



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 46-1

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Poynton u3a Update

Annual General Meeting – 18th March 2025

This year's AGM is on Tuesday 18th March. As last year, this will be a face-to-face meeting, with an opportunity for electronic input as far as possible for those not able to attend.

Therefore, we are inviting members to submit:

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 14th February 2025**.

The agenda for the AGM on 18th March will follow the normal pattern, namely:-

- Minutes of the last AGM (2024)
- 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 well. **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.

Please note that Cecilia Storr-Best is no longer the Membership Secretary so please do not send cash or cheques to her using previously held information. They should be directed as indicated in the December newsletter.

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). We have been informed that the cost for the coming year is £4.00. If you would like to order your copies, email membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

General Meetings

As mentioned previously, the next General Meeting is on Tuesday 21st January when James Cretney will be telling us about *The Blood Bikes*.

After that on Tuesday 18th February, Garry Rogers will be giving a talk entitled *Undercover Policing and the Corrupt Secret Society Within*.

Members' Contributions

My solo trip to Minnesota – Part 3

Day 11. Breakfast at my hotel was described by a fellow guest as “gross” - wot no eggs? - but I enjoyed my half waffle and breakfast syrup, thank you very much!

Leaving Bemidji I passed by Leech Lake, having been warned to take the name literally and therefore to avoid having a dip. I drove a few miles past my next stopover to Crow Wing State Park, the confluence of the Mississippi and Crow Wing rivers. This was the route of oxcart traders between Winnipeg and Saint Paul. The village by the rivers is now reduced to a reconstructed boardwalk. My walk this time was more of a trial than a trail - one third in the open, which was blisteringly hot, one third in shady woods, full of annoying insects pestering me, but the last third was more comfortable, alongside the river.

The Mississippi appears again!



My reward was the largest, most chocolatey ice cream I've ever eaten. I can honestly say that it was awesome, truly awesome, but impossible to eat efficiently. The edible receptacle was called a bull cone - chocolate covered waffle in the shape of a flower. I ended up with chocolate all over my face, my hands, my t-shirt, my shorts, my legs, my book, the table and, somehow, my rucksack. What a mess; I had to do a quick change hiding behind my car in the car park. No bug-ridden endurance tomorrow - much nicer plan in store, hoorah.

"Cookie Doughn't You Want Some"



Day 12. Moving on, I drove south (petrol is \$0.77 [approximately £0.59] per litre here) to a café on the outskirts of St Cloud, where I met up with my dear friends Ros and Vicki, whom I first met in 1982 when Ros and I had both gone to Louisville, Kentucky, on a big IT contract. I went back to England a year later, but they stayed. We have kept in touch, and meet either side of the pond when possible.

We had a lovely day, catching up and wandering through a couple of parks by the Mississippi River, admiring the wonderful banks of flowers and, naturally, stopping for ice cream. Vicki found us a perfect place for our delicious evening meal, seated beside another river, the Sauk, until darkness fell and we returned to our hotel.



*Munsinger Clemens Botanical Gardens,
St. Cloud*

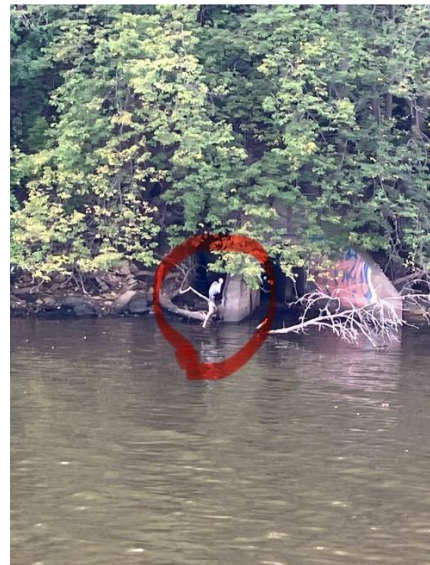
Day 13. The last drive of my holiday, from St Cloud to Minneapolis.

I saw a bridge coming up with people on it waving. "That's nice, I'll wave back, I thought. On getting closer, I realised they were holding "Trump" signs. So, I didn't wave after all.

