



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Poynton u3a Update

Ian Beverley – An Appreciation

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Ian Beverley who was a significant supporter of the newsletter mainly with his poems but with the occasional piece of prose. His work was especially important during the dark times of Covid. His items were sometimes humorous, sometimes thoughtful but always entertaining.

Ian had poems published in newspapers and periodicals with a readership somewhat larger than this newsletter, most notably two in the Daily Mail in 2022.

He was a member of the Creative Writing Group and the Discussion Group.

Thank you for all your fine words. They have been a pleasure both to read and to publish.

General Meetings

The next General Meeting is on Tuesday 17th September when Josephine Gosling will be giving a talk entitled *Strolls Past Sculptures*.

Following that, on Tuesday 15th October, Bruce Kendrick will be telling us about *An Eye for the Birds*.

Interest Groups - Whist and Canasta Group at Wilmslow

Sue Moran at Wilmslow u3a is setting up a group to play whist and canasta. This is an open group and thus available for our members to join. It is taking place on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Oakmere, Spath Lane, Handforth starting on 10th October at 2.00pm. If you are interested, please email me at groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk and I shall pass any replies on to Sue.

Nigel Burin *[There is more on Open Groups on Page 10 – Ed]*

Diners' Club

Our next lunch is booked at The Farmers Arms on Thursday 26th September at 12.30pm. The venue has requested that I send them the menu choices by Thursday 19th September. If you would like to join us please let me know before this date. - The [Farmers Arms](#) menu.

Barbara Tankard

Members' Contributions

Walking Group Holiday - June 2024 - Keswick

This year our walking holiday was based in Keswick, Cumbria. Fifteen members joined the group for up to a week of guided walks, boat trips, bus tours, lunches, dinners and lots of ice cream! We were lucky to have very warm, sunny weather for most of the week. As Keswick has a very good bus service, we were able to leave our cars at the accommodation. Our bus passes were well used!

The main walking days were Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday although some members of the group opted to arrive a few days earlier. Unfortunately, one of the early arrivers had a fall on her first day (Saturday). (This seems to be a feature of our walking holidays!) After a visit to hospital for an X-ray, she was fitted with a support for her wrist. Shaken but not stirred and a little wobbly, she enjoyed a bus tour to Buttermere on the Sunday.

On the Tuesday, the whole group tackled a walk from Ashness Bridge to Rosthwaite via Watendlath led by Peter and Kate. The ice cream shop on a farm in Rosthwaite was a welcome sight and served an interesting selection of flavours including Thunder and Lightning, a mixture of vanilla, chocolate and cinder toffee! Once cooled down we caught the bus back to Keswick.

Our second walk led by Derek and Rachel started at the jetty on the shores of Derwentwater. The launch took us to Lodore at the other end of Derwentwater where we alighted to begin the walk. Some of the group took the short walk through the woods to view Lodore Falls before rejoining the rest of the party for the onward hike to Grange. The path was mostly on duckboards across low lying marshy ground at the end of the lake. We saw many varieties of wild flowers including orchids. At Grange we stopped for lunch in the café before picking up the route back to the lake shore. A very pleasant footpath through woods took us to Hawes End to catch the launch back to Keswick.

Pam and Ken led our third walk which took us from the Town Centre up to Castlerigg and the stone circle. From here there are panoramic views of Helvellyn. The stone circle is thought to be the earliest British circle dating back to 3000BC. We were lucky to pass an activity centre with a café nearby just as the heavens opened! A welcome shelter. The walk back into town took us along a disused railway track which has been tarmacked for cyclists and walkers to use.

Anybody wishing to join the walking group can contact Marilyn Westbrook via groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk. Our monthly walks are on the first Thursday each month and are usually about five miles in length. We try to arrange a pub lunch at the end of the walk.



Kate Marsham

An Acrostic of Derbyshire

An acrostic is a poem or other word composition in which the first letter word or place of each new line or paragraph spells out a word, place or message.

Here is an example based on the word Derbyshire.

