



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Poynton u3a Update

General Meetings

The next meeting is Tuesday 18th October when *Frank Vigon* is talking about *The Sixties Decade or Decadence*.

Remember the November meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th November when *Lynn Moores and her colleague* will talk about *The Life of a Magistrate*.

The Christmas meeting is on Tuesday 20th December. As numbers are limited, entry will be by ticket only. Tickets will be on sale at the October and November General Meetings and cost £2 which includes a raffle ticket.

Pickleball

More news about the Pickleball group. They are meeting at Poynton Leisure Centre at 4.30pm every Wednesday and the cost is £2 per hour.



Photography Group

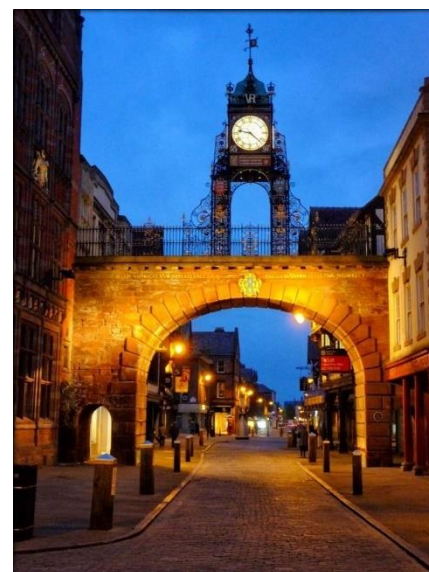
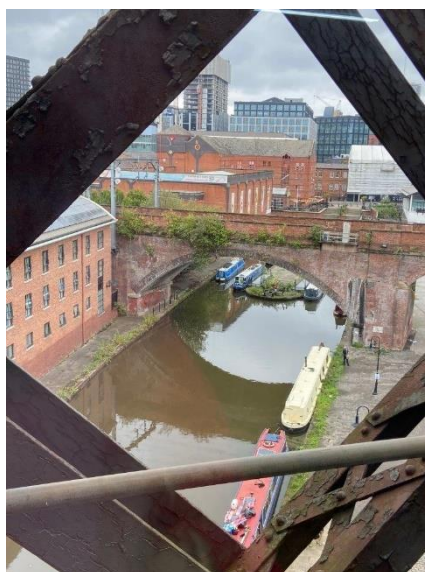
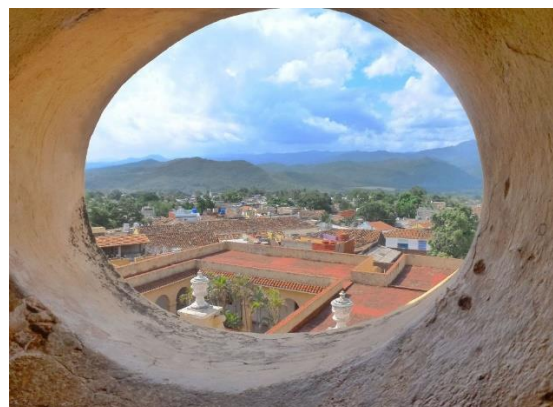
On the first Friday in October, we gathered together at Davenport Golf Club for the monthly meeting where we viewed imaginative photos of scenes taken through a window or an arch. The topic for this quarter was “Bridges”, which produced photos of a wide range of different types of bridge from various countries around the world.

Peter then made several interesting suggestions on how we might use an arch within a photo to focus on two subjects, the arch itself, a view in the foreground and the scene behind it in the back ground. Hilary went on to consider how we could use mist and fog to enhance some scenes. We still had time to view a selection of photos taken during last month’s visit to Port Sunlight.

The topic for next month is “walls”, which we can view from a variety of perspectives such as: landscape, structure, texture, etc.

On Wednesday 19th October the group plan to pay a visit to the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth in the Peak district which has an extensive display of the many different types of dry-stone wall that exist in different parts of the country.

Bridges, windows and archways....



Port Sunlight....



Keith Batchelor

Discussion Group

How would you like to take part in an informal discussion about

“The community in modern society and the roles of the state and voluntary sector”?

If you are interested, then please contact Batchelor using groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk and join us at Wetherspoons in Poynton on Thursday 20th October.

Keith Batchelor

Members' Contributions

Geology Trip to Anglesey

This September, 16 members of the Geology Group travelled to Anglesey for a 4-day field trip, staying in various hotels in Beaumaris. This was a long-awaited trip as it had originally been planned for the spring of 2020 however it didn't disappoint. We were lucky with the weather, apart from our last day when it rained most of the time, but nobody let a bit of rain deter them!

