



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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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 19th March 2024

The Annual General Meeting is taking place on Tuesday 19th March at the Civic Hall. 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 £3.75. If you would like to subscribe, email membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

General Meetings

The next General Meeting after the AGM is on Tuesday 16th April when Frank Vigon will be telling us about *Imitation the Sincerest Form of Robbery – Art Forgery*.

Response to Cardiac Arrest

On Thursday 25th January at Poynton Civic Centre several members of the u3a together with other interested locals attended a presentation intended for the ordinary person in which the NHS offered an outline of what to do if someone were to collapse with a heart attack and go into cardiac arrest. The whole procedure was very useful and informative, two hours well spent. It included an opportunity to practise CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) on a dummy before setting up a defibrillator to restart the heart. There are quite a lot of defibrillators available around Poynton and the operator responding to a 999 call will indicate where the nearest defibrillator is located (see below and overleaf).

Keith Batchelor

The information below and the table on the next page is taken from the "Where is your nearest available AED unit?" sheet produced by the Poynton AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) Group.

The basic advice in the case of a cardiac arrest is

1. Contact (or arrange contact) with the Emergency Services.
2. Start CPR and send someone for the nearest available AED Unit.
3. Once the AED arrives remove from the package and follow the audible instructions.
4. Continue until instructed otherwise by the emergency services.



Some defibrillators require a code to access the device. The code can be obtained by calling 999.

Also, take the time to search/watch the YouTube video "How to Use a Defibrillator (AED) - First Aid Training - St. John Ambulance"

Defibrillators in Poynton

Establishment	Location
Available 24 hours	
Chester Road Dental Care	Chester Road
Civic Hall	Civic Centre off Park Lane
Fire Station	School Lane
Hockley Junction phone box	Park Lane, Hockley Junction
London House	First Avenue, Poynton Industrial Estate
Poynton Railway Station phone box	Poynton train station car park, Chester Rd
St Martins Church	Shrigley Rd Nth, Higher Poynton
Coppice Road phone box	Coppice Road, Higher Poynton
Anson Road phone box	Anson Rd (nr Boar's Head) Higher Poynton
Coppice Car Park phone box	Shrigley Road South, Higher Poynton
Clifford Road phone box	Junction of Clifford Rd and Queensway
Fountain Place phone box	London Road North
Wickfield Mews	Copperfield Road
Hunts Veterinary Clinic	Dickens Lane
Poynton Sports Club	London Road North
Acoustic Lounge	Park Lane
Davenport Golf Club	Middlewood Road
Available when premises open	
Galloways Printers	Poynton Ind. Est.
Hall & Pickles (Poynton Ind. Est.)	Poynton Ind. Est.
London Road Dentist	London Road
Lower Park School	Hazelbadge Road
Mcllvride Medical Practice	Chester Road
Morrisons	Queensway
Park Lane Dentist - Wish Dental	Park Lane
Poynton High School	Yew Tree Lane
Poynton Leisure Centre	Yew Tree Lane
Poynton Community Centre	Park Lane
Priorslegh Health Centre	Civic Centre
Royal British Legion	Georges Road West
Worth Primary School	Birch Road

Members' Contributions

Exploring the Jewish tradition in Manchester - History Group 2's Day Out

On 24th January History Group 2 started 2024 with a visit to Manchester Jewish Museum. The visit was inspired by our November meeting when we discussed Harry Bernstein's book "The Invisible Wall" about his childhood in a poor Jewish family in Stockport in the 1910s. We all found plenty of interest in his account of his early life but also realised there is much we didn't know about the history of Jewish people in the Manchester area.

The Jewish Museum was an obvious opportunity to find out more: and besides, we all enjoy a trip out!

We all found the displays fascinating and the extremely knowledgeable and friendly volunteer staff provided a wealth of additional information, and some thought-provoking discussions.

The former Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue which is adjacent to and a part of the museum was very beautiful; and another surprise as we were told nearly all the Jewish population of the Cheetham Hill area were from Eastern Europe and so from different Jewish traditions – hence so many synagogues.

As our visit was so close to Holocaust Memorial Day, there was a pop-up exhibition from the National Holocaust Centre and Museum which traced historical and contemporary forms of antisemitism and prejudice.

It was startling to learn how online anti-Semitic abuse is often closely aligned to the anti-Semitic propaganda of Nazi Germany and how long ago some of the myths about Jews were first popularised.

It was a fascinating trip and we all felt we had learned from our day out, enjoying ourselves at the same time.

If you feel inspired to join our friendly group, our next meeting is on Wednesday February 28th at 2pm in the café at Brookside Garden Centre and our topic is local canals. After that, in April we are planning to look at good old King Alfred.

Margaret Myerscough

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 an interesting article but don't know where to start. In that case, get in touch and we will try and help.

Mixed Messages

This is the tale of Pru and Fred
Who made a promise to get wed;
They were quite sure and had no fears -
(They'd been engaged for thirty years).

