



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 40-3

24th Feb 2023

Poynton u3a Update

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 and are on the Membership page on our website.

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 21st March 2023

The Annual General Meeting is taking place on Tuesday 21st March at The Centre. Following the formal business, the Clerk to the Town Council, Mrs. Haf Barlow, will give a presentation followed by the opportunity for members to ask questions on matters of interest in Poynton. Remember that to attend the AGM you must be a member for the current year and there is no charge for admission. There will be no facility to renew memberships on the day.

Papers for the AGM are being sent out by post with this newsletter or by email a few days after this newsletter. They will only be sent to members.

Third Age Trust Magazine

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, now is the time to order the Third Age Matters magazine which has five editions a year (April, June, September, November and February). The cost for the coming year is £3.60. If you would like to subscribe, email membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Photography Group

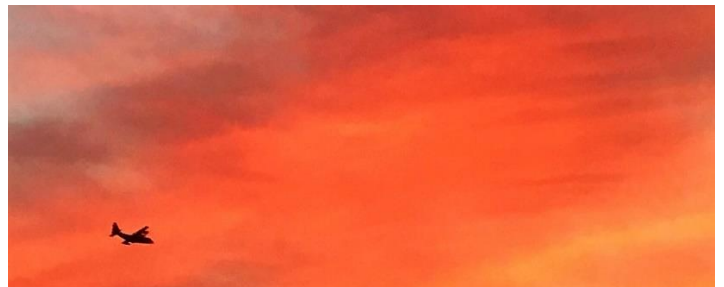
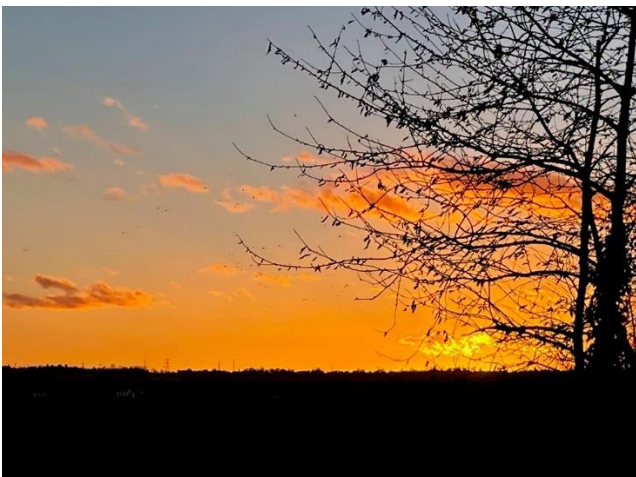
A wide variety of different subjects were used to demonstrate this month's topic "composition". Squirrels, both red and grey, were popular subjects and Poynton pool was captured in views of trees surrounded by snowy fields as well as providing a great setting for photos of swans, ducks and a heron. A convoy of tractors going through the middle of Poynton, in tribute to a farmer who had recently died, offered an interesting alternative setting.

Janet then gave an informative presentation in which she showed how a range of different lighting conditions can be used to emphasize features in a photograph. I am sure that her note which accompanied the presentation will enable me to make better use of lighting conditions to improve my photographs.

When we are away on holiday, we often take numerous photos to remind us of our memorable experiences. Peter used a selection of photos to show how they might be improved by simply first taking a moment's thought about what exactly we are trying to capture. One option might be to change the photo to black and white, perhaps to maximise contrast or to render the scene more dramatic.

The outing on February 15th will be to Chadkirk nature reserve and Geraldine talked briefly about the April outing to the Haworth art gallery in Accrington.

Finally, just before the meeting terminated, photos from the January outing to Poynton pool were displayed.





Keith Batchelor

Creative Writers Group

The Creative Writers Group meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 1.30pm. We aim to support and encourage each other with constructive criticism, and to share ideas and approaches. We explore themes and ideas through prose and poetry, finding inspiration from current events and from life experiences.