D - Dethick

High above the Derwent and east of Matlock Bath, with a fine panorama of the lovely valley, is the secluded village with a story of one of England's conspirators. Anthony Babington was born at Dethick Manor in 1561. His father Henry Babington died when Anthony was ten years old. Being the eldest son, he became heir to the family estates in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and other counties. Anthony had been brought up in a strong atmosphere of the Roman Catholic faith. At 16 he was a page to the captive Mary Queen of Scots. It was his pity for her plight which would bring him to the scaffold. He became devoted to her and her situation, forming a passionate attachment to her, although she was 19 years older than him. He was recognised at the court of Elizabeth I for his wealth, wit and good looks. He became the centre of many conspiracies which crystallised into providing money and troops from Philip II of Spain, who had been married to Queen Mary I. The plot was to assassinate Elizabeth I's chief advisers and Elizabeth herself and then crown Mary Queen of England and Scotland and to bring back Catholicism to the country. In the end the secret was revealed by the discovery of a letter to Mary detailing the plot. Babington was arrested for treason and after pleading with Elizabeth to spare his life, all to no avail, in 1586 he was sentenced to be hung and quartered.

E - Eyam

It lies in the moor and heights of the Derbyshire Dales and has old stone houses which line the long wide old-world street. It sits on a terrace of hills, with many lead mines, burial mounds and stone circles. Within the village, not far from the church of St Laurence, built in the 17th century, is a row of stone-built cottages which are known as The Plague Cottages. It was in the year of 1665 that a wooden box arrived from London to one of these cottages. It was in the name of Alexander Hadfield the local tailor. It contained flea infested old clothes and cloth. These clothes and cloth were to be reused and were hung by the fire to dry. Unbeknown to the family they had been previously owned by people who had died of the plague, which was endemic in London at the time. Within a short time five members of the family had died of the plague. The bravest thing the villagers did was to cut themselves off from the outside world, hoping the plague wouldn't spread beyond the village. Food was brought to the boundary of the village. It was paid for with money that had been carefully washed in vinegar. After the recent experiences of Covid, this sounds all too familiar.

R Repton

Repton is a village which lies in the south part of Derbyshire located on the river Trent. It was the former capital of the Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Mercia and is home to Repton School built in 1557 at the time of the Tudors. It is among the most prominent independent schools in Britain. It was a bequest made by Sir John Port of Etwall and it was established on the site of a 7th century Anglo-Saxon Benedictine abbey and then a 12th century Augustine priory.

In 1914 William Temple, the then headmaster of Repton School was appointed rector of the prominent parish of St James's Piccadilly in London. He then encouraged Dr Geoffrey Fisher to apply for the vacancy at Repton. Fisher's application was successful and he took up the headmastership in June 1914 at the age of 27. In 1945 Fisher was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury until 1961. He officiated at the marriage of Princess Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey in 1947. After her accession to the throne, he led the coronation service in 1953 and crowned her Queen. He also officiated at the baptism of the then Prince Charles in December 1948 in the music room of Buckingham Palace. Geoffrey Fisher was born in May 1887 and died September 1972.

B - Bakewell

Bakewell is a lovely market town situated on the banks of the river Wye. It is surrounded by a group of charming villages and two of England's famous houses, Haddon Hall and Chatsworth House. Bakewell was well known for its agricultural show held on a Thursday early in August, it was claimed to be the largest one-day show held in England. In recent years it has been changed due to years of bad weather, turning the fields into copious amounts of mud. It led to cancelling many participants including equestrian, animal competitions and agricultural elements. It has now changed its name to the Bakewell Country Festival and is now held in July. There are many experienced people who display their talents, ready to engage with the public. Learning to fly fish was one of the experiences tried by a family member.

The town has two fine old bridges. One was built in the 15th century with five arches and the other is a little packhorse bridge of 1664 hardly four foot wide with many arches. There is the famous Bakewell Pudding sold in an old bakery on the High Street, which was originally made by accident and has become a firm favourite. Or another sweet treat is Bakewell Tart which some people may prefer. One of the pleasures is walking down the side of the river through the town and watching children armed with bread feeding the ducks. But people can be unaware that bread can be bad for them and the better option is defrosted peas and sweetcorn, oats and cut up lettuce. I believe you can also buy duck food from some of the shops. Bakewell is the biggest and only town in the Peak District National Park.

Y - Youlgreave

Youlgreave lies between the valleys of Lathkill and Bradford rivers, whose waters meet at Alport a mile away. It looks out to the ancient stone circles of Stanton Moor and Harthill Moor and only three miles away is Arbor Low the most important stone circle in the north of England. When you reach the village, you can see the splendid 15th century tower of All Saints church. It is one of the loveliest of the Peak lands churches. The east window has been filled with glass by Edward Burne-Jones, a pre-Raphaelite artist and William Morris, in radiant colours of orange, yellow, silver and gold. A war memorial has a rainbow of stained-glass fragments which were once in Ypres Cathedral and other Belgian churches destroyed in the Great War.

