

Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 41-1

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Poynton u3a Update

General Meetings

The April general meeting was held on Tuesday 18th April when we had an enjoyable talk by David Mitchell, Chester Town Crier - see below.

Sadly, Ken Clarke is not able to tell us about *Backyard Astronomy* on Tuesday 16th May. At very short notice, Gary Thurgoland is going to talk about the *Roles and Responsibilities of the Community Support Officers*.

The June meeting will be on Tuesday 20th June when Terry Barnes will be telling us about *The History of the Avro Museum*. There has also been a change to the August speaker – see the website for details.

Poynton u3a Committee

For Crying Out Loud

A slightly smaller number of members than usual attended the April meeting at The Centre. Maybe the warm and sunny spring day kept people away?

We were entertained by David Mitchell (no, not that one!), who is the Chester Town Crier. His talk was informative about his role but also contained some very amusing anecdotes. After his planned material, he invited questions from the floor, which led to more stories of his 32 years in the post. Fortunately, he had no need to carry out his initial threats to creep up behind anyone dozing off, and ring his very loud bell or shout “oyez, oyez” in their ear! His costume, as shown, was made by his wife, one talented lady obviously. Refreshments rounded off a very pleasant afternoon.

Cecilia Storr-Best



Photography Group

Last month's topic "Perspectives" allowed members of the group to view the world from a variety of very different and sometimes curious angles including spectacular shots of competitors on motorised surf boards and the view of a kitchen from the point of view of a computer mouse.

Bugsworth Basin....



Perspectives...



The project for the first quarter, "DIY", also provoked an interesting range of offerings such as embroidered table cloths and signatures, wall paintings and men doing DIY.

Lyn's advice on how best to photograph hands was fascinating and informative. Hopefully we will be able to put those recommendations to good use in future photographs.

John's progression through a number of alternatives before settling a final panel of six very different photos for his successful submission to become a Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society, was extremely interesting.

Some members went on the April outing to Haworth Gallery, where they were amazed by the largest collection of Tiffany glass in the world.

Keith Batchelor

Walking

In April, fifteen members of the walking group set off from the Leather's Smithy in Langley, led by Anna, who kindly volunteered after the scheduled leader had to drop out. The forecast was for light rain showers, but instead we had bursts of sunshine between the clouds, and stayed dry. We shared memories of my walk last April, when it snowed. This year the challenge had been to find a route that wasn't impassable because of mud.

The walk took us on an anti-clockwise circuit of Macclesfield Forest, on gravelled tracks and quiet roads. There were a few uphill which got some of us breathing heavily, but the spectacular views made it well worthwhile. We were also quite taken with the cyclist-featuring weathervane located on a house that we passed.

We ended the walk with a congenial lunch at the pub.



Cecilia Storr-Best

Members' Contributions

Cricket in New Zealand

In spring 2008, I was in New Zealand and lucky enough to watch a test match while in Napier. I even had my photograph taken (before the advent of "selfies") with Steve Harmison - who was promptly dropped from the team (not my fault, honest!).

This was such a pleasant experience that when I realised that the England men would be back in NZ this February/March I decided I would treat myself to a return trip.

I went online and booked the ten flights needed to get me there and back, and between venues. Then two separate weeks in AirBnb accommodation. Next, I booked ten day-tickets for the two test matches for the princely sum of £70 (TOTAL!). Having done this, I decided to extend my stay by a week, and booked a rental car, as I didn't want to book accommodation in advance, just to go where the mood took me.

Accordingly, I set off on February 13th on my latest adventure, arriving in Tauranga 40 hours later, a day before the first match. Professional cricket grounds in New Zealand are very different from those in England. It is such a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere, helped by good weather, of course.

The main seating areas are grass terraces, sloped so that you can easily see over anyone sitting in front of you. Everyone brings blankets or low chairs, and maybe a picnic. Free factor 50+ sun tan lotion is provided by the Cancer Society - you would be ill-advised to shun this. There is some covered seating, should you want it.

The atmosphere is friendly and full of banter - Kiwis and Poms interspersed around the ground. Children rush down to stand at the fence on the boundary to get their bats signed by any willing outfielder. People wander off to get refreshments without having to disturb anyone.

