat and the one on Tuesday 16th August because of the uncertainties surrounding the timetable for the Civic Centre refurbishments – the next meeting is on Tuesday 20th September.

Dining Group

After several successful years as the Dining Group organiser, Norma Shreeve is handing over to Barbara Tankard.

Photography Group

The July meeting of the photography group at Poynton Civic Centre was well attended. We started off by looking through a wide range of interpretations of this month's topic, "Three". The photos are well worth looking at.

The quarterly project "Pylons" sounds rather boring so it was surprising to see the variety of views that emerged. No pylon pictures at present but perhaps in the future.

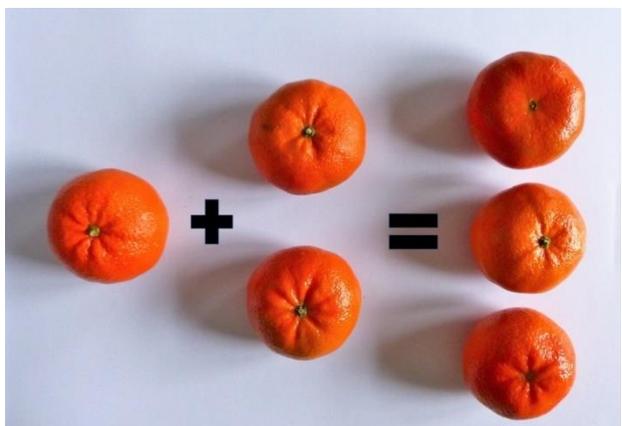
It was a hot sunny day in June when several of us met at Longnor in the heart of the Peak district to take photographs of Chrome Hill and Parkhouse Hill. At our first stop we were fortunate to have parked very near a really colourful and very well-kept rockery garden which we were invited to walk around. At the next stop we had the opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee and to buy some eggs, jam, etc. The beautifully colourful rock garden provided a memorable and for me unexpected bonus to the impressive scenes around Chrome and Parkhouse Hills.

The day out.....





Three.....





Keith Batchelor

Walking Group

Our July walk was relatively local, starting from Chadkirk, off Otterspool Road, walking to Woodbank Park in Stockport. Although it sounds a rather urban walk, it was in fact very countrified; we spent a lot of the time walking by the River Goyt amongst the trees and on footpaths surrounded by fields. As often happens, we were lucky to have a warm, sunny day for our outing. We entered Woodbank Park at Woodbank Hall, (see photo), a Georgian villa built in 1812 by Peter Marsland, a wealthy cotton manufacturer. It was gifted to Stockport Council in 1921 and for a time housed a museum (now located in Staircase House). The building has now fallen into disrepair.



We made a short detour at Woodbank Park to go into Vernon Park, which is literally next door, for a quick coffee or ice cream. Many in the group had not been to Woodbank or Vernon Park before, despite its proximity, and I for one now have it on my list to visit again. We walked just under six miles altogether, so when we returned to our cars we headed off to a local hostelry for well-deserved refreshments.

Sandra Batchelor

Members' Contributions

Day Trip to The Piece Hall and Shibden Hall

I have never visited Halifax before and I was surprised to discover what an attractive market town it is. Largely the result of the industrial era, it has some impressive architecture in buildings such as the Minster, the Town Hall designed by Charles Barry (designer of the Houses of Parliament), Borough Market, the Victorian covered market-place in the town centre and Dean Clough, once the home of Crossley Carpets.

We were here primarily to see the Piece Hall, a magnificent cloth hall built in 1779 for handloom weavers to sell the woollen cloth "pieces" they had produced. Having been dropped by the coach on an ordinary shopping street, we made our way down a side street and through an archway, and emerged into a spectacular open-air courtyard surrounded by a large quadrangular stone building. It was a beautiful sunny day and you could be forgiven for thinking that you were in an Italian Piazza rather than a town in Yorkshire. Most of us were surprised at the scale of the place. Built on a sloping site, the Hall has two storeys on the West side and three on the East to maintain an even roof line. The upper storeys are fronted with two interior colonnades, spacious walks leading to 315 arched rooms where goods in an unfinished state were deposited and exhibited for sale to the merchants every Saturday from ten to twelve o'clock. After the industrial revolution the new larger mills in the Halifax area began trading directly with merchants and exporters, leading to the decline of the Piece Hall; it was converted into a public market and some of the small rooms were combined to make larger shops. Incredibly, when the market closed down in the 1970s, the building was considered for demolition but fortunately funding was made available to make the building a tourist attraction. The Heritage Lottery Fund provided more money in 2014 to restore and redevelop the site, and today it houses interesting independent shops, cafes and bars, a heritage visitor centre and art gallery. It is truly magnificent and unlike anything I've seen before.



