



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Poynton u3a Update

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting was held on Tuesday 19th March. We have one new committee member, Margaret Myerscough, but more are needed if the u3a is going to continue to run successfully. There were no resolutions this year.

Vera Williams announced that she was stepping down as chair and is leaving the committee. The new chair is Hester Ormiston although the roles taken on by the chair are being shared with other committee members.

After the formal business of the AGM, the Town Clerk, Mrs Haf Barlow gave an informative presentation on the work of the Council, followed by an excellent question and answer session.

The boxes below show some of the content of the Town Clerk's talk which may be of interest to members. This information was correct at the time of the meeting.

Poynton Pool

- Planning Application has been submitted by Cheshire East Council
- Over 1700 responses received
- Due to be considered by Cheshire East Council Strategic Planning Board on the 24th April 2024

Household Waste and Recycling Centre Closure

- The Centre will be closed from 1st April 2024
- Closure is subject to review result expected in September 2024
- Town Council is opposed to the closure of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre, and we will continue to campaign against this

Leisure Centre

- Discussed by Cheshire East Council Environment and Community Committee 11th March
- No current proposals to close Poynton Leisure Centre

BUT

- Long term future remains in doubt
- No investment
- Town Council is being asked to contribute

Bus Service

- 391/392 bus service now every 2 hours
- We are formulating our response to the 391/392 bus service changes and are asking those who have been severely affected to fill in this short survey with further details. [391/392 bus service feedback \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)
- Please respond by Monday 25th March.

Note: The date for responses to the Bus Service changes has passed. It is not known if responses are still being accepted.

For the latest news, sign up to the Town Council's e-newsletter Poynton Update & News (PUN) on the new Town Council website - www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk.

General Meetings

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

The May meeting is on Tuesday 21st May when Dr Steve Barratt will be talking about *Unidentified Flying Objects*.

Birdwatching Revival

Following several discussions about how much we missed birdwatching after the original group closed, Anne Wynn and I decided that the group should be resurrected. Thanks to Peter Owen's records, a new group has been formed.

We had our first meeting on Friday March 15th at Poynton Pool. Nine keen birdwatchers spotted 16 different species of bird. (Not the bullfinches in the photo; those were in my garden!!)



A pair of bullfinches

This was followed by coffee at Wetherspoons where we attempted to draw up a provisional programme for the next few months. I stress that this is a provisional programme. Should you wish to join us you will be very welcome.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monday April 8 th | Etherow Country Park, Compstall, SK6 5JD Meet at Hazel Grove Park and Ride at 10.00am |
| Monday May 20 th | Tittesworth Reservoir Details, including directions, available later |
| Monday June 17 th | Venue to be decided |

If you want to be added to the mailing list or have any other comments, please contact us through groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk. Hopefully we will see some of you in the near future.

Carol Gatenby and Anne Wynn

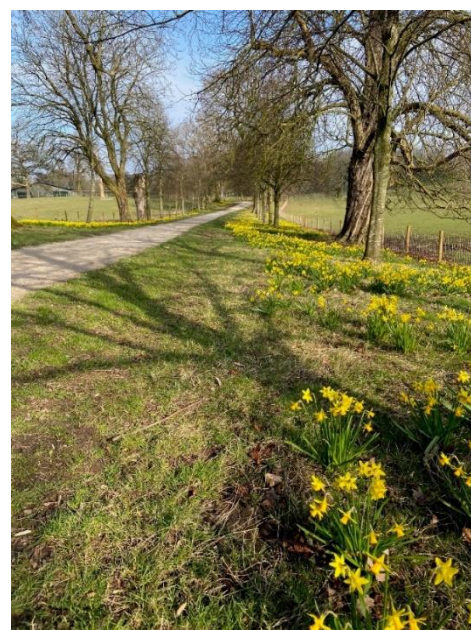
Members' Contributions

A Spring Walk

The walk this month from Alderley Park was very well attended by 21 members. We met outside The Churchill Tree restaurant, where we had arranged to have lunch after the walk, situated in grounds of the former ICI/AstraZeneca site. The current management welcome the public to enjoy walks round Radnor Mere and through the woodlands beyond. There is a car park at Radnor Mere where parking is free for 2 hours, thereafter £1 per hour. It is accessible from the north entrance, off the main A34.