We met just outside Cemaes Bay and enjoyed a picnic lunch near Eglwys Llanbadrig, the oldest church in Wales. Once refreshed we set off exploring the “melange” of rocks; sandstone, limestone and mudstone with traces of jasper and siderite to be discovered. By no means all of the group are experts in geology but our leader, Peter provided plenty of background detail and gave lots of information about what we were looking at.



Our second day was action packed; starting at the fascinating Parys Mountain with its beautiful colours. The copper ore that was discovered in the mid-18th century led to large scale mining, with the port at Amlwch growing to cope with the quantity of copper being produced. Thomas Williams who owned the mine was nicknamed the “Copper King” and the area became known as the “Copper Kingdom”; this name is now given to a very interesting museum which we visited after lunch.



We then went on to South Stack where as well as geology we were able to see various birds including choughs.

On Wednesday we enjoyed a visit to Newborough Warren, walking along the beach to Llanddwyn Island. Pillow lavas were to be seen as we approached the Island; these are blobs of lava which oozed from an eruption of basalt on the ocean floor, then cooled rapidly into pillow shapes. Then we saw the amazing multi coloured rocks.



Our final morning was spent walking around the Menai Bridge and looking at the rocks in that area.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the convivial company and all were extremely grateful to Peter and Hilary for all their hard work preparing the itinerary and ensuring the visit ran smoothly.



Margaret Myerscough

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

Stockport Hydro

The Science & Technology group visited Stockport Hydro in late September. This is a community-owned hydroelectric scheme situated alongside Otterspool weir on the River Goyt. The weir was built in the early 19th century prior to the construction of a cotton mill but the mill was never built.

Planning for the hydroelectric scheme began in 2009 and construction was completed in 2012.

Any profits are distributed amongst local (Stockport) community projects and a return is paid to investors.



There are two screws. On the day of our visit only one of the screws was turning because of the low water level. [Strangely, when I was on the previous visit to Stockport Hydro in September 2015, the same screw was stationary then as well because of a misaligned bearing. The technical problem was fixed some time ago but the financial implications are still unresolved!]

The fish pass to be seen on the left of the picture allows fish to swim up the river.



The screws are linked to the electricity generating equipment inside the power house (the white building). The speed of the rotating motion is increased by gears and is then used to generate direct current electricity by the turbine. This is converted to alternating current and fed directly into the National Grid which runs nearby.



There are around 70 volunteers involved with the project of which the majority seem to be involved with keeping the screens clear of debris. The picture alongside shows some of the items which have been removed from the screens. The doll with one leg was fished out of the river at twilight providing something of a scare.



The group at the end of the visit looking forward to a hot drink at the adjacent garden centre.

(Photo from Alan Hulme)

Derek Gatenby

Beyond the Beyond

It is changing what we see
From billions of miles away,
Galaxies so far from us
The visions far from grey.

The James Webb is now in action
Underlying how small we are,
Our planet is so minuscule
It really is bizarre.

The rockets travel further
To find some signs of life
On planets such as Mars -
The activity is rife.

The camera picks up signals
Taking light years to arrive,
Challenging imagination
As we struggle to survive.

For further generations
Will they live in distant parts
On alien barren landscapes
Will that destroy our hearts?

Autumn v Winter

Autumn rolls back from the blow,
Winter moves on in,
Autumn leaves cover up
But Winter blows will win.

Autumn now is on the ropes
It's legs no longer strong,
Only now a touch of time
And winter hears the gong.

Winter stands with arms aloft
It's victory complete,
The twelve rounds of weather
Never sees defeat.

Autumns of the Past

Do not mourn for Autumn,
For Winter shed no tear,
There is solace in the sadness
Of the passing of the year.
Remember Spring's renaissance
Recall high Summer's ploys,
The pleasures of old country roads-
The open hillside joys.

Don't dress in black for Autumn,
Which favours saffron, brown...
There's a tang of mellow sweetness
On the crispy trek to town
Where the afternoons are darkling
And the tea shop's serving toast
And the narrow path to cosiness
And homewards matters most.

Do not mourn for Autumn
As Winter claims its turn,
The logs are needing stacking
'Ere their aromatic burn.
The oil lamps queue for filling-
The frosts in ambush wait
For nights to grow enfeebled
Like pale ashes in the grate.