At the lunch break, the public are allowed onto the field, but not the pitch, naturally. I was lucky to get a photo with Ollie Pope this time. He has not been dropped from the team in consequence!

The food and drink concession stalls include a delicacy called a "spin spud" - a potato curled along a stick and deep fried. I can still taste it - a disgusting mouthful of cooking oil, never to be repeated. The ice cream options were vast and delicious, though.

The English Barmy Army were in full voice, despite many instances of flight delays and cancellations, and non-delivery of luggage. Strains of "Jerusalem" started each day, sung as a cricket anthem, not a xenophobic message. Then "Jimmy, Jimmy Jimmy, Jimmy Jimmy Jimmy Jimmy Anderson" would ring out as the great bowler started his run up. The first test, in Mount Maunganui, was won quite easily by the England team; the second, in Wellington - a real nail-biter on the last day, was won by the Blackcaps, by one run. I felt

surprisingly happy about this, as it was such an exciting finish, and the happiness of the Kiwis around me was infectious.

Cricket over, I returned to Auckland, picked up my rental car and headed off up north, revisiting favourites from my earlier trip. A bonus was an invitation to dinner with Kate and Peter Marsham at her brother's home, and a walk with them the next day. Then home.

I have managed, with much effort and expense, to obtain a ticket (on a hard seat, of course, no grass terraces here) for day five of this summer's Ashes test at Old Trafford. The match may not last that long, but beggars can't be choosers. Fingers crossed for a sunny day and an exciting finish.



Basin Reserve, Wellington



Permitted invasion at lunchtime



Spin spud - yuk!



Cecilia



*A local favourite with children
(and Cecilia!)*



Ollie and me!

Cecilia Storr-Best

The Window

The window of my soul
Turns my life around.
Memories come and disappear,
Visions past, surround.

Many windows wide and tall -
Bright pictures on a screen,
But some are small and dreary
In shades of brown and green.

If life can teach you lessons
It is to expect less,
Saving you from disappointment -
The scarring of regress.

The window in my mind
Can play its final tricks
Distorting fact and fiction,
The carrot or the sticks.

Some blurring of a window
Stares illusion in the face
Pretending it's transparent
When it's clearly lost its place.

No Surrender

Like an old man
His usefulness outlived
And dignity slowly dying.
The ancient windmill stood.

Shorn of its sails
But still defying
Salty gales and eroding rains,
Gutted and bereft
Of cumbrous driving force,
Forsaken, redundant relic
Staring at the restless world
Through blank windows.
Morose, silent mill.

Now, the windmill stands,
Transformed by modern skills,
Rendered vivid white.
Proud, elegant, filled with life
A treasured home,
Soaring above the farmhouse,
Viewing the ageless hills
In equal, honourable retirement.

Ian Beverley

Lancashire Mining Museum

The Science and Technology Group recently visited the Lancashire Mining Museum. It is situated in the village of Astley Green not far from RHS Bridgewater on the site of the former Astley Green Colliery. In the 1980s, all the other collieries in this part of Lancashire had been demolished and Astley Green was to be the last to go. However, after intervention by Lancashire County Council and several other individuals, it was saved from demolition because of the unique nature of its steam winding engine. It became the site of the Lancashire Mining Museum and the headgear and engine house both now have scheduled monument and listed building status. The museum also houses many other exhibits, including the collection of 28 colliery locomotives, the largest collection of its type in the United Kingdom.

The colliery began its life in 1908 to exploit coal reserves in the south Lancashire Coalfield. (Incidentally, these are the same coal seams that run under Manchester and were mined in Poynton.) Had it not been for the increasing demand for coal, at that time, the project would not have been viable. The coal seams at Astley Green are very deep and overlain by 100 feet of wet and unstable ground. These factors made the sinking of the shaft a very expensive proposition.

The colliery had a lifespan of only 62 years, finally closing its gates in 1970.

The museum is now run and maintained, on behalf of the community, by the Red Rose Steam Society Limited, a charity based in Lancashire. Although the Winding House, Winding Engine and Headgear were saved, it was not until 1983 that the site was leased to the society and work started on saving and restoring the winding engine and winding house and getting it working again. The engine finally ran again in 2013.