After a stop at Penzeys - a shop specialising in numerous different spices and herbs - a dream for those who cook tasty meals - we (Ros, Vicki and I) headed to the river and boarded the Minneapolis Queen, a riverboat for a 90-minute trip on the Mississippi. It was a great treat, not only for the views, interesting and audible commentary and exhilaration of the breezy motion, but for catching the contagious excitement of young children looking through their binoculars at the birds spotted on the shoreline.



*Above: Paddle boat trip in Minneapolis
Right: Riverside bird on the Mississippi*



After a visit to the massive Mall of America, we headed for a pizza restaurant, where I had a slice, which was the size of a whole pizza, and very tasty. My last evening with Ros and Vicki, as they head back east tomorrow.

Day 14. After saying goodbye with hugs and promises to meet again soon, Ros and Vicki left to fly back home to Philadelphia and Washington DC.

I drove to the “Unorganized Territory of Fort Snelling”, (great name) where I had a very hot five-mile walk - the Snelling Lake, Fort Snelling and Picnic Island loop, passing the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. Unfortunately, the fort was closed - I should have checked, I was the unorganised one! Feeling the effects of the sun, and knowing where I could get much needed refreshments, I drove to Minnehaha Falls, where I had been on Day 2. Worth a second visit. No political discussion this time; it would have been interesting after the Trump-Harris debate. Then, feeling hot and tired I retreated to my hotel room with an ice-cold milkshake and watched Morse on my massive tv.

I’ve just checked in for my flights tomorrow, but I shall have a few last hours in Minneapolis to top up the tan before I head home.

Day 15. My last morning in the USA. After driving in and out of the airport twice, trying to return my rental car, then walking what seemed like a mile in the heat to leave my cabin luggage at a “nearby” hotel for the day, I jumped on a train to the Sculpture Park, always interesting to see different interpretations of “art”! Thence to “downtown”, walking along the glass corridors all over the area to facilitate movement in the very cold winter months.

Weatherproof glass walkway in Minneapolis



To sum up: my favourite area was the North Shore of Lake Superior - it had both the lake and the mountains to explore. The other lakes and woods I visited were lovely but bug-ridden, sadly, and the land was mainly flat. I only covered a fraction of Minnesota though - my original vague plan was over-ambitious for a two-week trip.

I've enjoyed the novelty of so many things strange to me, despite having travelled fairly widely in the US. As always, I loved the easy driving.

Now, where to next?

Cecilia Storr-Best

Tales from the Outer Hebrides

The Outer Hebrides or Western Isles are a chain of islands off the west coast of mainland Scotland. The islands form part of the archipelago of the Hebrides, separated from the Scottish mainland and from the Inner Hebrides by the waters of the Minch, the Little Minch, and the Sea of the Hebrides.

The major islands are Lewis and Harris, North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist, and Barra. Lewis and Harris is the largest island in Scotland and the third-largest in the British Isles, after Great Britain and Ireland. It incorporates Lewis in the north and Harris in the south, both of which are frequently referred to as individual islands, although they are connected by land.

Callanish Stones

The Callanish (Calanais in Gaelic) Stones are a collection of neolithic standing stones placed in a cruciform pattern. They are located on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, situated on a low ridge above the waters of Loch Roag, and are named after the small village of Callanish which is close by.

The Callanish Stones consist of a stone circle of thirteen stones with a monolith near the middle. Five rows of standing stones connect to this circle. Two long rows of stones running almost parallel to each other from the stone circle to the north-northeast form a kind of avenue. In addition, there are shorter rows of stones to the west-southwest, south and east-northeast. The stones are all of the same rock type, namely the local Lewisian gneiss. Within the stone circle is a chambered tomb to the east of the central stone.

Chronology

3500BC – The site is cultivated by early farmers

2900-2600BC - A ring of stones with a great central monolith is erected.

2500BC - A small burial chamber is placed in the stone ring. The stone rows may have been added.

2000BC - The chamber is encased in a cairn and cremated bones and pottery placed within.

1500BC - Farmers begin to empty out the burials and cultivate the area.

1000BC - Peat begins to form over the site. When removed in 1857 it was 1.5m deep.

