



# Poynton u3a News

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[poyntonu3a.org.uk](http://poyntonu3a.org.uk)

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## Poynton u3a Update

### General Meetings

The next General Meeting is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July when James Ellson will be giving a talk entitled *Five Hours Up, Five Hours Down – Soloing the Matterhorn*.

Following that, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August, Keith Warrender will be telling us about *Manchester and Cheshire Oddities*.

### Interest Groups

At present, we have twenty-seven interest groups. In addition, there are thirteen open groups, available for our members to join at other u3as in our local network. A list of all these is on our website, along with details of when and where they meet. Our groups are also listed in the table at the end of this newsletter. To join any of our own groups, just email [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk). For the open groups, click on the particular group to see details of how to contact the group leader.

If you feel that you have a particular interest which is not covered by what is presently available, it is always possible to start a new group. There may well be other members who share that interest. If this is the case, please email me at [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk) to tell me about it, and I can advertise in the newsletter and at our monthly talks, to see if there is the possibility of starting a group. I would be happy to arrange to bring members together to facilitate this.

### Nigel Burin

#### Southport Flower Show

Following on from two fun-filled years at Southport Flower Show, Southport u3a will be back this summer to celebrate the Show's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this year with a rather special show garden, a design that charts the history of gardening over the last 100 years. This will be a large 17 metre curved garden which emulates the path of a garden since 1924 to present day, depicting five period gardens linked by a path.

The Southport Flower Show is taking place between 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August. The organisers are offering all u3a members £10 off gate tickets if they buy before 31<sup>st</sup> July. Just use the

promo code 'u3a' when purchasing an any day ticket online and the cost will be £19 instead of £29. For tickets and more information, go to [www.southportflowershow.co.uk](http://www.southportflowershow.co.uk).

## Members' Contributions

### Walking Group

The Walking Group has been active as ever. Here are a couple of reports from their recent outings.

#### Mobberley Walk

The walking group braved the soggy conditions that have prevailed recently out in the countryside and went for a walk around Mobberley. We were pleasantly surprised that it was considerably drier than it had been nine days previously when Mike and I recce'd it. We started at the quaint Mobberley station (unmanned but still functioning) and ventured across the level crossing. Then across the fields to the southern end of the airport. The wind was northerly so the planes would have been coming in to land just over our heads but, despite seeing loads as we approached the field where the landing lights are, there was a lull for several minutes while we were in the field and they started coming in again shortly after we left. Better luck next time! Then across more fields and country lanes to Mobberley church where we had a welcome break before nipping into the ice cream farm close by. More field paths towards the factory that still makes Ilford 35mm film and back via a narrow lane to the station and the Railway Inn for lunch. The weather was glorious, the fields still have no animals in them because they're still too wet for them, the ice cream was delicious and the pub was very welcoming. An interesting and pleasant walk.



#### Marilyn Westbrook

#### Chelmorton Walk

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June members of the walking group met at the Church Inn, Chelmorton, Derbyshire. We were led by Derek Burton who gave us interesting information along the way. This included a stop by a spring just above the pub which at one time provided the village with its water. The water still runs down the hill and through the village in a channel at the roadside. Higher up along the path I spotted a cheerful bunch of wood violets, just one of several wild flower species seen along the route. A short detour led us to the ancient Five Wells burial chamber, half submerged at a high point above Five Wells Farm. We were lucky to see several bird species up on the moorland including oystercatcher, skylarks, meadow pipits, buzzard and curlew.

Continuing initially along The Limestone Way we enjoyed superb views of the surrounding countryside before turning back towards Chelmorton. A few of us visited the church of St. John the Baptist with its unusual weather vane depicting a locust which shone like gold in the bright sunshine. The locust is the symbol of John the Baptist.

We then enjoyed lunch at the Church Inn before returning to Poynton.



**Kate Marsham**

## Calorie Capers

I love chocolate.

Recently I won a prize in a raffle- a box of chocolates. Not my favourite brand, but chocolate is chocolate, and it had an assortment of different flavours ...(and many, many calories) lurking in the box

As well as lots of different flavours, I found many odd characters, too.

Allow me to introduce you to some of them.

