



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 40-4

31st Mar 2023

Poynton u3a Update

General Meetings

Our last general meeting was the AGM which was held on Tuesday 21st March. The Resolution to seek to extend to 2026 the authority for the committee to increase membership fees to maintain the integrity of Poynton u3a's financial position was approved.

After the formal business of the AGM, the Town Clerk, Mrs Haf Barlow gave an informative presentation on the work of the Council.

The April general meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th April when we will be having a talk by David Mitchell, Chester Town Crier.

Looking further ahead, the May meeting will be on Tuesday 16th May when Ken Clarke will be telling us about *Backyard Astronomy*.

Poynton u3a Committee

Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle Fair

The Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle Fair, held at the Civic Centre on Wednesday 15th March, gave an opportunity for committee members to promote the u3a. A wide range of services including local organisations, businesses and health professionals from Middlewood Practice were also in attendance.

There was interest from a number of people to join our groups and membership forms were handed out. Hopefully this will result in new applications being received. As we networked with other organisations, it was pleasing that many were already aware of us and eager to promote us in their remit.

All agreed that it had been a worthwhile exercise.

Vera Williams



Photography Group

A few of us went on the February outing to Chadkirk Nature Reserve, just five miles from Poynton on the road to Bredbury, and we were lucky that the weather was fine and unseasonably warm. It comprises Chadkirk Estate, nestled in the Goyt Valley, which is now a Nature Reserve, a walled garden and Chadkirk Chapel, which is a grade two listed building, dating back to the 16th century. However, it was a site of worship well before then. To find out more go to www.chadkirkchapel.org. There are several picnic areas and it is a very peaceful place to visit, ideal for walking and taking photographs.

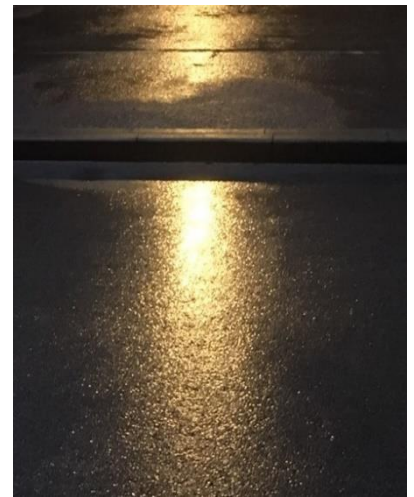
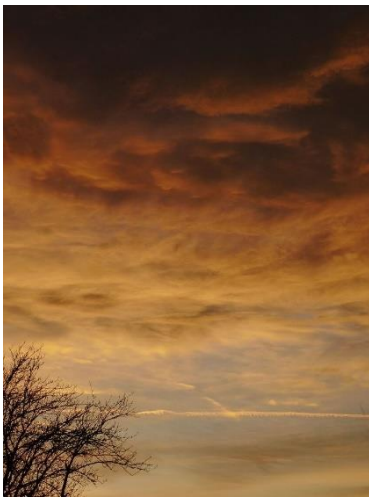
At our indoor meeting in March, we started by looking at our Chadkirk photos and then the photos that some of us took on the topic of different light conditions. It was interesting to see the variety of pictures that had been taken, some of which are shown below. We then went on to have a practical session, which was great fun and occupied a large part of our meeting. We were equipped with our cameras (or phones) and the odd reflecting piece of card. The idea was to take portrait photos of each other in small groups trying various positions, in front of windows, against walls, at different angles etc to see which produced the best photos. We then talked about what we had learnt, which was very useful. The March outing is to Bugsworth Basin, so look out for photos next month!

Normally our indoor meetings take place on the first Friday of the month but for April we will be meeting a week earlier, on Friday 31st March, as our normal date would be Good Friday. Why not give it a try? New members of all abilities/experience would be very welcome.

Chadkirk....



Different Light Conditions...