The site is dominated by the engine house, which contains the winding engine, and the pit headgear. The winding engine which served the No 1 shaft is the largest surviving colliery winding engine of its type in Europe. It has four cylinders in a twin tandem compound arrangement. The engine was installed in 1912 and took two years to complete. It is connected to a bicylindro-conical drum which in turn was connected to the headgear pulleys to wind up the coal and wind down the miners and maintenance supplies. Most of the remainder of the colliery buildings and a second shaft with its gear have been destroyed.

Originally driven by steam, the engine is now running on compressed air.



The engine house and (right) showing the the two apertures where the cables connectng to the pit headgear emerged.



Two left-hand cylinders

The drum

Two right-hand cylinders

The size of the engine can be gauged by the engineer in orange to the right of the drum

The pit headgear is made from wrought iron lattice girders with rivetted plates at the joints. It has two large and one small wheel mounted at the top. It is nearly 30 metres (98 ft) high and the whole frame weighed 120 tons.





A couple of closer views of the engine and the drum



There is a considerable amount of mining memorabilia located around the site including this sculpture paying homage to the pit pony.

The group had a ride on a train pulled by one of their large collection of colliery locomotives. Only a small amount of track remains compared with the large quantity of sidings that are shown on old maps.

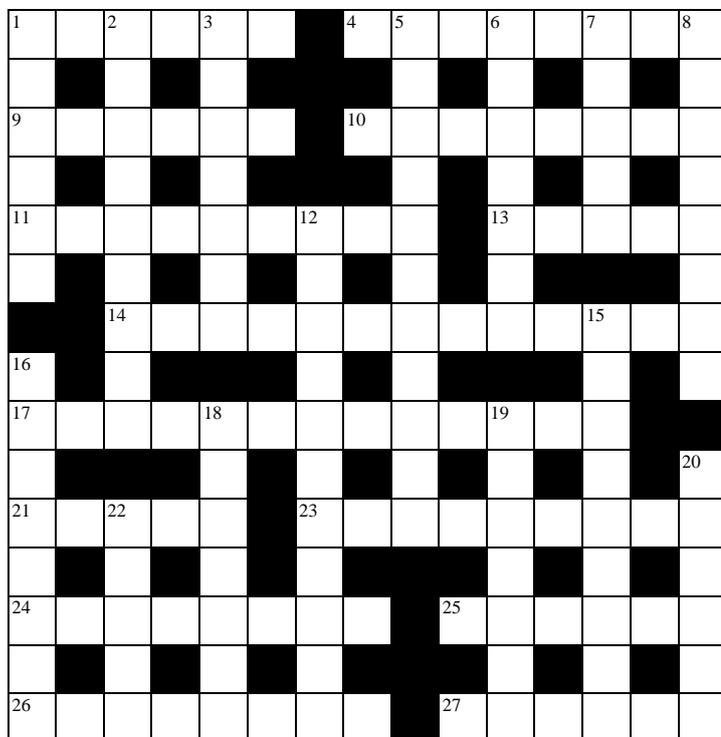


If you wish to visit this under-publicised site, it is open Tuesdays, Thursday, Saturdays and Sundays from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. There is no charge but the engine will probably not be running. There are no “brown” signs directing you to the site but the postcode of M29 7JB works with Sat Nav and the address is Higher Green Lane, Astley.

Derek Gatenby

Things to Do

Crossword No. 53



ACROSS

1. Smiles, having old penny hidden inside, jars (6)
4. Huge story about the same big health problem (8)
9. Passionate picture, perhaps, about nest (6)
10. Take no notice of sales ploy? (8)
11. Order chap to leave vegetable? (9)
13. Like female not looking very well (5)
14. Officer's trojan gems are disciplined (8,5)
17. What some brides wear, fixed on large bosoms (6,7)
21. Obsession in Philippines capital putting learner off (5)
23. Shelter received by people lacking new treatment (9)
24. Origin of this personal transport for urban area (8)
25. Source of flavour in beer – the culminating touch (6)
26. One identifies transmitter by name – Leo, perhaps (4,4)
27. Having fewer words in printer's error (6)