Two general views of the Piece Hall and some detail from the Gateway

In the afternoon we travelled a mile out of town to Shibden Hall. The Hall dates back to 1420 and is a distinctive half-timbered building, adapted and extended over the centuries and furnished in the styles of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. It was the home of the Lister family for over 300 years and the noted 19th century diarist Anne Lister (1791-1840) and is the setting of the BBC drama series 'Gentleman Jack'. Many of the displays concern Anne Lister and detail the improvements she made to the Hall and the estate and there are also extracts from her famous diaries. The TV series has really put the Hall on the map and dramatically increased visitor numbers, which is helping to preserve this fascinating building. The adjacent 17th century aisled barn and workshops house a carriage collection and displays relating to different crafts, including blacksmiths, coopers, wheelwrights, saddlers and a recreated brewhouse and inn. The Hall is surrounded by the beautifully restored gardens and estate that forms Shibden Park. There is a boating lake, a miniature railway and a café where most of us rounded off a very pleasant day.



The iconic view of Shibden Hall



Shibden Interiors – downstairs and upstairs

Carriage



Workshops



Park and Lake

Elaine Roe

Cuckooland

Just beside the A556 in Tabley, there is an old school house. If you go inside, there is a wall full of cuckoo clocks and another wall full of cuckoo clocks and then even more walls full of cuckoo clocks. This is the Cuckooland Museum which houses the largest collection of antique cuckoo clocks in the world. It's all a bit surreal.

The collection is the life's work of two brothers, Roman and Maz Piekarski. There are around 700 antique clocks in the collection which all come from the Black Forest region.



Nobody knows who invented the cuckoo clock. Equally, it is not clear who built the first cuckoo clocks in the Black Forest. The first Black Forest examples were created between 1740 and 1750 with several small clockmaking shops producing cuckoo clocks with wooden gears.



Some examples of Art Nouveau clocks. Normally cuckoo clocks have roman numerals but here some have Arabic numerals.



A fine example of a clock by the famous maker Johann Baptist Beha, one of the most prestigious, innovative and creative of the Black Forest clockmakers.



A couple of demonstration models. On the left, how the 'cuckoo' sound is made using bellows and a whistle. In the middle, a clock with wooden gears.

Other Collections



Old lorries. Here we have a couple of examples, which being 'Pickfords' have a special resonance for Poynton

Weighing Scales



Vintage motorcycles

And finally...



A fairground organ made by Gebruder Bruder of Waldkirch which has been restored to working order.

Derek Gatenby

A Golden Age

There was a time and it is true
Summer arrived when Summer was due
And every lovely heat-hazed morn
Meant sun would shine and ripen corn;
And all the villagers agreed
To get the harvest in at speed
In case unkind fate might arrange
A devastating weather change.
Then every willing man and maid
Generously offered aid
And every mother busily
Provided endless cups of tea.
It all seemed worth the toil and trouble
When barns were full and fields were stubble -
Such old-fashioned simple ways
Would be laughed at nowadays.
Remember it I always shall,
Friendly Harvest Festival.

If

If I looked but failed to see
In crowded hours of youth,
The beautiful and satisfying
Things of simple truth.
Now at leisure, I pursue
But drive at gentle speed
A course that leads to countryside
And all that I should heed.
If short of time, perhaps am I
To savour more the thrills
Of curve and shape and colour change
Of everlasting hills.
If I had thought there could be lanes
To where the past escaped
And unmolested hedgerow lush,
Honeysuckle draped.

If I had lingered years ago
Where jingling rivers run
And watched a cloud of midges as
They simmered in the sun.
If I had realised before
How, in the olden days
A village grew in perfect blend
With nature's greens and greys.
Nor did my senses and my heart
Respond to Autumn charm-
If I had known of Winter spells
Of crisp and blue-sky calm.
But I have learned to value these
And joys that lie ahead,
If life is sweet, though youth is lost
And all my haste has fled.

