



# Poynton u3a News

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***poyntonu3a.org.uk***

***Issue 40-1***

***16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022***

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## **Poynton u3a Update**

### **Poynton u3a Membership Renewal**

#### **What is the membership fee for 2023?**

After consideration, the Committee has decided that the fee for Poynton u3a renewals for 2023 will revert to the pre-pandemic price of **£10 per annum**.

Remember your current membership expires on December 31, 2022. You need to send off your renewal before taking part in any activities in 2023. However, to allow for any vagaries in the postal system, your 2022 membership card will be accepted as proof of membership during the month of January.

Once you receive your new membership card, please show it to the activity group leader at their next meeting you attend in 2023.

We thank you for supporting our efforts during 2022 and hope that you will continue to do so in 2023.

#### **How do I renew my membership?**

Membership renewals are done by postal application.

The preferred method of payment is by cheque. If this is not possible, use cash.

#### **Send: (if possible by January 31<sup>st</sup>)**

- 1. Your name and membership number if known;**
- 2. Stamped addressed envelope (SAE); and**
- 3. Cheque for £10 made payable to "Poynton u3a" or cash  
to Poynton u3a Membership Secretary, 62 Clarendon Road, Hazel Grove SK7 4NS.**

You can also drop your renewal off at a General Meeting but in all cases remember to enclose a SAE.

If there are any changes to your membership details, please ensure these are included as well. Members with a printer can use the form on the next page. If you have no access to a printer, the details requested may be written by hand and enclosed with the fee and SAE.

Without a SAE, you will not receive a membership card.

If you cannot use the above system for whatever reason and you want to renew, please contact the Membership Secretary by email ([membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk)).

**Poynton u3a Membership Renewal Form    Subscription for 2023 is £10.00**

Memberships expire at the end of December. To continue to enjoy the activities run by Poynton u3a you need to renew your membership by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 by post using the following form.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Family name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership no. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any changes to your contact details (including changes to your email address) :-

Please post this form with a stamped self-addressed envelope and a cheque for £10.00 (made payable to Poynton U3A) to Poynton u3a Membership Secretary, 62 Clarendon Road, Hazel Grove SK7 4NS.

## General Meetings 2023

Below are the events planned for 2023. We will have a speaker unless stated otherwise

January 17th	High Peak Dambusters	Frank Pleszak
February 21st	Humanitarian Talk	Jim Holmes (Photographer)
March 21st	<b>AGM</b>	
April 18th	For Crying Out Loud	David Mitchell, Chester Town Crier
May 16th	Backyard Astronomy	Ken Clarke
June 20th	The History of the Avro Museum	Terry Barnes
July 18th	Herbs for Health, including the treatment of colds/flu/osteoarthritis	John Taylor
August 15th	Funny Bones and Wisdom Teeth	Dr Ray Lowry
September 19th	The Ballad of Soapy Smith	Fool's Gold
October 17th	The Life of a Micro Artist	Graham Short
November 21st	Learning to Fly at 58	Jayne Stubbs
December 19th	<b>Christmas Meeting</b>	

## Postage Stamps

The information below in quotes has been taken from the Royal Mail website.

"We're adding barcodes to our regular stamps. After 31 January 2023, regular stamps without a barcode will no longer be valid. You can either use up these stamps before this deadline or swap them for the new barcoded ones.

The stamps that are changing are the stamps that will be very familiar to you. They feature the profile of Her Late Majesty The Queen on a plain coloured background. The barcodes will enable exciting new services by connecting physical stamps to the digital world through the Royal Mail app.

**Note:** Special Stamps with pictures on and Christmas Stamps without a barcode will continue to be valid and don't need to be swapped out.

Your non-barcoded stamps can be exchanged for the new barcoded version through the Stamp Swap Out scheme. To swap out your stamps, simply complete one of our Stamp Swap Out forms and send it back to us along with your non-barcoded stamps."

A lot further down the page of information is

"Mail posted with non-barcoded Definitive stamps after 31 January 2023, will for the first 6 month be delivered as normal, no surcharge will be raised. After this 6-month grace period, an item with a non-barcoded stamp would be treated as if there is insufficient postage. Any item that has insufficient postage is subject to a surcharge. Surcharge fees can be found on our website."