Sandra Batchelor

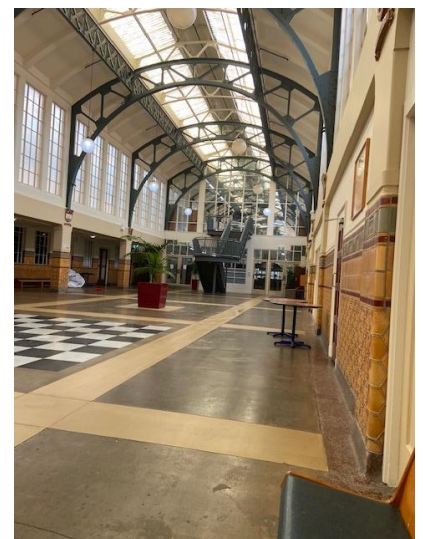
Members' Contributions

Poynton u3a Members Visit New Zealand

Some of you may remember that at the start of the Covid 19 pandemic three years ago my husband and I were in New Zealand and couldn't return home due to flights in and out of New Zealand being cancelled. Undeterred we decided to return in February this year to visit places that we were prevented from going to in 2020. Coincidentally membership secretary Cecilia Storr-Best also decided to fly to New Zealand to watch the English cricket team play New Zealand in two test matches. The first took place in Tauranga on the east coast and the second in Wellington. It was while in Wellington that we were able to meet up for breakfast as we were also staying in the city for a few days.

We had landed in Auckland two days after Cyclone Gabriella hit the North Island. It came after weeks of heavy rain causing flooding, land slips and extensive damage to property. In the city basements were still being pumped out. However, the sun was shining and we set out to enjoy the warm weather. Our accommodation was inside the 1920s built Grand Central station which is now a preserved historic building (pictured on the right).

We then travelled to Wellington aboard the Northern Explorer, a scenic rail trip of 11 hours, passing through diverse landscapes. Before leaving Auckland, we'd heard that an earthquake had occurred under the sea just north of



Wellington but no damage on land was reported. It seems that like most places in the world climate change is very much in evidence here. On the east coast around Hawkes Bay vast areas are covered in mud and timber that was washed down the hillsides. Houses, businesses and crops have been destroyed. This part of New Zealand grows huge quantities of fruit, vegetables and grapes for wine production. This also happened close to harvest time. More heavy rain fell a week later adding to the problem. Roads and rail links have also been damaged as has the water supply, phone lines, electricity lines and internet connections. Food and water had to be delivered by the New Zealand Navy. We certainly seem to pick unfortunate times to visit New Zealand. Did I mention the tornado that struck the east coast? More damage to coastal properties!

Since leaving Wellington we have driven up the west coast for a week by the sea. The area is called The Kapiti Coast. We are mainly exploring the many walking trails including the well-known 'Escarpment Track', a high-level path between two villages. It was very challenging! There were many flights of steps, two swing bridges and a lengthy diversion to avoid a land slip (not recent). Four hours later, foot sore and looking forward to a cool beer, we reached the end of the trail only to find that on Mondays the pub and cafe are closed!



A couple of days later we went to Kapiti Island just off the coast in Paraparaumu. The island is a nature reserve and can only be visited by organised tours by The Department of Conservation. After an interesting talk by a ranger whose Maori great, great grandmother moved onto the island in 1906 to farm it, we walked up through native bush to a view point. There was a lot of birdsong en route but they were hard to see through the dense foliage. After returning to the visitor centre, we were served a hot lunch which we ate inside due to a parrot-like bird, a Kaka, being partial to visitors' lunches! They can even lift the flaps of bags in search of food! Our rucksack was targeted because we'd left the wrapper of Magnum Classic ice cream in the outside webbing pocket! So far, an eventful trip and still more plans for the weeks to come, weather permitting.



Kate Marsham

Out of Season – Early Spring

The sun is thin, the wind is sharp,
Shirts for the hardy only;
The sands are bare, no castles there -
The promenade is lonely.
The sea is drab, no pleasure boats
To cause that weird sensation,
No benches packed, deck-chairs are stacked
And rest in hibernation.