S - Sudbury

Sudbury village is at the southernmost part of the Derbyshire Dales, a former estate village of Sudbury Hall. The Inn, The Vernon Arms, which was named after the family who built nearby Sudbury Hall, is a reminder of when the village was a staging post for the mail-coaches. The village

has rows of red-brick cottages and gabled houses which line the main street, which was once the main road to Derby. Estate villages are settlements where almost every cottage or house belongs to the big estate which would be the nearest stately home, in this instance Sudbury Hall. The homes are marked out by the colour scheme of the estate, from the colour of the doors, window frames and guttering. Some estate owners go further and brand the noble master's initials or family crest on the front of the buildings. Even the post-office, store and pub have the same colour scheme which are all maintained by the major landowner, 'the boss who lives in the big house on the hill!' This is not always a bad thing. Estate villages are often neat and well looked after and have retained their shops when many rural villages have seen theirs disappear. Sudbury Hall houses the Museum of Childhood which has recently undergone refurbishment, with a lot of input from the local children. It is a lovely place to visit with children, who have the opportunity to play with the many toys from yesteryear. 18th century toys such as glass marbles and dolls with heads and faces made from tin, porcelain and pot, all originally from Germany. At the time dolls were mostly homemade as families couldn't afford to buy them. It gives the opportunity for the children of today to play with rocking horses, toy drums, and bugles, bows and arrows, tin soldiers, some associated with wartime. Dolls houses and ball and cup were another favourite. There is a selection of Teddy bears created in the 1900 and many more toys and games to choose from.

H - Hathersage

Hathersage lies east of Chapel-en-le-Frith and north of Bakewell, not far from the West Yorkshire border and the Borough of Kirklees. In the past the Eyres family lived in the village for a long time and some of their homes are still nearby. Highlow Hall and Overton Hall stand high across the valley. Charlotte Bronte knew Hathersage and brought it to everlasting fame in 'Jane Eyre,' giving her heroine glorious country round about for her moorland scenery. A 16th century house in a lovely setting is North Lees Hall. It was here the Eyres came to live when James II ran away to France. North Lees Hall is in the story of 'Jane Eyre'. In the book, Moorseats, which was another home of the Eyres family and which recently went on the market for a cool three million pounds, was called Moor House. It was where the River sisters lived in the story. The crossroads, three miles away, are said to be the Whitecross where Jane left the coach to find her way to Morton which is Hathersage. In the vicarage are kept Charlotte's writing desk, one of her shawls and slippers worn by her and her sister Anne.

Close to the Vicarage is the handsome church of St Micheal's which has the grave of Little John. He is buried in the churchyard surrounded by lovely trees and splendid views. It is a grave everyone comes to see and lies by an old Yew. It reads 'Here lies buried Little John the friend and lieutenant of Robin Hood'. According to the legend, Little John came back to Hathersage with a broken heart after laying Robin Hood to rest at Kirklees Yorkshire. For many years Little John's cap and bent bow used to hang in the church and it is claimed there was a thigh bone 32 inches long "of a man of great stature" found in his grave.

I - Ilkeston

Ilkeston lies between Derby and Nottingham and is situated in the south of the county and was probably founded in the 6th century AD. The town is close to Derby on the river Erewash. There have been quarrying and iron workings in the area from Roman times.

At one time there were 12,500 people employed at the works which was part of British Steel. Ilkeston has a market place which is on the site of a chartered fair and in 2022 the fair celebrated its 770th anniversary. During the 19th century the existence of natural mineral water was found and a local business man saw his opportunity to turn it into a Spa town. For many years the spa baths helped tourism in the town, but in 1899 they were demolished. There was a famous advertising slogan at the time, 'If you're double in pain and thin as a lath, come at once and try the Ilkeston Baths'.

