



Poynton u3a News

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Poynton u3a Update

Return to the Civic Hall

I can now confirm that our return to the Civic Hall will be the general meeting on 17th October. The speaker will be *Graham Short* and he will talk on *The Life of a Micro Artist*.

Vera Williams

Forthcoming General Meetings

In August, we have a replacement for the originally announced speaker. In two days time (Tuesday 15th), *Chris O'Grady* will be describing *Travelling Around Japan on a Couch*.

On Tuesday 19th September, *Fool's Gold* will be regaling us with *The Ballad of Soapy Smith*.

Both these meetings will be at the Centre in Park Lane as our previous general meetings this year.

And then in October (if the refurbishments are complete), we are back to the Civic Hall as described above. (*There's always an "if"!* – Ed)

Walking Group Holiday - Anglesey - June 2023

Last Christmas a couple of members of our group mentioned the possibility of having a walking holiday together in the summer. After a short discussion and a show of hands it proved a popular idea. A destination was decided, Anglesey, as it is just two hours drive away, has lovely coastal walks, interesting features and, hopefully, a warm sunny climate!

For simplicity we decided that everybody should choose and book their own accommodation in or near to Beaumaris which is an attractive town on the Menai Straits with quirky shops, numerous eateries/pubs, a castle and lovely walks nearby. So some chose a hotel, others took their own motor home, while the rest found a cottage or Air B & B. Three couples offered to lead walks during our stay so we had a variety of locations and places of interest to explore.

Peter and Kate led the first walk which started from the inland town of Llangefni. The route followed a river and old railway track through 'The Dingle', a nature reserve where if you are lucky a red squirrel can be spotted. Sadly, we were not in luck. Maybe a large group of chattering walkers caused them to stay hidden! On a hot day we were thankful for the shade on the tree-lined track! The walk led us to Cefni Reservoir where we saw swathes of foxgloves along the route.



information on the unusual rocks there known as 'Mélange', being a mixture of pink, green and blue/black.

The following day was another scorcher! This time Mike and Marilyn took us to Newborough Forest for a walk out to Traeth Llanddwyn and the island beyond, which is only accessible at low tide. The island is home to many wild flower species, birds, reptiles and sea life, as well as an old lighthouse with a charming row of white painted cottages, now empty. We were lucky to have the benefit of a few geologist group members who had visited last year on a field trip and were able to give us



Also spotted was a large sea creature washed up by the tide. On our return to the car park several of us cooled down with a welcome ice cream!

Our third walk started from the seaside village of Moelfre and was led by Rachel and Derek. It was a circular walk initially along the coast via the Moelfre RNLI station. There were stunning views across the Menai Straits to Snowdonia and as far as the Great Orme at Llandudno. We stood for a while watching sea birds diving into the sea for fish. There was an interesting memorial just off the coast path dedicated to the loss of The Royal Charter which was wrecked off the coast here in 1859 with the loss of over 400 lives.



A mile or so further on we had a rest at Traeth Lligwy where we enjoyed a drink or ice cream. The walk continued inland past a ruined chapel. Not far from the chapel across a field we explored the remains of a 4th Century iron age settlement. The shapes of workshops and dwellings could be easily seen within a boundary wall constructed of slabs of limestone. Our route along a quiet lane then fields took us back to Moelfre where we all had lunch at 'Ann's Pantry'.

This concluded the guided walks but those who stayed till the end of the week continued to enjoy the fascinating features of Anglesey. Four of us had a walk around Parys Mountain, an old copper mining area near Amlwch. It has been set out as a trail taking in different aspects of the old mine workings. The colours were amazing.

All of us enjoyed the trip and agreed that we would think about a similar one next year.

Kate Marsham



Photography

The photography group meets on the first Friday of every month in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre and caters for everyone who is keen to take photos from time to time, whether you use an expensive SLR or prefer your mobile phone. There is a very full programme of events and activities throughout the year, incorporating monthly and quarterly projects as well as an annual project.

The monthly project gives members the opportunity to offer three photos relating to that month's topic. For example, during the last two months the topics were: using different sources of light and composition. The topic for July is photographing eyes.