The group walked across the green field which is farmland and has now a very well surfaced path which at this time of year is bordered by miniature daffodils. On reaching Radnor Mere we stopped for a short while to observe the herons that use a tree on a small island on which to nest and breed. The path led us into the woods where there is a picnic area with a covered section and benches. Shortly after we left the woodland at Hocker Lane, we followed a well-defined footpath leading to Finlow Hill. We stopped here for refreshments in the warm sunshine. At Finlow Hill we had beautiful views of the Cheshire countryside looking



towards Lyme Park. Our return took us back to Hocker Lane where we re-entered the woodland path, which eventually led us round the back of the buildings, taking us onto the site road past new houses to the restaurant.

If any member is interested in similar walks on the site there are several on the restaurant website. thechurchilltree.co.uk.

Peter and Kate Marsham

If I Were a Saint

If I were a Saint,

I'd like to be the Saint of all you who say "Sorry!"

Even when an accident was not your fault;

The Saint of the Little White Lie you only told

To make things better, that's *now been found out*.

The Saint of those who forgot to mark on the calendar

Your Anniversary, Her birthday, "take the dog to the vets".

Saint of the Soggy Bottom and the Burnt Top,

Saint of the Flat Battery, Lost Lottery Ticket, Forgotten Passport;

The Winter Wheeze, and the nasal Summer Drip.

Of the Monday Washing Line that Broke,

And the Last Clean Nappy; and the Rainy Day

That arrived before you'd saved for it.

I'd be the Holy One that knows on which floor

Of the multi-storey you parked the car.

I'd know of the ink that ran out, just before

The final page of your mighty novel.

I'd own the ninth life of the cat, the strap that snapped,

And the Loan that's still owing after Payday.

I'd be the Holy Helper who hears the clever riposte

You wished you'd said..... at the time.

Saint of all faults, fractures, and lack of forethought

Of glitches, hitches, and harassment, of the over-wrought and overweight

The harried, the hurried and the henpecked; the ditched, bewitched, and browbeaten

The tired, trapped, and untalented, and of all the mystified misfits.

Amen.

Ruth Howard (Saint of the slightly bemused, baffled, thwarted and downright confused).

Depicted with a wonky halo, holding the emblems of a cracked cup and leaky bucket,

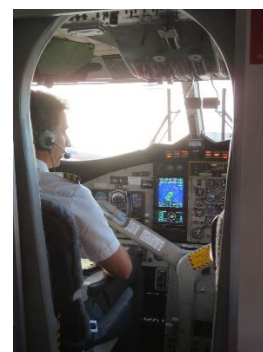
wearing one sock with an enormous hole and drooping undergarments.

Tales from the Scilly Isles – St Mary’s

St Mary’s is the largest (40 percent of the total land area) and most populous island of the Isles of Scilly. The main settlement, Hugh Town was sold to the inhabitants by the Crown in 1949. (It had belonged to the Duchy of Cornwall — which still owns much of the rest of the island.)

St Mary's is the only island of the Isles of Scilly with a significant road network and the only island with public highways, including three A roads (measuring less than 5 miles in total length).

By air, the island is served by St Mary's Airport. Fixed-wing aircraft services are scheduled, operated by Isles of Scilly Skybus, to and from Land's End, Newquay, and (except in winter) Exeter. Helicopter flights ran from 1964 to 2012 and then resumed in 2020 with the launch of the Penzance Helicopter service.



By sea, the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company provides a passenger and cargo service from Penzance, which is currently operated by the *Scillonian III* passenger ferry, supported by the *Gry Maritha* cargo vessel.

The *Scillonian III* is reputed to be somewhat seasick-inducing because of its narrow shape and small draught to accommodate the shallow harbour in St Mary’s. Fortunately, we flew both ways so I cannot report on these rumours.

The other islands are linked to St. Mary's by a network of inter-island launches. The main harbour of St Mary's (and the Isles of Scilly) is at Hugh Town, and is called St Mary's Harbour.



This is Harry's Walls, an unfinished 16th-century artillery fort, which was intended to protect St Mary's. In the Tudor period, the harbour was deemed to be vulnerable to attack by England's enemies, France and Spain. If captured, it might serve as a base for hostile warships. To protect the harbour, this fort was begun in 1551 but, with a change in policy and money running out, it was never finished. (Local knowledge suggests it was built on the wrong side of the harbour.)



Old Town Chapel and a view across the bay to Old Town itself with the airport buildings visible on the horizon. The graveyard is the last resting place of Harold Wilson and his wife Mary (who lived to be 102).