We have produced two anthologies of our work; we are proud to say that at least two of our members have had work published, in both local and national press, and we have attended and participated in Local "Poets and Pints" evenings. We are all at differing stages in our writing careers; and usually enjoy challenges of trying differing genres.

We welcome anyone who might like to join us; everyone has a story to tell! And we do like an audience!

For further information email me at groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Ruth Howard – Organiser of the Creative Writers Group

Members' Contributions

Ightham Mote

Ightham Mote in Kent is a medieval moated manor house. The origins of the house date from around 1350. It is now owned by the National Trust and is open to the public. "Mote" is an old English spelling of "moat".

The house has more than 70 rooms, all arranged around a central courtyard, and is surrounded on all sides by a square moat, crossed by three bridges. The earliest surviving evidence is for a house of the 14th century with a great hall. The courtyard was completely enclosed by increments within the restrictions of the moat.



Above Left: Front of house

Above Right: Left of house viewed from the rear

Left: Rear and right of house



The central courtyard. On the right of the picture is a 19th century dog kennel which is a grade one listed structure.



The main entrance with a porter's squint visible just to the left. This is a narrow slit in the wall designed to enable a gatekeeper to examine a visitor's credentials before opening the gate.

In 1521 Richard Clement, who had worked for Henry VII, bought Ightham Mote for £400. As well as making money by working for the king, he had also had the good fortune to marry a rich, elderly widow. He then moved on to become "Gentleman Usher" in Henry VIII's court, gaining more power and influence. Seeking even more favour and to show everyone his allegiance to Henry and Catherine of Aragon, he added their emblems to stained glass windows.



Also, the house contains two chapels, one of which, the New Chapel was built around 1520. It has a barrel roof with decoration including Tudor roses and quivers of arrows (symbolic of the Spanish Royal family). The items depicted indicate the date of the painting must be before 1533 when Catherine went out of favour.



The National Trust took possession of the house in 1985. In 1989, the National Trust began an ambitious conservation project that involved dismantling much of the building and recording its construction methods before rebuilding it. During this process, the effects of centuries of ageing, weathering and the destructive effect of the deathwatch beetle were highlighted. The project ended in 2004 after revealing numerous examples of structural and ornamental features which had been covered up by later additions.



More recently, the National Trust has been celebrating the return in November 2022 of an oil sketch painted by John Singer Sargent in the 1880s. The picture shows 17-year-old Elsie Palmer who was living in the house at the time with her family. In the background can be seen the Great Hall.

Derek Gatenby

A Country Store – The End

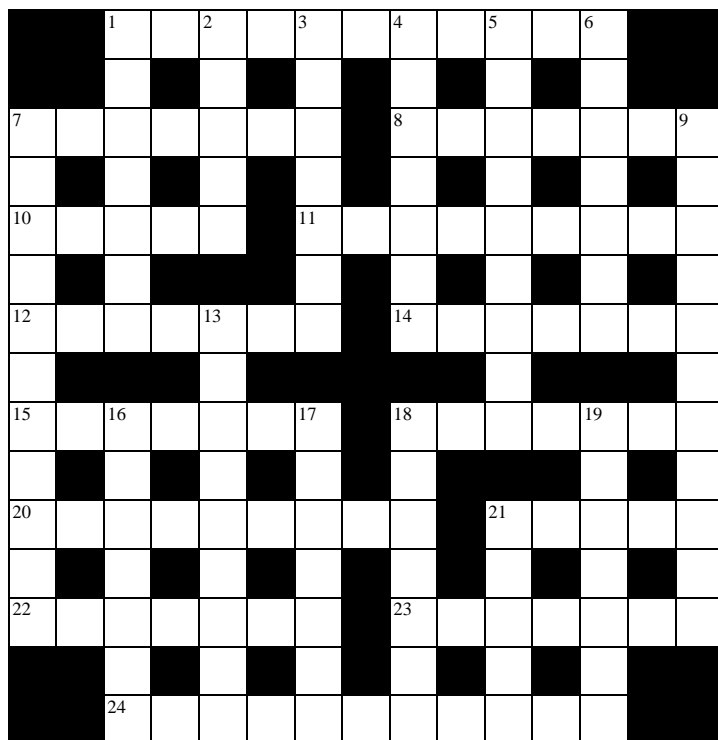
Did it ever exist, that old country store,
 With its thumb-latch and bell hanging
 inside the door
 On a spring which quivered and gave the
 alarm
 When a customer entered disturbing the
 calm
 Of a hot afternoon when the owner, Miss
 Japp
 Alone in her parlour was taking a nap?
 But it can't have been easy, running that
 store -
 Whatever she stocked there were calls for
 much more,
 Be it butter or sweets or a handful of nails,
 They'd all to be weighed on her massive
 brass scales.
 At organised clutter Miss Japp was a pro,
 From Woodbines to needles their place
 she would know.