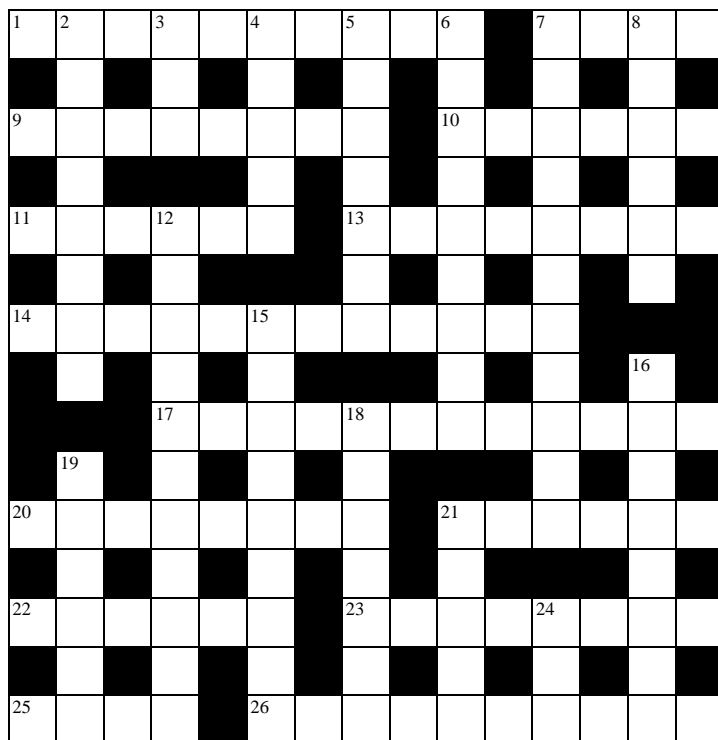
The copper leaves are mouldering,
Winter's on the gain,
Spring is waiting in the wings-
There's softness in the rain.
Summer yawns, resuming sleep
Until the cue for sun
And Autumn follows, pattern-wise
As it has always done.

Ian Beverley

Stardom: Ian's poem *A Windfall Wheeze* which appeared in the last issue of the newsletter was published in the Daily Mail on 27th September.

Things to Do

Crossword No. 47



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 46

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

ACROSS

1. Shift capital and run, getting a flyer (10)
7. Mountains are lovely places, scenic first of all (4)
9. Crazy on the brink for grass weed (8)
10. Coax old king to imprison Juliet after beginning of affair (6)
11. Will ring road join road north? (6)
13. Unusual beard, even for a poet somewhere in Scotland (8)
14. St. Cecilia sect almost converted minister (12)
17. Metamorphosis contains a tense exchange of words (12)
20. Old prison cell: it's abysmal, some recalled (8)
21. Lesotho's capital, by us also known as Zambia's capital (6)
22. Charity event banned highly seasoned food (6)
23. Injured in blast outside Uruguay's capital city (8)
25. Bad reaction from alcohol, reportedly (4)
26. Get language absolutely right that's applied digitally (4,6)

DOWN

2. High-class fur's cut deftly, showing a way to profit from someone else's property (8)
3. Short cut to get fuel (3)
4. Gas attack announced, and taking place (5)
5. Revolutionary awfully vague, meeting Royal Academician (7)
6. Revives damaged acer trees (9)
7. Advert by old Germans, describing tart, about to get referees (11)
8. Historic pilgrim heading for Madrid in less colourful surroundings (6)
12. Shares requiring a learner and places (11)
15. Only one to turn informer and give the game away (9)
16. Watchmen seem suspicious to us (8)
18. Retired professors from Cambridge ultimately deserve one (7)
19. Instruction to return a piece of headgear found in party (2,4)
21. The French lay back for break (3-2)
24. Row endlessly about nothing (3)

Sudoku No 37

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

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

Below is the solution to No 36

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

No quiz questions from Hooha in this edition.

Here are the answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. In which sport did someone called Delicious win a gold medal in the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham?
Delicious Orie won a gold medal in the final of the Men's Super-heavy boxing.
2. What is the name of the polar bear which was exhibited at Regents Park Zoo in the 1950s.
Her name was Brumas the first baby polar bear to be successfully reared in the UK
3. Where did nasturtiums originate?
Native to South and Central America but have been cultivated in Europe since the 16th century
4. Where are The Flying Proms held?
Shuttleworth House
5. Which of the songs written and performed by Neil Diamond first became a hit in 1969 and is now probably his most famous?
Sweet Caroline

We have been asked to include the following item which may be of interest to our members.

Twinning Association of Poynton

Poynton is twinned with Haybes, a small town in the Ardennes district of North-east France. Amongst other activities, TAP organises French conversation evenings – on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

On the first Wednesday we hold a zoom conversation with our friends in Haybes. This starts at 7.00 p.m. and lasts for 40 minutes.

On the third Wednesday, we hold a face-to-face meeting at the British Legion, at 7.30 p.m. Here we talk about anything interesting that has happened since our last meeting and then we discuss a topic.

Standards of French fluency vary considerably amongst those who attend so don't worry if your French is a bit rusty. There is always somebody there willing to give assistance. If any of you is interested in improving your French skills, these conversations would be ideal for you. Normally the meetings are for members only - £5 per annum – but you are cordially invited to attend as non-members until February next year, when subscriptions are due.

For further information, please contact the Secretary – **Glenys Parry-Jones** using enquiries@poyntonu3a.org.uk.