*Anyway, why not use two of your old stamps to renew your membership before 31<sup>st</sup> January*  
- Ed

## Photography Group

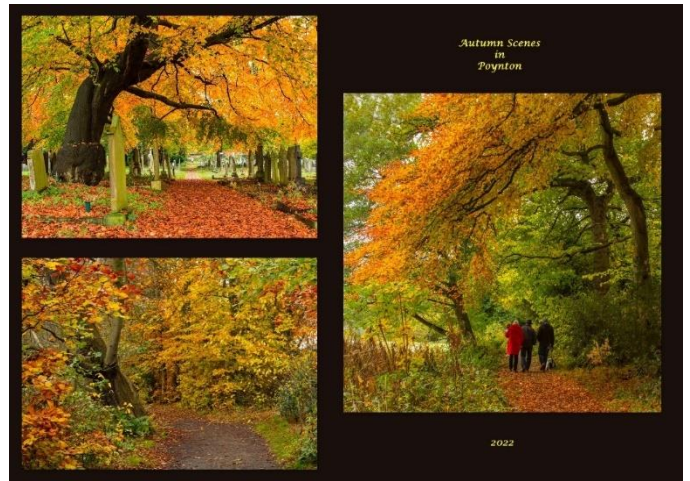
"Autumn colours" was very much the feature for this month's meeting at the Davenport Golf Club. First of all, we viewed a varied selection of triptychs that emphasized the beautiful autumn colours in the form of leaves, small plants and trees. Later we admired photos of trees and leaves taken during the outing to Quinta Arboretum.

Janet gave an interesting and informative presentation in which she offered some very useful advice about how best to obtain good photos of people laughing. A variety of mechanisms were recommended to relax the subject(s) with a view to capturing a "genuine" laugh or smile. I must try out some of these techniques over Christmas.

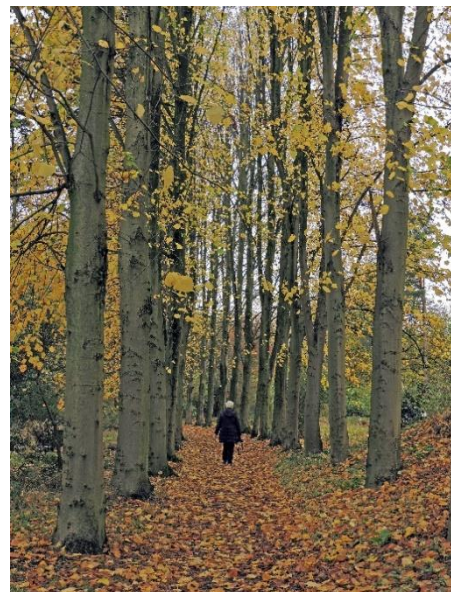
*Triptychs....*







## More Autumn Colour...



Lyn outlined the programme for next year which will concentrate on improving our photographic techniques in a variety of contexts. We will be returning to the Civic Centre for our next meeting in January when we will look at our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter topic "I Spy photos" as well as showing our annual project "Street Art" on display boards – a busy meeting!



December's outing will be close to home at Woodford Garden Centre – just enough time for a coffee before getting started on this year's Christmas Lunch.

**Keith Batchelor**

## **Walking Group**

The walking group set off from Davenport Golf Club towards Park Gate Farm in Norbury Hollow. We then headed for Middlewood and picked up the Ladybrook Valley Interest Trail at the canal. Across the canal and via Middlecale Farm we headed back towards the canal and after a short distance turned off the canal, crossed the Middlewood Way heading for Prince's Wood. Shortly after passing Rabbit Burro Farm we turned back to the golf club where we all sat down for a delicious Christmas dinner. Rachel thanked Marilyn and Mike Westbrook for being our very efficient organisers and for arranging to eat at the golf club!



**Kate Marsham**

Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year to all our readers

## Members' Contributions

### Local History Group

Our group had a walk around the Midway area of Poynton today (Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November). We parked by arrangement at Hickory's and walked from there to the end of Hope Lane and back.