Star Castle is at the centre of a fortification system around the west side of St Mary's known as the Garrison. The walls of the castle take the shape of an eight-pointed star. It comprises an outer wall around the outcrop of Hew Hill, protecting the town and the castle, with strategically placed gun batteries at regular intervals around the outer wall, allowing covering fire at all angles.

The Star Castle was built in 1593 by the Surveyor of the Royal Works and

mapmaker Robert Adams, under the direction of Francis Godolphin, following the Spanish Armada of 1588. Fearing another Spanish invasion, in May 1593 Queen Elizabeth I ordered the construction of a fort and two sconces as a lookout for any intruder ships. Star Castle is now a hotel.



In 1740 the Garrison was transformed by building walls with gun batteries in a circular shape following the coast line.



St Mary's has an area designated as a Nature Reserve. Inside the reserve is a collection of trees covered all over in lichen (as previously described on Tresco).



Bant's Carn is a Bronze Age entrance grave located on a steep slope facing out to sea on the north west corner of the island. The tomb is one of the best examples of a Scillonian entrance grave.

The Isles of Scilly were originally settled during the Neolithic era, circa 2500 BC. Burials on the islands range in date from the later Neolithic period to the Middle Bronze Age (2500-1000 BC). Over eighty entrance graves have been discovered on the Isles of Scilly. The majority of graves were built in the middle Bronze Age (1500 to 1000 BC). Excavated entrance graves typically contain human remains, cremation urns, and pottery fragments.

The tomb was excavated in 1900 by archaeologist, George Bonsor. Bonsor found the tomb empty except for cremated human remains at the back of the chamber, along with sherds of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery.



Below Bant's Carn, lies the remains of the Iron Age village of Halangy Down.

As you can see from the picture of the village on the left, it was raining heavily when we visited.

Carol and Derek Gatenby

If

If I looked but failed to see
In crowded hours of youth
The beautiful and satisfying
Things of simple truth
Now at leisure I pursue
But drive at gentle speed
A course that winds to countryside
And all that I should heed
If short of time perhaps am I
To savour more the thrills
Of curve and shape and colour change
Of everlasting hills.

If I had thought there could be lanes
To where the past escaped
And unmolested hedgerow lush
Honeysuckle draped.

If I had lingered years ago
Where jingling rivers run
And watched a cloud of midges
As they simmered in the sun.

If I had realised before, how in the olden
days
A village grew in perfect blend
With Nature's greens and greys
Nor did my senses and my heart
Respond to Autumn charm
If I had known of Winter spells
Of crisp and blue-sky calm.

But I have learnt to value these
And joys that lie ahead,
If life is sweet though youth is lost
And all my haste has fled.

As I stepped out one midsummer morning

I raced to the top of Summer Hill
When the day and I were young
It was wide and free on Summer Hill
Where the spiky wild gorse clung.

As I scrambled through
To the edge and the view
From the top of Summer Hill
The sun smiled down on Summer Hill
And blue was the spread of sky
And I had my fill of Summer Hill
When young was the world and I.

Down to the gleaming spires I gazed
At the little town at leisure
And friendly streets were still heat-hazed
And all the world was pleasure.

As I stepped out one Harvest morning

I climbed to the top of Summer Hill
With many a pause for rest;
And how is the view from Summer Hill
Now Summer is past its best?

The flags and roofs are damp and grey
The town has run a fever -
Strangers fill the new-planned streets
The shop facades are bolder
And gone is the lure of Summer Hill
Now the world and I are older.

Ian Beverley

Things to Do

Sudoku No 51

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

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

Below is the solution to No 50

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. In which year was Magna Carta signed?
2. Which emperor lived at Dunham Massey?
3. What colour are Mickey Mouse's shoes?
4. What did Samuel Pepys bury in his garden to protect it from the Great Fire of London?
5. Where is the Frog and Bucket Comedy Club?

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

1. Which two countries in the world ban Coca-Cola?
North Korea and Cuba
2. What is Potsilana?
Roman concrete, that is still holding up the dome of the Pantheon and Hadrian's Wall.
3. How did Saint Alban die?
He was beheaded
4. Who is the politician whose statue is on the concourse of Liverpool's Lime Street Station?
Bessie Braddock
5. What is the fastest creature on the planet?
A Peregrine Falcon, which can dive at speeds up to 240 mph