Half-empty sacks lolled and sagged on the
 floor -
 Pet food and sugar, potatoes galore
 Together with pop bottles marshalled in
 crates
 Adjoining a stack of thick, durable plates.
 Somewhere at the rear she poured paraffin
 oil
 In those days of charred wicks and lamp-
 filling toil.
 With one pair of hands, she dealt with the
 lot -
 Variety flourished, hygiene did not!
 So much has altered since little Miss Japp
 Retired in peace in her gentle last nap,
 Never to read regulations or forms
 Or suffer the threats of bureaucracy's storms
 Never to change to metric and see
 The decimal point killing L S and D,
 Spared the anxiety, nor put to the test
 Of trying to prove that big is not best!

Ian Beverley

Things to Do

Crossword No. 51



ACROSS

1. Lady at port postponed payment (7, 4)
7. Roofing material fellows attached to part for all to see (7)
8. Searched out food in favour of elderly (7)
10. In a dither, tense is he by the sound of it (5)
11. Top model, no plainer when dishevelled (9)
12. Small vehicle followed by larger one, this one in-between (7)
14. Pair determined to have matching clothes (7)
15. Showing audacity before match, one can get knotted (7)
18. Cheekier new student (7)
20. Head Office, behold in message received for watchmaker (9)
21. Despicable person has one ring, a fascinating item (5)
22. Present teacher and revolutionary judge (7)
23. Is back with common sense going round university, going in a winding way (7)
24. Hill walker confused about drug for powerful ocean destroyer (6, 5)

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 50

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

DOWN

1. Townsman introduces data processing into Channel Islands on type of Buddhism (7)
2. Odd setter's game (5)
3. Money won from betting after wicket falls in spell at the crease (7)
4. No longer used in part of nationwide functions (7)
5. Turned a lever, it's adaptable (9)
6. Move backwards, using right exit (7)
7. Crazy guy's cool cricketing prowess (11)
9. It is harmful to remove redhead with debts (11)
13. Fell to tub, disturbed, for as much liquid as can be held (9)
16. Wizard has change of leader for vehicle security device (7)
17. Glut in French ravine (7)
18. Anticipated word of warning with proverb (7)
19. Moorhen's remarkable regulatory substance (7)
21. Dance can go wrong (5)

Sudoku No 41

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

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

Below is the solution to No 40

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. In Barbados it is forbidden to wear what?
2. In which year was the first cheque issued? 1659, 1691 or 1711
3. What was the first name of the garden designer Capability Brown?
4. What did Marc Chavannes and Alfred Fielding invent in 1957?
5. What TV programme is filmed at the Weald and Downland Living Museum in West Sussex?

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

1. Which English actor was offered the role of Lawrence of Arabia, before Peter O'Toole took the part?
Albert Finney
2. Who wrote the song Islands in the Stream, recorded by Dolly Parton and Kenny Rodgers?
The Bee Gees
3. What makes jam set?
Pectin
4. Small sharks have recently been found swimming in which northern river?
The river Mersey in Liverpool
5. 22nd January 2023 will begin the Chinese year of which animal?
Rabbit

Harbingers of Spring

Some recent pictures taken at Dunham Massey. Can you name these plants?