The rain is chill, the clouds are glum,
The streets are calm, uncluttered,
No fancy goods, no souvenirs -
The lifeless shops are shuttered.
No trendy clothes, no fancy hats
Or 'Kiss-em quick' creations.
Just dreary 'Mac's' and all that lacks -
A brave imagination.

Dusk creeps close and lamp-light quells
Day's unimpressed sun-rays;
No lively pier, no laughter here,
No shows, and no bright band plays.
No cafe queues, no tea and toast,
No friend except some Summer ghost.

Expectation

Days stretching out towards Spring.
Flower beds slowly awakening.
Early morning frosts fading quickly.
Three welcome signs of passing Winter.

In our case, new births in our family
Amplify feelings of joy.
Happy expectations flourish with fresh
growth -
Whether in gardens or humanity.

Hopefully, later months will bring better
times
For all our families
So, we can look forward rather than back
And enjoy the fruits of optimism.

Ian Beverley

Science & Technology Meeting Venue

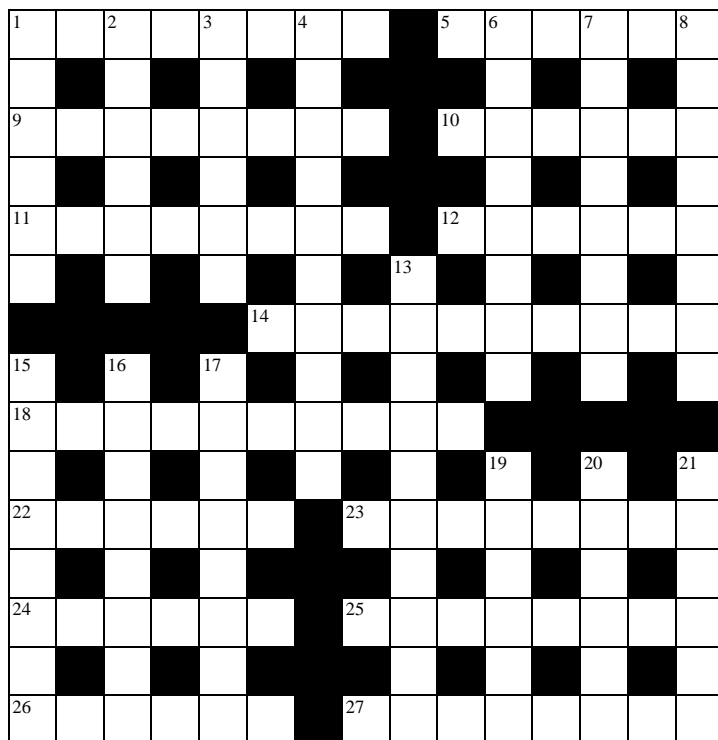
The Science & Technology meeting in February had an unusual venue in Poynton. Do you recognise it?

The answer is at the bottom of page 8.



Things to Do

Crossword No. 52



ACROSS

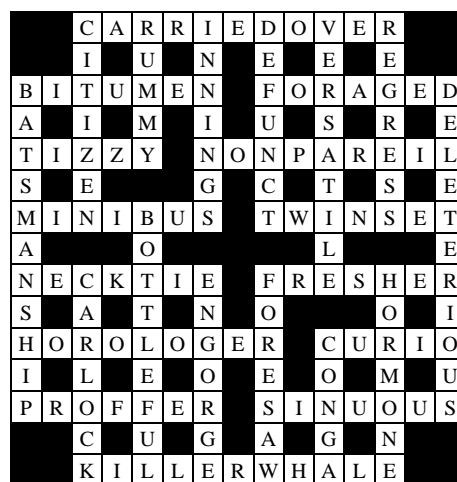
1. Hungarian in blue (8)
5. Dash from the south with work of art (6)
9. Forest bird unearths plant (8)
10. Do not insist that I've been included in bellicose activity (6)
11. Bird can fly off after signal to stop (8)
12. Eat this in hat I fashioned (6)
14. In ringing the bell we thereby discover the leader of the flock (10)
18. We hear that former US vice-president beats the rules (10)
22. Get rid of the drink (6)
23. Merseyside town comic opera society was made unlawful (8)
24. Car safe after rear removed to negotiate unrest (6)
25. Nothing between end and read on the radio is smart (8)
26. Learner bares heart and is in a tizzy (6)
27. Fasteners hold hospital department trainees (8)