There was Cara Mel, she's a tall, aristocratic model and minor celebrity.

Next was Hazel Whirl. An eco warrior rushing from protest to protest, to preserve the natural environment with its flora and fauna.

Violet Fondant followed. She's that elderly great-Aunt who always gave you half-a-crown for your birthday.

Fly away with Irish pilot Plain Choc O'late.

From the box came Brandi Ed Cherry; an American entrepreneur, I believe.

We must welcome Signat Ure Truffle, the famous Serbian Professor of Philosophy.

Here is pretty D'airy Milk, the farmer's daughter who makes cheese and butter.

Oh, listen, it's Tangy Orange, the Rap singer.

Here is Van Illa, the clever German detective; he can catch any criminal.

Roll out the red carpet for Golde N'Barrel, the smooth African Princess.

Who is this grubby old chap in a torn old overcoat fastened with string, wearing great muddy boots? Why, it is that Yokel named Country Fudge.

For culture, you can't beat Lem Oncreme, the black poet.

The Influencer, with her plumped-up lips and aggressive eyebrows, is Ms Strawberry Dream.

Finally, rhythm and blues soul singer Rasp Berry De Light.

Oh no. I've eaten the lot!

**Ruth Howard**

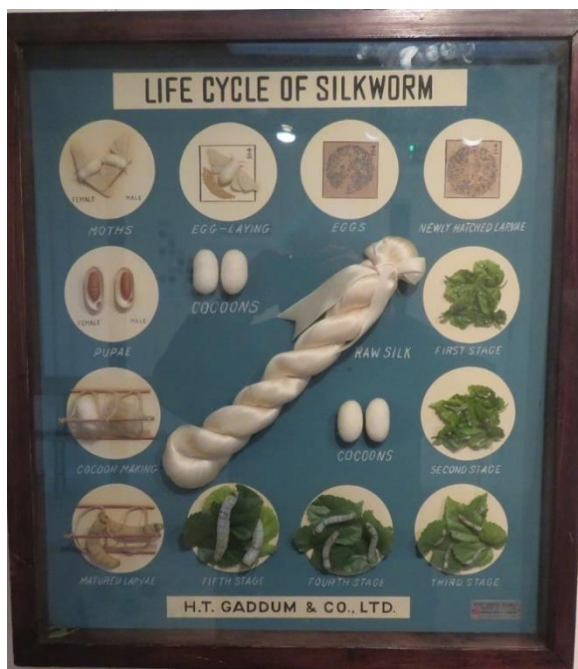
## Paradise Mill

The Science & Technology Group recently visited the newly-reopened Paradise Mill. Paradise Mill is part of the Silk Museum in Macclesfield and contains much of its original machinery. The content of the mill demonstrates the production process from beginning to end



Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. The protein fibre of silk is composed mainly of fibroin and is produced by certain insect larvae to form cocoons. The best-known silk is obtained from the cocoons of the larvae of the mulberry silkworm (*Bombyx mori*) reared in captivity (sericulture). The shimmering appearance of silk is due to the triangular prism-like structure of the silk fibre, which allows silk cloth to refract incoming light at different angles, thus producing different colours.

The production of silk originated in China in the Neolithic period. Silk production remained confined to China until the Silk Road opened at some point during the latter part of the first millennium BC, though China maintained its virtual monopoly over silk production for another thousand years and is still the major producer.



Left: The life cycle of the silkworm as illustrated on a poster in Paradise Mill.

Above: Various stages in the production of silk from cocoons to skeins

The silkworm moths produce eggs which hatch into larvae (caterpillars). These feed on mulberry leaves and grow in size. Once the worms start pupating in their cocoons, they are dropped into boiling water which ultimately allows the individual long fibres to be extracted. Silk fibres are very long compared with other natural fibres such as wool and are very strong being weight for weight stronger than steel.

The term throwing is used to cover the whole range of processes by which the very fine silk threads are made ready for weaving. The following stages are carried out by a specialised firm of throwsters. After the silk has been dyed in the skein, it is sent on to the weavers. The skeins are first untangled and inspected.



Winding removes irregularities and secures even tension in the yarn. The machine to the left is a skein to bobbin winder which winds the dyed silk onto bobbins.