The main things that were pointed out to the group were

- The building where hats made in Stockport were trimmed;
- Poynton Garage, a photo of which was used in the television programme 'In Loving Memory' with Thora Hird;
- Poynton's first railway station at Lostock Terrace;
- a seat in memory of Ian Bailey, 'The Man Who Caught Hess',
- and on Hope Lane, Beard's slaughter house and the bungalows built by Lancelott Allison after he had finished with the Middlewood Brick Company.

We returned to Hickory's after the walk and had a film show reflecting what we'd seen and a coffee.



Top left: The *In Loving Memory* picture from a 1924 photo

Above: The garage being demolished

Left: Some of the group with the site of the garage in the background

**Alan Hulme**

## Playground Games

Looking back through earlier editions of Poynton u3a News recently I was intrigued again – as I had been over two years ago - with Ruth Howard’s memories (Issue 32-6) of a young girl’s rites of passage, some of them physically rather painful when you were hit by the rope from time to time, before graduating at last into the Sisterhood of Skippers. As a boy I would have been cast out from the Brotherhood if I had even thought of learning to skip. But that didn't stop me from admiring not just the skipping itself but the chanting which controlled the pace. While much of this dictated the process of skipping, some of it in my straight-talking inner city primary school was a skit on domestic chores - pegging out on the washing line a baby which wouldn't stop crying, hitting a husband over the head with the frying pan when he came home drunk etc., and using language which brought down the wrath of any teacher on playground duties.

The reality of play-time (fifteen minutes set aside each morning and afternoon) was that you were ejected from all the school buildings and into a worn out asphalt playground surrounded by tall iron railings which replaced the packed and often stifling classrooms for classes frequently for up to 50 children. At times of particularly inclement weather, classes were marched to the cloakroom before this exodus so that those who had had the wisdom to bring coats - or indeed had coats to bring - might enjoy some protection from the rain, snow and cold. Each class exited the classroom in two lines, boys in one line and girls in the other. On entering the playground, and as if driven by some irresistible force, the lines divided with the boys going off to play one series of games and the girls another. This total segregation took place, so it appeared, with the complete agreement of both parties. Indeed, it appeared to be one of the fundamental and unchallengeable rules of primary school life.

Boys then played one of two games. The first game was called “Staggy”. By some sort of mystical process one boy was deemed to be “On” and that person had to tag somebody else. Then the two joined hands. The “twoer” had to tag a third person and the “threer”, joining hands, had to tag a fourth person. At this point the four split into two “twoers” and the game continued. The last person to be tagged was “On” for the next game.

Now this game might appear to be extraordinarily simple but, when I look back at it, it contained within it a whole set of challenges. It was an exercise in what would be called today “strategic analysis”. Just imagine that you were the individual who was “On” at the beginning of the game. Clearly you would wish to tag somebody else as soon as possible. To catch the most nimble person would be difficult. To catch the least mobile and unathletic would be extraordinarily easy. But wait! If you take the easier route, you will now find that you are holding hands with the least athletic boy and, weighed down by this albatross, you now have to tag a third person and ultimately a fourth person in order to make progress. So the easiest route is likely to lead you up a dead end pretty quickly. The



brightest thing is to tag people of similar ability to yourself, thus creating a reasonably active duo and trio and achieving the multiplying stage of breaking into two “twoers” as soon as possible. The most critical point in the game is when the least mobile format, a single “threer”, becomes two separate bodies each of which is much more mobile than the “threer” from which it sprang.

And so you might deduce that the least athletic boy in the playground would be left to the last. For who would want to drag this person around? But that will not do either. Remember the rules! The last person to be tagged is the person who is “On” in the next game. Thus the least athletic boy would start the next game, would have the greatest difficulty in tagging anyone and the game would not develop. So in fact this apparently simple game contained a lot of patterns, all of which lead to some equalisation. All the players have to operate within an overall unspoken strategic plan.