DOWN

1. Prize for dependent following Religious Education (6)
2. Bypasses a blank space (7)
3. Guarantee that river runs through pen (6)
4. Regroups loudly mends tree bringing about postponements (10)
6. Dishes contain account that mollifies (8)
7. Rails against four in Rome being included when adjusting hinges (8)
8. Logs dogs (8)
13. Unrestrained loud hit on young male worker (10)
15. Friend holds irregular fairs to advertise opera (8)
16. Uninformed nor contained by restless giant (8)
17. In Kew Grace reassembled the damaged shell (8)
19. Fashioned state covering Scrabble piece we hear (6)
20. Cell heard that they had knowledge of Mr Barker (6)
21. Casual remarks as recent ancient murderous anniversary is mentioned (6)

Submitted by **Eileen Shore** and **Nigel Burin**. 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 51



Sudoku No 42

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

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

Below is the solution to No 41

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Who is Maurice Joseph Micklewhite Jr.?
2. In what year did the Battle of Ladysmith take place?
3. What is the name of the Macclesfield auctioneer who sometimes appears on the TV show 'Flog It'?
4. What is nacre?
5. Who is designing the Coronation gown for Camilla, Queen Consort?

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

1. In Barbados it is forbidden to wear what?
Any form of camouflage
2. In which year was the first cheque issued? 1659, 1691 or 1711
A cheque for £400 was issued in 1659
3. What was the first name of the garden designer Capability Brown?
Lancelot
4. What did Marc Chavannes and Alfred Fielding invent in 1957?
Bubble wrap
5. What TV programme is filmed at the Weald and Downland Living Museum in West Sussex?
The Repair Shop

The meeting on page 6 was held in the foyer of the Poynton Players Theatre.

NECN Open Groups

You will no doubt remember that Poynton u3a is a member of the NECN (North East Cheshire Network) group of u3as along with Bramhall u3a, Cheadle Hulme u3a, Cheadle & Gatley u3a, Wilmslow u3a and Macclesfield u3a. The NECN recognises **Open Groups** which are Interest Groups organised within a particular u3a but open to all members of the u3as in the NECN. The idea is that the membership of an Interest Group may be increased once it has become an Open Group. With the advent of Covid, communication within the NECN virtually ceased.

In recent weeks, Nigel, our Interest Groups Coordinator, has been busy trying to establish what is the state of Open Groups in these other u3as. Below is a table showing his latest information. If you want more details about one of these groups, you need to visit the relevant u3a's website. Either do an internet search on the u3a name or look at the Contacts page on our website.

Group	u3a	Organiser	Meeting
Art Appreciation	Cheadle Hulme	Bernadette Murray Robb	3 rd Thursday, 2pm Heald Green Village Hall
Book Group Online	Wilmslow	Linda Bain	Contact Organiser
Bridge	Cheadle & Gatley	Linda Ewing	1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoon at St. James' Church Hall
Computers	Cheadle Hulme		4 th Tuesday, 10.00am– 12.00 at Café Unity, Heald Green
Creative Writing	Bramhall	Pat George	2.00pm 2 nd Wednesday in month
Cycling	Wilmslow	David Lederer	Usually Tuesdays or Thursdays at 9.30am
Environment	Cheadle & Gatley	Peter Briggs	Thursday mornings at various venues
French Conversation	Wilmslow	Ann Thompson	1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays of the month
German	Cheadle & Gatley	Marianne Owen	3rd Tuesday of month, mornings - URC Hall
German Intermediate	Bramhall	Jean Cox	10.30am on 2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays of month at organiser's home
Photography	Cheadle Hulme	Neil Rackham	2 nd Tuesday, 10.00am–12.00 at Café Unity, Heald Green
Video & Film making	Bramhall	Alaister Macrae	Alternate Fridays 10.30am