Twisting adds extra strength and durability to the thread. The amount of twist in the yarn affects the texture of the fabric.

Doubling twists several strands together to bring the yarn to the required thickness



Above is an electric Pirn winder which winds silk onto small bobbins called pirns or quills. These are then fitted into the shuttles.

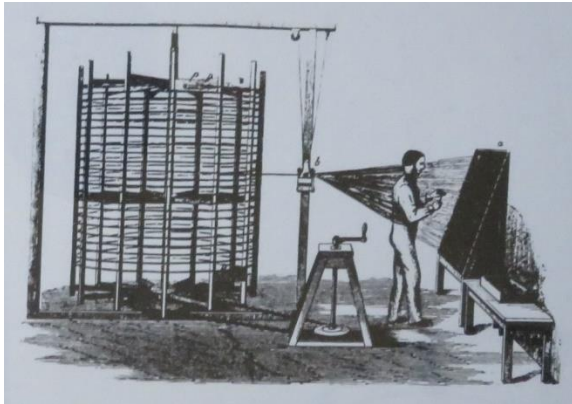


Pirn-winding was done by hand using a frame resembling a spinning wheel. If you were doing this as a “cottage industry”, you would use one of these.

The threads that run the length of the fabric are known as the warp. In a complex design a silk warp can have as many as 15,000 threads. It is absolutely essential that all of these must be parallel and evenly tensioned as a misplaced or tight thread will distort and ruin the fabric.

The owners of Paradise Mill used two methods to prepare the warps.

1. By winding the warp onto an upright mill
2. By winding the warp onto a horizontal warp mill.



With the horizontal warp mill, the evenly tensioned and evenly spaced warp threads are wound on in sections (2.5-6cm wide). When 320m (350 yards) have been warped the mill stops automatically. The end is then twisted, cut and pinned down. The next section is started alongside. This continues until the required number of threads have been warped. The warp mill is then taken off its stand and transferred to the Beamer where all the warp threads are wound off onto the warp beam. This is then fitted into the loom ready for weaving.

The preceding steps are very similar to those used in the cotton industry but with more precision because of the finer threads. The next part is more interesting with the patterns produced by the looms being controlled by Jacquard machines situated above the looms.



A Jacquard machine is a device fitted to a loom that simplifies the process of manufacturing textiles with complex patterns. The resulting ensemble of the loom and Jacquard machine is then called a Jacquard loom. The machine was patented by Joseph Marie Jacquard in 1804 based on earlier inventions. The machine was controlled by a "chain of cards"; a number of punched cards laced together into a continuous sequence. Multiple rows of holes were

punched on each card, with one complete card corresponding to one row of the design. The term "Jacquard" is not specific or limited to any particular loom, but rather refers to the added control mechanism that automates the patterning.

The following is a simplified description. When a card is in place, a series of rods detect where the holes are present. These rods are connected to threads in the warp. Based on where the holes are present, some of the warp threads are lifted whilst the others are not. The shuttle carrying the weft then passes between the warp threads producing the pattern.



*A chain of cards*



*The blurred hand is moving the shuttle*

The Jacquard head used replaceable punched cards to control a sequence of operations. This is considered an important step in the history of computing hardware. The ability to change the pattern of the loom's weave by simply changing cards was a significant precursor to the development of computer programming and data entry. Charles Babbage knew of Jacquard machines and planned to use cards to store programs in his Analytical Engine. In the late 19th century, Herman Hollerith took the idea of using punched cards to store information a step further when he created a punched card tabulating machine which he used to input data for the 1890 U.S. Census.

## **Derek Gatenby**

**Q**

I'll weave my web of rhyme  
Until the muse runs out on me  
And I can no longer find words -  
Words that make sense to see.

I'll know it's time to cap the pen,  
Put away the A4 and call it a day,  
Sit back and listen to better words  
And wish that my work had more to say.