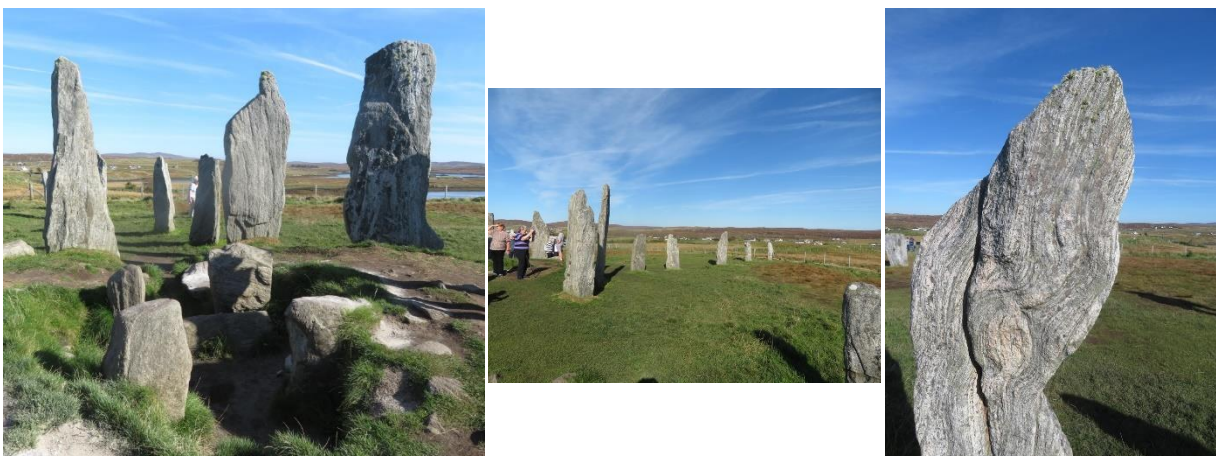
The Callanish Stones are thought to once have been the site of ancient ritual practices. Numerous other similar but smaller sites lie within a few kilometres. These include at least three other circles, several arcs, alignments and single stones. The existence of other monuments in the area implies that Callanish was an active focus for prehistoric religious activity for at least 1500 years, with some historians suggesting its potential role as a lunar observatory.

Historic Environment Scotland proudly states that with the stones being erected roughly 5,000 years ago, this site pre-dates Stonehenge.



The central stone circle from the northern avenue

Loch Roag from the edge of the ridge



The remains of the central tomb

The line of stones pointing eastwards

Gneiss stone showing the typical pattering

Derek Gatenby

Litter on Moggie Lane....

A short walk from where I live in Poynton, leading into the Cheshire countryside, is Moggie Lane. It's only 500 metres long (1/3 mile in old money). There is no footpath – its borders are a few houses, but mostly hedges with fields beyond. A pleasure to walk along.... except for the regular deposits of litter....and it's not from the cats! It's mostly empty cans and McDonald's or Gregg's takeaway packaging. A high proportion of the cans are Red Bull. Often, they have been partially squashed (an indication of the strength of the perpetrators?) and sometimes placed half way up and into the hedge, as if in decoration or an entry for the Turner (Art) Prize.

Why do people drop litter? Why (with the increased energy level the food/drinks provide), can't people take the offending objects home? I occasionally do a 'litter pick' and perhaps should be grateful that there are seldom glass bottles as they dramatically increase the weight of the bin bag I fill!

One day in November, I cleared all the litter I could find along the lane. Two weeks later, while on another 'relaxing' walk, I counted 36 new items of litter. Is Moggie Lane the most littered walkway in Poynton?

Michael Huntley

Things to Do

Sudoku No 57

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

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

Below is the solution to No 56

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. What is the name of an otter's home?
2. What did the French companies Baccarat, St. Louis and Clichy manufacture in the mid-1800s?
3. Which city in Mexico has the same name as a breed of dog?
4. Which country gifted the Statue of Liberty to the United States?
5. Which is the longest river in Scotland?

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

1. How many Harry Potter books have been written by JK Rowling?
Eight
2. In what year was the first Juke Box installed?
1889 in San Fransico
3. In which year did the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire open?
2001
4. What was the original name for the game Bingo?
Housey-housey
5. Who is known as the Father of English Poetry?
Geoffrey Chaucer

No new Crossword this month. Here is the solution to No 59.

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