



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 43-1

19th Jan 2024

Poynton u3a Update

Annual General Meeting – 19th March 2024

This year's AGM is on Tuesday 19th March. As described last year, the view of the Committee is that a face-to-face meeting, with an opportunity for electronic input as far as possible for those not able to attend, is the best option.

Therefore, we are inviting from members:

1. resolutions which members would like to be put to the AGM
2. the names of those agreeing to stand for election as committee members

Resolutions and nominations for the election of new committee members, together with names of a proposer and seconder, should be sent to our Secretary, Jayne Barnes (using enquiries@poyntonu3a.org.uk or post to 72 Clifford Road, SK12 1JA). The Nominations and Resolutions Forms are accompanying this newsletter and are also on our website.

The Constitution requires that we should give 21 days notice of the date of the AGM and its agenda. Proposed resolutions and proposals for committee membership should be received by the Secretary no later than **Friday 16th February 2024**.

The agenda for the AGM on 19th March will follow the normal pattern, namely:-

- Minutes of the last AGM (2023)
- Matters arising
- Proposed resolutions
- Election of committee members
- Trustees' report
- Group coordinators report
- Annual accounts.

There will be a further mailing which will contain the relevant papers for the AGM.

The formal business of the AGM will be followed by a presentation from Haf Barlow, the Clerk to the Council. Haf will also be taking questions.

Poynton u3a Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are progressing at a steady pace. **Remember** you need to renew your membership **immediately** if you are involved in any Interest Group activities or want to continue to receive our Newsletter. Details were in the previous newsletter and are on the Membership page on our website.

Third Age Trust Magazine

The Third Age Trust produces a magazine called Third Age Matters with five editions a year (April, June, September, November and February). The cost for the coming year is £3.75. If you would like to order your copies, email membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

General Meetings

The next General Meeting is on Tuesday 20th February when Louise Bentley from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust will be telling us about *The Work of the Wildlife Trust*.

Diners' Club

I have provisionally booked our next lunch at The Aviator, Woodford for Wednesday 21st February at 12.30pm. However, they have requested a deposit of £10 per person, which is an increase from the £5 that they requested the last time that we went there.

Please could you let me know via email if you would like to attend the lunch and if you are happy to go ahead with The Aviator. If there are people who wish to attend but are not happy with the deposit increase then I will contact The Farmers Arms and check their availability.

In order to confirm a booking please could you let me know no later than Monday 22nd January.

Barbara Tankard

The following may be of use to you or someone that you know.

Poynton Library – Home Library Service

As the manager of Poynton Library, I would like to promote our Home Library Service. This is a service run by volunteers who take books chosen by library staff to those members of the community who, through age or infirmity, are unable to visit the library themselves. The volunteers currently deliver to some residents at Dystleigh Grange, and Adlington Manor, and would love for more people to be aware of the service and enjoy the benefits. (We can deliver to private houses too.) If you know of anyone who would benefit from this service, please ask them or a relative or friend to get in touch with the library giving the details of the person and what type of books they like to read and whether large print or ordinary print. We also have spoken word CDs.

The other side of the service is the volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to help with delivery of the books, again please get in touch with the library. The service goes out once a month on a Thursday, so in a rota with other volunteers, the task would not be too great a commitment.

Wendy Cradock Poynton Library – 01625 374818 poynton.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Members' Contributions

Tales from the Isles of Scilly – St Agnes and Gugh

St Agnes is the southernmost populated island of the Isles of Scilly and the island's Troy Town Farm is the southernmost settlement in the United Kingdom. Over one third of the area of St Agnes is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



St Agnes is joined to the island of Gugh by a tombolo, a kind of sandbar, which is exposed only at low tide.



Gugh has two houses which both have the same strange roof shape in order to combat high winds. There are thought to be three residents.



The island's most notable landmark is its lighthouse, which has been converted into living accommodation, the tower no longer containing a light.

It is situated next to the island's primary school which currently has five pupils. Secondary pupils board at the St Mary's main campus, staying there on weekdays and coming back and forth to their home islands on weekends. Students at the sixth-form college level reside and board elsewhere in mainland Great Britain.

The primary church on St Agnes is the parish church dedicated to St Agnes of Rome. The first church was built in the sixteenth or seventeenth century but it was destroyed in a gale. It was rebuilt in the eighteenth century but was again destroyed. The current building was built by the islanders in the nineteenth century using the proceeds of the sale of a wreck. The bell in the church was taken from that wreck. It is a Grade II listed building. The church features stained-glass windows locally made by artists Marigold and Oriel Hicks.