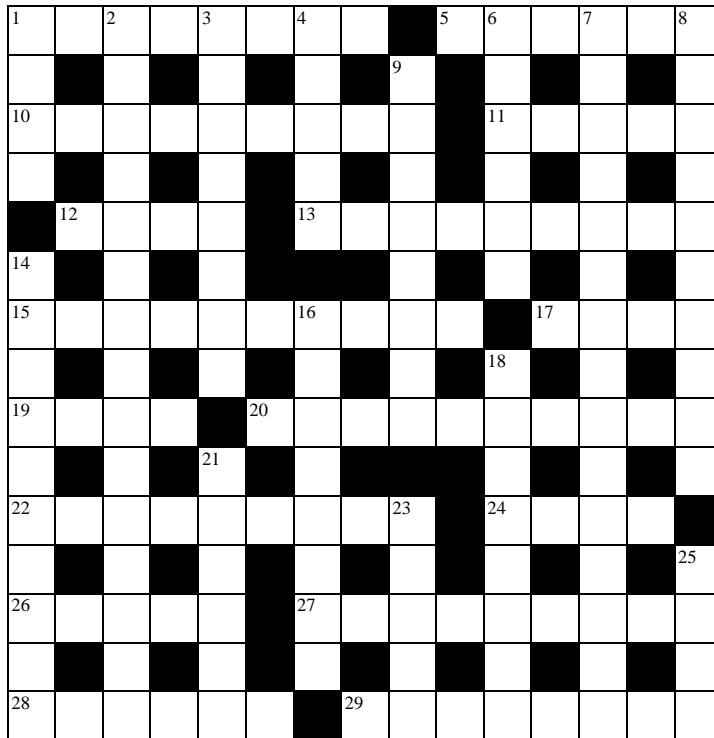
Give thanks for a long innings,  
For fellow writers and fine friends -  
For good days and some success,  
Forgetting failure that fate sends.

**Ian Beverley**



## Things to Do

### Crossword No. 58



#### ACROSS

1. People living at higher altitudes see plane circling (8)
5. Recording hosts fail to be restricted (6)
10. Right time, curiously, to punch Lord's boundary (9)
11. River losing height, domesticates (5)
12. Cereal company with sailors (4)
13. Big outlet destroying gasometer (9)
15. A danger with a TV broadcast that's cutting-edge (5-5)
17. Women's ability for music or sport (4)
19. As far as university, carry on reading (2,2)
20. One physically representing an actor needs stiff drink (of spirits maybe?) (4,6)
22. Innocent bishop deprived of golden fabric? (9)
24. Very young child born in creek (4)
26. Fast disc played slowly (5)
27. Part of bridge nearly collapsed on Moriarty, for one (4-5)
28. One old king returning in state (6)
29. Bloody treatment and daily abuse by sibling (8)

#### DOWN

1. Exercise cancelled? On the contrary (4)
2. Who makes one fit one's own footwear (8,7)
3. Hard-skinned beast seen from below (8)
4. Initially, sums, hundreds, tens, (and) units makes for quiet (5)
6. Most recent cricket match in California? (6)
7. Autobiography the Brontës ordered (8,2,5)?
8. Bring down the sardine to cook (10)
9. Stiff, clever about it, in a chilly way (8)
14. CIA worried about suspect ring being origin of conflict (5,5)
16. A child celebrity turned up in concert (2,3,3)
18. Vacillating like Thomas (8)
21. Prepare to be shot again? Relax (6)
23. Black sea resort, very fashionable, not cold (5)
25. Antelopes, their turning up is celebrated (4)

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](mailto:groups@poyntonu3.org.uk).

The solution to Crossword No 57 was in the January edition of the newsletter.

Sudoku No 53

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

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

Below is the solution to No 52

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. What is the family name of Lord Derby?
2. Where is the download music festival held?
3. What was the Roman name for Gloucester?
4. Where was Florence Nightingale born?
5. Name the 1958 film in which the Hennesseys and the Tyrrells fought over the ownership of Big Muddy?

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

1. When was the last total solar eclipse visible in the UK?  
*August 1999*
2. Where is King John's tomb?  
*Worcester Cathedral*
3. When did the volcano Vesuvius last erupt?  
*1944*
4. Which is the largest national park in the UK?  
*The Cairngorm National Park in Scotland*
5. How many spots are there on an individual dice? [or die if you prefer – Ed]  
*21*