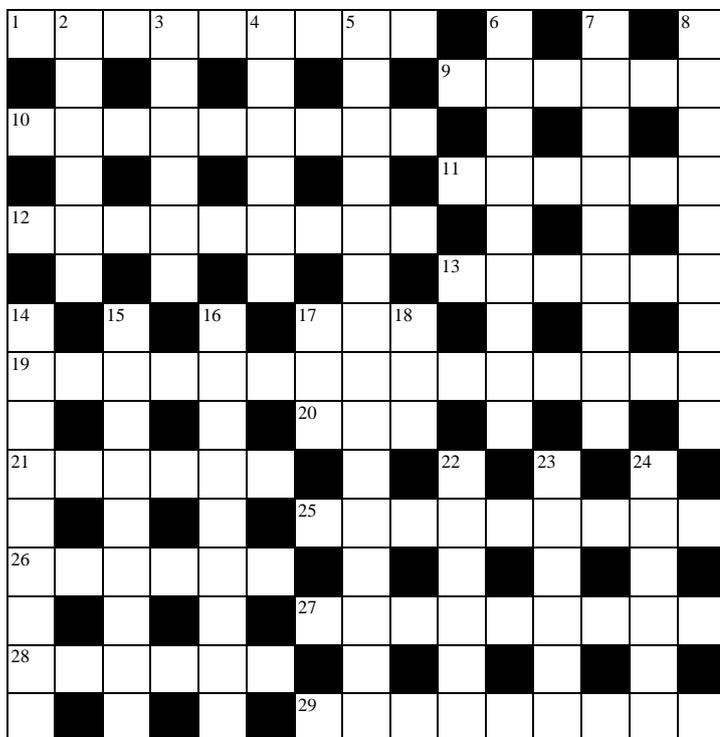
Just A Minute

Sometimes I've ignored it,
That warning in my head
And made that quick decision
Where angels fear to tread.
It's landed me in trouble
More often than I'd say,
Damage could be lethal
And take time to go away.
Sometimes I'd indulge it -
'JUST A MINUTE', I would say,
Raise an eyebrow by a little
And demolish with no delay
A theory broached by others
With which I don't agree
And put up my own statement
To those who joust with me.
Some say this is an argument,
I say it's a debate
And I won't change my attitude -
For me it's far too late!

Ian Beverley

Things to Do

Crossword No. 45



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

Solution to Crossword No 44

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

ACROSS

1. Italian tales of Parisian romance shattered (9)
9. Facing North-East, swerve around (6)
10. Injured fore and aft at sea, one adult jumping off (9)
11. Fixed relationship with editor? (6)
12. Agitated staccatos for strikes with sword (9)
13. Dangerous to lose a Liberal judge (6)
17. One nailed to back of house (3)
19. Two ways to make a grab using perhaps dubious means (2,4,2,2,5)
20. Fairy queen in dream abode (3)
21. An old air, played for Amadis' beloved (6)
25. King follows period in office beset by enemy alien (9)
26. Stuffed sheep by the sea (6)
27. Church altar misused by an impostor (9)
28. Nigerian money from thin air – a surprise! (6)
29. Butterfly fluttering on timbers (9)

DOWN

2. European female; fair, but decadent (6)
3. Topless bar: stand to get strong drink (6)
4. Need an arrangement for a group of nine (6)
5. A choice of routes? (3,3,2,7)
6. Protest about risqué system of government (9)
7. According to one published version, Dante ultimately escapes hell (9)
8. In tears, by the sound of it, at the wedding reception (5-4)
14. Hateful, earthborn eccentric (9)
15. Postal links old warriors could rely on? (5,4)
16. After some drinks, see about a song (9)
17. Safety check up for cat (3)
18. Off shore activity in decline (3)
22. Nasty headache puts Margaret on edge (6)
23. Horrified – part of Reichstag has termites (6)
24. About the most important political campaign? (6)

Sudoku No 35

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

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

Below is the solution to No 34

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Why are Motorways numbered as they are?
2. What was the name of the group in which Brian Cox played?
3. What is a Grayling?
4. Name the British tribe of which Boadicea was queen.
5. How many episodes were made of Downton Abbey was it 52, 62 or 72?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. What is the only food that remains edible for thousands of years?
Honey
2. What is pharology?
It is the scientific study of lighthouses and signal lights, their construction and use.
3. What is an Oryx?
An Oryx is a genus of large antelope
4. Who in April this year has been appointed as the latest manager of Manchester United football team?
Erik ten Hag who has been managing Ajax
5. Where in Poynton is Phillips Bridge?
Down Vicarage Lane, into the unpaved part and Phillips Bridge crosses Poynton Brook where Park Farm can be seen on the right of the lane.

In response to the quiz answers in the previous issue, Charles Leveson kindly pointed out that the direction of planetary rotation depends on where the viewer is located! - Ed