The quarterly project allows members to produce a set of three photos gathered during the course of the three months. The topic for the second quarter of 2023 was to view a particular scene, of our own choosing, taken from a similar vantage point in different circumstances, for example

- At different times of the day;
- In successive months;
- In different lighting conditions;

At the end of the year each member is invited to set up an individual display on a large piece of card. This year's annual project is "Our Industrial Heritage".

Each month, usually on a Wednesday morning, there is a photographic group outing to a suitable venue where we spend a half day or so, with breaks for coffee and lunch of course, capturing a range of interesting images. Recently, for example, we visited the silk museum in Macclesfield; also Tideswell for the well dressing. Some of us have also gone away for a few days as a group and taken the opportunity to photograph birds and scenes at such locations as Seahouses, off the coast of Northumberland, and Bridlington on the Yorkshire coast.

The accompanying photos relate to some of the topics and outings during the last quarter.







Each monthly meeting at the Civic centre has a full agenda which enables us to share photos relating to the monthly project, the quarterly project, when appropriate, and the outing if time allows. We also get tips on how to improve our photographic skills in different circumstances.

If this sounds interesting, then why not give it a try.

Keith Batchelor

Members' Contributions

Did it happen in Genesis?

The Agricultural Revolution is a term which refers to the development of early human beings from hunting and gathering over wide areas of land and coasts to farming and the domestication of animals in relatively confined areas. It is normally regarded as having begun some 12,000 years ago in the Middle East and spread slowly, appearing in what we now know as the UK perhaps only 8,000 years ago. It was followed, in turn, by the Industrial Revolution which began in the UK, continental Europe and the USA at the beginning of the 18th century and spread quite quickly throughout the known world. Its characteristics were the movement away from hand production to machine manufacturing, water steam power and the development of factory systems. With it came an unprecedented rise in population growth.

The Industrial Revolution was not just a significant point in the history of humans. It was nothing less than the single most significant point in evolution as a whole. Prehistoric mankind had moved over several thousand years from hunter-gatherer to farmer. Historical man with a well-developed vocabulary and writing now took a giant leap towards domination of all aspects of the planet earth. Within a few decades there had been significant changes in almost every aspect of life. The living standards of ordinary people improved enormously as average income increased in an unprecedented way. This

was not a blip but rather sustained and sustainable growth powered by machines and invention.

By the middle of the 19th century the canals and railways had changed forever the time-honoured perceptions of the movement of people and goods over distance, quickly and at low cost.

The first generations of ordinary people to be born into that experience and to benefit from all of this were those born into this new world in the UK at the end of the 19th century. I knew and spoke to some of these new people. They were my grandparents. My grandfather was the first of my paternal relatives who had been taught to read and write.

But I have jumped the gun. I am aware of the depth of time and it is easy for me to forget that until the 1850s (only 100 years before I was born) time was still measured in accordance with the generations of people recounted in the Old Testament. God had created the world just over 6,000 years ago – or so it was believed. Far from being billions of years old the natural world in which we live was formed after Noah's flood c.4,300 years ago.

Many scholars, including Isaac Newton, calculated what they believed to be the precise date of God's creation of the world using the lists of names in Genesis which begins with "Adam". However, the most comprehensive approach and the one most accepted by the church at the time was that created by James Ussher, the gifted Irish scholar born in 1581, who published a treatise on the calendar in 1650 *Annales veteris testamenti, a prima mundi origine deducti* (The Annals of the Old Testament, deduced from the initial origin of the world). According to Ussher the creation of the world had been at nightfall on the 22nd of October 4004 BC. As it happens Ussher's date for creation is exactly 4,000 years before 4BC which was the generally accepted date for the birth of Jesus. It is Ussher's work which is now used in support of the present day belief we know as *Creationism*.