Fred lived with Mum and Pru with Dad
And what a waiting game they'd had
Both parents hale and in their eighties
Stopped Pru and Fred becoming 'maties'
And always did their level best
To keep their fledglings in the nest.

So, Fred and Pru - no more a beauty
Stayed single and performed their duty.
But Pru refused to give up hope
And desperate, cried 'let us elope'
'Before I'm driven nearly frantic,
Let's do 'summat right romantic!'

Shocked at first, Fred saw the light
And answered 'yes, this very night.
I'll beg a ladder from my chum
And to your window, up I'll come'.

That night was dim and full of chill
As Fred surveyed the bedroom sill
And staggered on the forming ice
With ladder gripped as in a vice.
He grumbled 'What a foolish thing,
We ought to put it off 'til Spring'

But Pru'd already raised the sash
'Suppose we'd better have a bash'.
Now fate, as it so often does
Intervened and brought the 'fuzz'
Who, true to fashion, thought it queer
And growled 'whatever's 'appening 'ere?'

Fred got the ladder, nicely sloping
And answered (truly) 'We're eloping'
The man in blue cried 'Watch it son,
Don't try to pull the other one!'

As these warning words were said
Pru's suitcase fell on Freddie's head
And stunned this most unlucky chap
Who'd not foreseen this sad mishap.
Not giving him a second glance
The cop called for an ambulance
And Fred, unconscious and in need
Was whisked to hospital at speed.

A sergeant, coming on the scene
Mused 'What a funny night it's been-
A similar event I'm sure
Has taken place at number four,
Eloping must be in the air-
Why don't the fatheads take more care;
The old man there must now be sadder -
He held on to the lady's ladder
But in her haste to get to him
She missed three rungs and broke a limb',

Pru felt quivers in her tum-
At number four lived Freddie's Mum,
Intent on running off with Dad-
(Enough to make his daughter mad),
They must have kept their courtship dark
By secret snogging in the park.

But happy ending was in sight.....
Acknowledging the lovers' plight
The powers that be were in accord
'A double wedding in the ward'
Was merited by all the deeds
Enacted by the invalids -
Although, of course, I am afraid
The consummations were delayed!

Ian Beverley

Route 192

Route 192, which extends from Manchester Piccadilly to the junction of the A6 and A523 London Road North (Hazel Grove), is just a small part of the A6 but possibly the oldest and/or best-known Bus Route in the UK. The A6 is the fourth longest numbered road in Great Britain running from Luton to Carlisle, a distance of 282 miles. However, this relatively insignificant stretch of such a huge and ancient road has particular significance for me as it was my introduction to a bus and the world almost exactly at the same time.

I was less than 100 hours old when I made my first trip on what is now *Route 192*, accompanying my mother in a bus as we went from *St Mary's Hospital Village Branch, Prestbury* early one spring morning back to her mother's house (Poynton u3a News 42-2). I knew nothing of this at the time but, as I have grown up, I have collected specific memories of many parts of the route.

In addition to the "full route" buses there are also several 192 buses operating over "part routes", such as, Stockport/Manchester and Levenshulme/ Manchester, so that two or three buses can get within two or three minutes (or even less) of one another at busy times. It was not always thus. The history of the route goes back to horse-drawn trams and electric trams in 1889 and through a variety of ownerships to its present owner, *Stagecoach Manchester*.

As someone who has travelled the famous 300 miles of California State Route 49, I can assure you that *Greater Manchester Bus Route 192* knocks it into the proverbial cocked hat. It's never boring and, given the state of the road surface, nobody could possibly fall asleep and miss their stop! For many, perhaps most of the passengers, *Route 192* is an essential part of their life. According to *Stagecoach* this route is the busiest in Britain, carrying some nine million passengers every year and *Transport for Greater Manchester* has designated it as "a quality bus corridor".

There are presently 54 stops, departing Hazel Grove (Park and Ride) and finishing in Manchester Piccadilly. You don't travel on *Route 192* for speed. All the stops have a name which is announced in good time. You travel for the experience of sharing a constantly changing scenario faster than you can take it in, rocking from side to side as the bus has no sooner got up to what passes for speed from one stop than it is slowing down for the next stop where some people leave and others join. All of this is happening seamlessly and conducted by 'phones and flashes of plastic although none quite as flashy as my new "Bus Pass" which now lights up when I get on to start my trips. And I am almost always the only passenger who travels the whole trip. So, I try to guess where passengers will get off. Students can be recognised by their clothes, time and the day of the week, passing through secondary and tertiary education. The same goes for those attending Stepping Hill Hospital. Well-dressed people, often with hats, are going to the Crematorium. The stops

at Petersgate and Chestergate lead weekend shoppers on the high or low roads to Stockport Market and Mersey Way and to a significant piece of history.