R - Riddings

Riddings lies north of Ripley on the Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire border, not far from Alfreton in the Amber Valley. It is the place where treasure had been found hidden twice. The first time was in the 18th century when 800 precious Roman coins were found. The second time was in the middle of the 19th century, when it was something a hundred times more precious from which sprung one of the greatest industries in the world. In 1847 James Oakes, a proprietor and iron master of an Ironworks and Colliery company, discovered a mysterious flow of liquid. Oakes's brother-in-law, Lyon Playfair, happened to be a practical scientist of his day from Scotland. He was invited to test the flow and found it to be petroleum, unknown at the time. It was found that a spring was producing 300 gallons a day. James Oakes was too occupied with his business to give time to it. At Glasgow University Playfair had a friend and colleague James Young and it was suggested by Playfair that Young should take a look over the product. It was possible he could manufacture useful oils from it. The coal was known as Cannel coal and, from it, shale oil was produced. Paraffin was also produced and was widely used from 1850 in the manufacture of coal oil. Young was forever after known as Paraffin Young and he went on to make a fortune. When the knowledge of his work spread about, a world-wide search for petroleum began.

E - Edensor

The village of Edensor, pronounced Enza, stands in the loveliness of English countryside within the Chatsworth Estate. Its houses are built of every style and shape with irregular roofs and chimneys, all at different angles and all the homes have their own gardens. They look up to the handsome church of St Peter's and they were all built in the same decade. These buildings replace the original village which interfered with the panoramic views of the stately home of Chatsworth House. The village was replaced by the sixth duke in 1839 with the help of Joseph Paxton. Within the church is the Cavendish Chapel with a window and fine alabaster table recalling a tragedy of nearly a century ago. Lord Frederick Cavendish was murdered in 1882 in Phoenix Park in Dublin. It seems he was not the intended victim and was shot by mistake. In the churchyard a plain granite cross marks his grave. Another plain inscription marks the grave of Sir Joseph Paxton, 'Who left this world more beautiful than he found it.' For more than a generation the gardens at Chatsworth became even lovelier under his care.

Susan J Pyett

Bird Watching – Burton Mere

Recently 10 members of the Bird Watching group paid a visit to the RSPB site at Burton Mere which is beside the Dee Estuary. Here are some excellent pictures of the birds which we encountered.



Green Finches (JH)



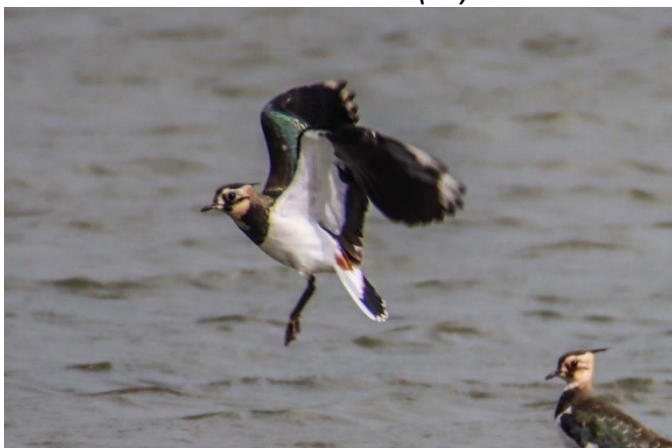
Shoveler (JH)



Marsh Harrier (JH)



Robin (AW)



Lapwings



Lapwings, Teal and Common Sandpiper

In October, we plan to visit Pennington Flash near Leigh. More details will be available soon. If you wish to join us, use groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk to contact either of the organisers Carol or Anne. Photographs from Janet Hughes (JH) and Anne Wynn (AW).

Things to Do

Sudoku No 54

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

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

Below is the solution to No 53

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Which state in the USA has a Union Jack on its State flag?
2. What did the very first text message say?
3. What was the name of Julia Roberts' character in Pretty Woman?
4. How many legs does a green fly have?
5. What was Jingle Bells written for?
 - a. Christmas
 - b. Thanksgiving
 - c. Halloween

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

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

No new Crossword this month. Here is the solution to No 58.

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

NECN Open Groups

One of the Open groups is the ‘Technology for Everyone’ (The Appliance of Science) Group of Cheadle Hulme u3a. This Group invites Speakers on technical subjects that we all come across in our day-to-day activities.

You are invited to join any of their meetings on the first Tuesday of the month (Feb to May, and Oct to Dec inclusive) at 2.00pm in the Heald Green Village Hall, Outwood Road, Heald Green, SK8 3JL. Admittance fee is £3 including Tea/Coffee and Cake/Biscuits.

They are opening their 2024/25 season on Tuesday 1st October. This meeting will be a talk on 'AI, Autonomy & Robots'; including 'Directions, drawbacks, and potential safeguards', by Professor Michael Fisher.

In order to ensure that members are covered by the u3a Insurance Scheme, please take your membership card or membership number with you.

For further details, please contact Roger Law through groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.