The second game which was played by boys was “alleys” (marbles). There were two versions of this. In one you drew a chalk circle and each player put a marble in the centre. Then you drew two “taws” - two lines opposite one another. Each taw was normally 3 strides away from the circumference line of the circle. You had to stand behind a taw and from there release one of your other marbles. If you could knock out a marble from the circle with one of your other marbles when it was your turn, then you kept it. As long as the marble which you had used didn’t remain in the circle (in which case it would then become a target for the subsequent players), you were one up. Sometimes the circle got quite full of alleys and, indeed, the more alleys that were in the circle the easier it was to hit one and knock it out. However, the less easy it was to make sure that your own came out at the same time. There were also large alleys called “dobbers” which were ball-bearings but they were rare and therefore much prized.

The other version of alleys involved an “alley-board”, a piece of wood with holes at the bottom of varying sizes with numbers over the holes. There were higher numbers over the smaller holes and lower numbers over the larger holes. You rolled a marble towards the board. If it went through a hole, you won the number of marbles denoted over the hole. If you bumped into the board and didn’t get through a hole, your marble was forfeited. I very soon realised that it was best to be the owner of the board. So I made one for myself.

It does not take much imagination to perceive that Staggy and alleys were not compatible in a playground. Any game which has individuals racing and jinking around an asphalt playground would seem to put its players at risk if it took place in the same area in which there was another game involving the propulsion of small glass or metal spheres. Putting your foot on a marble at speed could - and sometimes did - end in disaster. So Staggy was officially banned. However, whenever the playground was not carefully policed by teachers, it was played.



Looking back on playtimes I often see them now as opportunities for a chance for mass disobedience of students towards teachers, masking misdeeds through strength in numbers. In the classroom you were easily identified and punished for spilling ink. In the playground more or less everyone was to blame so generally nobody was punished.

**David Sewart**

## **A Christmas Thought**

We'll have a decent tree this time,  
New baubles are a must.  
A set of lights that flashes -  
It's time to flaunt or bust.

We'll gather family and friends,  
Make sure they're well in tune,  
It will be warm and cosy,  
Folks will think it's back in June!

We all need a little luxury,  
Whatever we can afford,  
Some people will be struggling  
But all deserve reward.

Reward for all the trauma  
That's happened through this year,  
The cost of food and power supplies  
That threat brings total fear.

We'll face the coming problems  
But not ti'l New Year springs,  
Relax and have a tipple –  
Enjoy what Christmas brings.

**Ian Beverley**

The above poem was printed in the Daily Mail on 6<sup>th</sup> December. This is the second time Ian has had a poem printed in the Daily Mail. The first was earlier this year.

## **The End of a Year**

I watched as leaves turned from green,  
to red, orange and purple hews.  
The watery sun sinking lower in the sky,  
leaving me with wintry blues.

Then the birds all flocked together,  
as they noisily prepared to migrate.  
Soon departing for warmer climes,  
whilst other animals hibernate.

Day by day the dead leaves fall,  
whilst roses hang on, for a final show.  
Apples in abundance, picked for puddings  
and pies,  
once eaten, leave me all aglow.

The smell of woodsmoke was in the air,  
as fireworks flash and explode in the sky.  
The screams of delight can be heard,  
as children watched on, wide-eyed.

Autumn departs with a sad goodbye,  
as the winter darkness closes in.  
Christmastime will soon be upon us,  
as we prepare for the festivities to begin.