(Hicks is a very common surname on St Agnes.)



The Troy Town Maze is said to have been laid out by the son of the lighthouse keeper in 1729, but may be much older. Although called a maze it is strictly a labyrinth with a convoluted path to the centre via seven rings. It is the only one outside Scandinavia made of beach pebbles, which may indicate it to be of Viking origin.



The mainstay of the economy is tourism, together with some bulb farming. Accommodation is limited and St Agnes is the only populated island in the Isles of Scilly which has no hotel. It does have a few B&Bs and self-catering cottages, an ice cream shop, a campsite, a small post office and general store and a gift shop. It also has a pub (the Turk's Head) and a café, although these are closed in the winter.



A panoramic view of St Agnes taken from Gugh showing the lighthouse, the Turk's Head pub and the landing stage.

Carol and Derek Gatenby

From Darkness to Light

Looking forward - onward then,
To longer days and clearing skies,
To snowdrops pushing through the soil -
Increasing sound of birdsong cries.

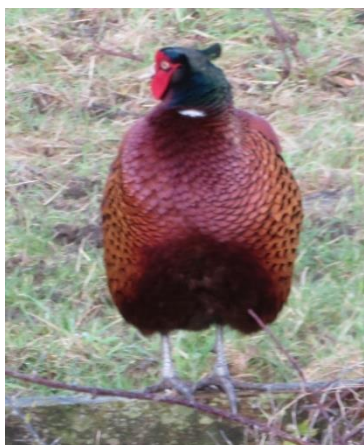
They say Springtime is an awakening,
A call to arms for revolution,
An outpouring of new endeavour -
Strong signs of season's evolution.

Strong daylight glads the eager eye,
Bright colour in our lives -
More energy to tackle chores,
Our human form survives!

Ian Beverley

Martin Mere

Here's something for everybody who is missing the Bird Watching group. We recently visited the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust site at Martin Mere. Below are some photographs of the day for you to test your bird recognition skills. We visited on a dull day and some of the birds like to be camouflaged, which makes this a bit more of a challenge!





On the left, there are four birds to be identified

Remember, the Bird Watching group is still looking for a new organiser. If you feel this is a role that you could perform, please get in touch using groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

The identity of these birds is revealed on page 9.

Contributions to the Newsletter

As always, if you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, send your contribution to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

You may feel you have the basis for a good article but don't know where to start. In that case, get in touch and we will try and help.

Things to Do

Sudoku No 49

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

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

Below is the solution to No 48

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. How many teeth do adult elephants have? 24, 26 or 28
2. Where in Britain has a carved rock crystal skull been kept since 1898, of the type replicated in the film Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull?
3. Where in England is the oldest racecourse that has continued to be in use since the mid-1600s?
4. Who, born in 1919 and known only by his surname, had the forenames Roger Valentino?
5. When did the Manchester Guardian become The Guardian?

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

1. What is the nickname for Congleton?
Beartown
2. Which pudding is named after a Russian prima ballerina?
Pavlova
3. What is the name of the church in Prestbury?
Saint Peters
4. In which country did playing cards originate?
China
5. What does ROYGBIV represent?
It is an abbreviated version of "Richard of York gave battle in vain" – A mnemonic aid for the colours of the rainbow

Martin Mere – Bird recognition answers with many thanks to Google Lens

Pheasant	Red-breasted goose
Teal	Reed Bunting
Pochard	Pintail
Female Shoveler	Male Shoveler
Cape Teal	Chaffinch
Flamingos	Eider ducks
Blue tit Male Chaffinch Female Chaffinch Goldfinch	Shelducks

If there are any misidentifications, I'm afraid you will have to blame Google Lens!

No new Crossword this month. Here is the solution to No 57.

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

And finally, a new Open Group at Cheadle Hulme u3a

The 'Technology for Everyone' (The Appliance of Science) Group of Cheadle Hulme u3a is the latest addition to the North East Cheshire Network as an 'Open Group'. This Group invites Speakers on technical subjects that we all come across in our day-to-day activities. You are therefore invited to attend any of their meetings on the first Tuesday of the month (Feb to April, and Oct to Dec inclusive) at 2pm in the Heald Green Village Hall, Outwood Road, Heald Green. Admittance fee is £3 including Tea/Coffee and Cake/Biscuits.

The next meeting is on February 6th and is entitled; 'Glass - the Art and the Science' by Peter Goodhew, Chairman of Chester u3a.

On March 5th we welcome Dr Yagya Regmi to give his talk on 'Hydrogen as a Potential Fuel'. For further details, please contact Roger Law.