Did you know that *Route 192* can take you to the largest purpose-built civilian air raid shelter in the UK, opened in Chestergate in 1939? It was eventually a labyrinth of tunnels almost a mile in length (all of it carved out of Stockport's red sandstone) and could accommodate 6,500 people, well over a third of the population of Poynton. And these were not just one-night occupations when air raids were threatened. For some families in the Stockport area, they were their regular way of life for many weeks and even months in the war. It was nick-named the "Chestergate Hotel" because the accommodation covered not only electric lights, bunk beds and substantial benches but washing, dining, 16-seater flushing toilets and medical facilities catering for standard needs including births. The Chestergate Hotel offered amenities which we take for granted but many of which were rare or non-existent in the houses round about in those times. The entrance is not easy to find and one comment in the visitor book reads - *Fascinating piece of modern history that must not be missed. I am sorry to say I have lived locally for years but could never find the entrance which is in fact right by Primark and the Plaza.*

The Domesday book (1086) makes no mention of Stockport but in the Industrial Revolution Stockport became a textile town famous for hat making (the Hatters football team) and the silk industry. Evidence for these lies on both sides of *Route 192*. In 1844 Friedrich Engels described Stockport as "renowned as one of the duskiest, smokiest holes in the whole of the industrial area" but in recent times it has become increasingly popular as an "upward" address for young people.

If the entrance to the air raid shelter is, perhaps not surprisingly, not at all prominent, the same cannot be said of the Stockport Viaduct. You can't miss it. But somehow the Luftwaffe managed precisely to do just that, time and time again. One of the most important routes linking Manchester to London, rising taller, wider and more exposed than any other structure in Stockport and on the opposite side of the A6 to the air raid shelter the blindingly obvious Viaduct was never hit in the war.

Stockport Viaduct was first completed in 1841 and is measured as 111ft (33.8 metres) from the bed of the river Mersey which it spans. Some 11 million bricks went into its construction and the work, begun in 1839, was completed by the end of 1840. So popular was rail travel that its two tracks were increased to four by the end of the 1880s. I once had the good fortune of being in a train which was stuck in the centre of its 22 arches for half an hour through some signalling fault. I say "good fortune" because for the first time in my life I had the opportunity of a grand-stand view which normally slips away in a matter of seconds in a moving train. On one side is the labyrinth of roads as Didsbury Road merges with the twin tracks of the motorway. On the other the motorway continues and Mersey

Square with its shopping centre can be seen. You get the impression that the viaduct was carefully built round the roads although, of course, the opposite is true.

A great deal of the rest of the journey is modern, sometimes on both sides of the road. The cinemas and Bingo Halls of my youth have gone. And beyond that there are few traces of the 165 acres of entertainment areas which included Belle Vue with its Speedway, Greyhound track, Roller Coaster, Firework displays, music and dancing in its various ball rooms, Zoological Gardens and Zoo which attracted two million visitors every year. Gone are the Marquees and Circus Big Tops in which a Ring Master controlled – or at least tried to control - a procession of clowns and acrobats, drum rolls as lions and tigers performed at the behest of their trainers as the audience shrieked and looked through their fingers at terrifying performances.

The zoo closed in 1977 and the animals were sold off until only one remained – the elephant. Ellie May's food costs and space requirements were expensive and it seems she did not attract purchasers. But plans were made for her to go to Rotterdam Zoo. However, she resisted attempts to move her, contracted heart failure and pneumonia and had to be "put to sleep" which her many admirers preferred to "euthanasia". How many pre-school young children had, like me, queued, "threepenny bit" in hand, at noon to be one of the dozen who were taken right up to her and allowed to touch/stroke her leg? The care of animals was still some time coming.

One of my "whole route" trips is just before Christmas each year and I am, as normal, the only person making the entire 9.1 miles in one go. My December trip is a reunion meeting for lunch in Albert Square with those who were with me in our last year at school. In the 60 minutes of the trip, I can read through best wishes and apologies for absence from class mates as far as Australia and the USA. (*Interestingly to do so I take out of my pocket what would in those far off days be recognised instantly as a cigarette case - now of course a 'phone.*) There is increasingly less future for a group of 18 year-olds which long ago gave itself the name of "Class of '62". As we said goodbye all those years ago (actually TTFN was the "in" saying for us at the time), it was with the arrogance of youth. But that didn't last long. For more than four weeks in that autumn the world held its breath as the two most powerful nations faced up to one another threatening a world nuclear war in what became known as the Cuban Missile crisis.

David Sewart

Things to Do

Sudoku No 50

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

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

Below is the solution to No 49

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Which two countries in the world ban Coca-Cola?
2. What is Potsilana?
3. How did Saint Alban die?
4. Who is the politician whose statue is on the concourse of Liverpool's Lime Street Station?
5. What is the fastest creature on the planet?

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

1. How many teeth do adult elephants have? 24, 26 or 28
26
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?
The British Museum
3. Where in England is the oldest racecourse that has continued to be in use since the mid-1600s?
Chester
4. Who, born in 1919 and known only by his surname, had the forenames Roger Valentino?
Liberace
5. When did the Manchester Guardian become The Guardian?
1959