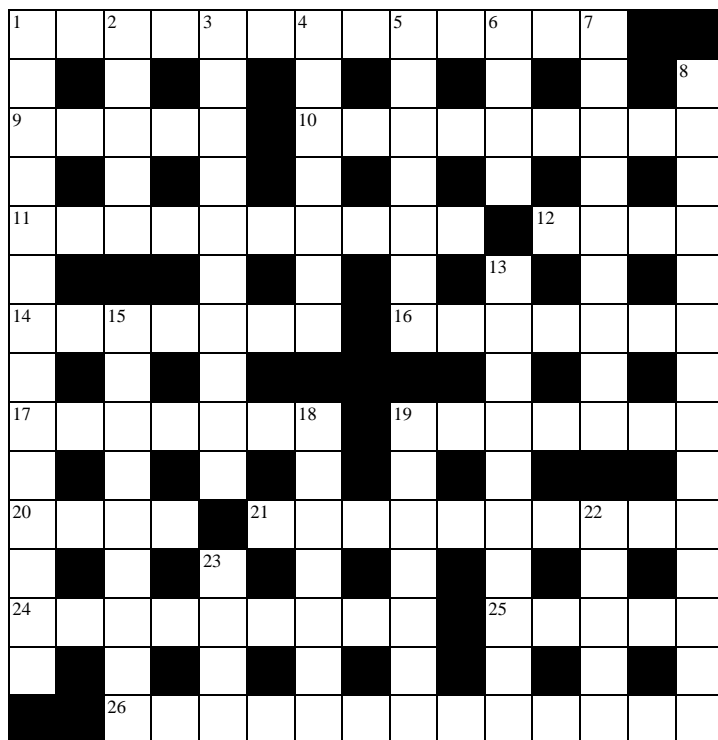
Just one more day we hope will come,  
bathed in a warm diluted sun.  
Before we all huddle down by an open fire,  
keeping warm, till the year is done.

Then it's time to say a fond farewell  
to the year that came, then fled!  
And wish everyone good cheer, for  
the approaching New Year ahead.

**Susan J Pyett**

## Things to Do

### Crossword No. 49



## Christmas Crosswords

There will be two crosswords, one Cryptic and one Quick, available at the Christmas Meeting. If you want to attempt them after the meeting, they will be on our website.

### Solution to Crossword No 48

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

### ACROSS

1. Illegal profit, in a way, before distribution of wealth (7, 3, 3)
9. Hoist ladder at university (3-2)
10. Ma in demolished Corinth produces basic genetic substance (9)
11. Proposal of Spanish removed from creed (10)
12. State greeting in glasses (4)
14. Spain, for example, where vacuous royalty follows nobleman (7)
16. A grave message? (7)
17. Royals of note overwhelmed by costs (7)
19. Saw rambler in empty pub (7)
20. Lady heading off somewhere in Middle East (4)
21. A person who adores quarrel over sender of items abroad (10)
24. Engineers cut back on explosive and have another look (2-7)
25. Plant made from starters of iceberg, nectarine, ugli, lime, and apple (5)
26. Senator grins wickedly about statesman's first offence (13)

### DOWN

1. I'd panic with our garb astray – could it be in here? (6, 8)
2. Roman year mentioned in Roman numerals (5)
3. Cosmetic surgery, inconclusive as to outcome (3, 3, 4)
4. Snarled cattily without speaking (7)
5. Compound found in hyacinth or moneywort (7)
6. Light close to central current unit (4)
7. Providing protection for valuable item? It's what gallery attendants do (9)
8. Also fascinated by article on pub acquisition (4, 3, 7)
13. Trio is mine to manipulate for smaller groups (10)
15. Able to bond only once evil aunt somehow accepts name (9)
18. Tales change central character for cigars (7)
19. Famous chemist over half the continent (7)
22. Pilau cooked for physicist (5)
23. Girl having a field day (4)

Sudoku No 39

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

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

Below is the solution to No 38

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Is almond milk a modern product?
2. Name of the last dambuster who recently died at the age of 101.
3. What is the first word of Shakespeare's play Richard III? Is it "The", "Now" or "When"?
4. Which African country was founded by released slaves?
5. How many Santas does it take to change a lightbulb?

Below are the answers to the questions in the previous edition.

1. The Queen's favourite dogs were Corgis; what breed of dog do King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla favour? *Jack Russell*
2. How many wives did Jerry Lee Lewis have? *7*
3. Where is Rishi Sunak's constituency as an MP? *Richmond, Yorkshire*
4. What is the proper name of the star known as The Dog Star? *Sirius*
5. What was the name of the mountaineer from Mobberley who died on the North Face of Everest in 1924? *George Mallory*

This seems like a good time to say thank you to all the people who help with the production of the newsletter. Without the contributors, the Photographic Group, the Walking Group, the puzzle setters and the invaluable checkers, there wouldn't be much of a newsletter. So, thank you.



And finally, a bonus for the electronic version of the newsletter – some pictures from Glow at RHS Bridgewater.