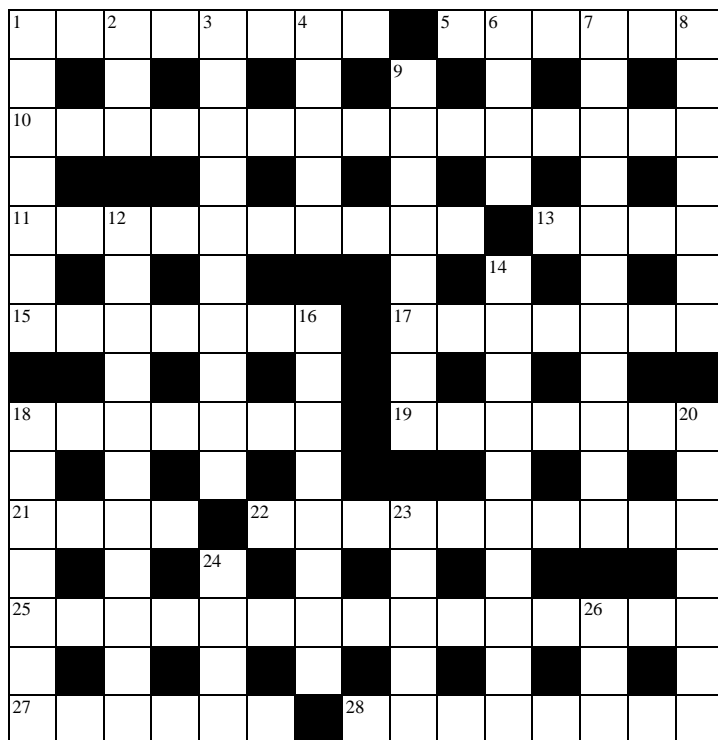
Only the most recent three or four generations of my ancestors (perhaps really only my grandparents) had – or could have had - the same privileged information as I have, namely that *Creationism* was no longer the answer.

David Sewart

(The views expressed in this article are those of the author – Ed)

Things to Do

Crossword No. 55



ACROSS

1. Phone company about Sarah's mobile in general, say (5,3)
5. College grounds affected American (6)
10. A tentative lover's foolish ranking of preferences (11,4)
11. Endless scoff dunked in sweet tea (10)
13. Be nervous of loud organ (4)
15. Contributed nothing new in old-fashioned surroundings (7)
17. Snake found in Rome and Eritrea (7)
18. What happens before weekend begins in sitcom (7)
19. Chap in jumper opposing member of dynasty (7)
21. To be very angry is the fashion (4)
22. Evaluation of panic rooms needing revision (10)
25. Throw a match, and fail to keep it a secret (4,3,4,4)
27. Hang back in silence where area is covered with ice (6)
28. Swindler, slow-witted, has to concentrate (8)

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 54

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

DOWN

1. Plot to steal foreign currency discredited (7)
2. Works informer shifting Republican to the centre (3)
3. Dark green mineral Newton discovered in rocky pine trees (10)
4. Benefit from rising hot stuff around island (5)
6. Maple, one seen by the river (4)
7. Profits secure in good transactions (11)
8. Old striker starts shooting listener (7)
9. Unsuitable term in sermon I'm changing (8)
12. Exceeding limit, going through, and knocking someone down (7,4)
14. Shark's ear bone had to receive echo (10)
16. Find divorces shattering (8)
18. Seeks food a long time (7)
20. Warhol sunk, finally arrested by extremely vindictive sort of fuzz? (3,4)
23. Philosopher shown up by total plonker (5)
24. Bowl over, with star trapping opener in Test (4)
26. White end falls off magic rod (3)

Sudoku No 45

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

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

Below is the solution to No 44

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Which was the first national park in the UK?
2. What is a jack rabbit?
3. What is the actual meaning of the word Dinosaur?
4. What was name of the cinema in the middle of Bramhall?
5. Where is the smallest house in Great Britain?

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

1. In Dad's Army, what is the Christian name of Captain Mainwaring?
George
2. Which bird has the largest wingspan in the world?
The Wandering Albatross
3. Which Queen of England was born in Bradgate House, Leicestershire.
Lady Jane Grey, Queen for 9 days in 1553
4. What colour are letter boxes in Guernsey?
Blue
5. If a pomelo is the largest citrus fruit, what is the smallest?
Kumquat