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 52

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

DOWN

1. It might be given away for a song (6)
2. Nose reconstruction in subcontinent or somewhere further east (9)
3. Performer died before a tipsy nurse (7)
5. Indicating fielder on exciting outing (8,3)
6. Hold forth, disturbing medical (7)
7. Insect eats uniform with this (5)
8. Curve of yellow bird holding note (8)
12. Authoritarian maiden perhaps with direction (11)
15. Islanders preserve excellent metal containers (9)
16. Opinionated setter, perhaps, that moans about themes in crosswords for starters (8)
18. What may help you look good with girls (7)
19. Dawn, is nurse misbehaving (7)
20. Performing effectively, wearing clobber (2,4)
22. Sounds like an original letter in the post (5)

Sudoku No 43

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

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

Below is the solution to No 42

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Who sang the theme tune from the Bond film "From Russia with Love"?
2. Who is the Earl Marshall of the United Kingdom?
3. Which country produces the greatest quantity of lemons?
4. Approximately how many postcodes are there in the United Kingdom?
5. Who directed the 2014 film "The Jersey Boys"?

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

1. Who is Maurice Joseph Micklewhite Jr.?
Michael Caine. Not a lot of people know that.
2. In what year did the Battle of Ladysmith take place?
1899
3. What is the name of the Macclesfield auctioneer who sometimes appears on the TV show 'Flog It'?
Adam Partridge
4. What is nacre?
Mother of Pearl
5. Who is designing the Coronation gown for Camilla, Queen Consort?
Bruce Oldfield

Poynton u3a Groups List

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Acoustic Folk/Rock Band	Geoff Brindle	Contact Organiser
Art	Linda Thompson	2.00-4.00pm Mondays at the Civic Centre
Bird Watching	Peter Owen	Monthly. Contact Organiser
Bridge	Dorothy Rowland	2.00pm alternate Mondays at Davenport Golf Club
Creative Writing	Ruth Howard	1.30pm 2 nd & 4 th Mondays Davenport Golf Club
Crossword Compiling	Nigel Burin	By arrangement with organiser
Diners' Club	Barbara Tankard	Information at General Meetings and on website
Discussion	Keith Batchelor	Monthly Thursday mornings
D.I.Y. (Basics)	Jim McCann	Monthly
Family History	Moyna Barrott	2.00pm 1 st Wednesday in month at the Civic Hall
French Conversation	Sandra & Keith Batchelor	Monthly. Usually Friday afternoon. Contact Organisers
Geology	Peter Bennett	Monthly. Usually 4 th Thursday in month.
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly
History	Catherine Owen	2.00pm 4 th Tuesday in month
History 2	Geoff Reason	4 th Wednesday in month 2.00pm at Brookside Garden Centre
Local History	Alan Hulme	Contact Organiser
Music Appreciation	Liz Markham	2.00pm 1 st Thursday in month
Photography	Peter Bennett & Hilary Tivey	Usually 1 st Friday in month 2.00pm Poynton Civic Centre. Contact Organisers
Pickleball	Peter McWhirter	Every Wednesday 4.30pm Poynton Leisure Centre
Play Reading	Catherine Owen	2.15pm 1 st Tuesday in month
Reading Group 1	Iris Neale	2 nd Tuesday in month
Reading Group 2	Glenys Parry-Jones	Last Monday of the month 10.30am Contact Organiser
Science & Technology	Carol & Derek Gatenby	Usually 4 th Tuesday in month. Contact Organisers
Short Walks	Joyce Streets	2 nd Tuesdays in month at 10.30am
Spanish	Paul Freeborn	Mondays (except Bank Holidays) 10.30-11.30 at Brookside Garden Centre
Table Tennis	Janet & Peter Gill	Tuesday 9.45-12.15, Wednesday 2.00-4.30pm and Thursday 1.30-4.30pm at Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 st Thursday in month

Other Poynton Groups open to our U3A Members

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Hallé Concert Visits	Yvonne Sharma	Information at General Meetings & on web site
PHS-PTA Day Trips, Minibreaks and Theatre Trips	Elaine Roe	Information at General Meetings & on web site
Walking Netball	Liz Arrowsmith	Tuesdays 11.20am-12.20 at Poynton Leisure Centre

The telephone numbers are 01625 unless stated otherwise.