



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 46-2

21st Feb 2025

Poynton u3a Update

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 18th March

The Annual General Meeting is taking place on Tuesday 18th 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.

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.

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 of how to renew were in the December newsletter and are on the Membership page on our website.

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 £4.00. If you would like to subscribe, email membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Incidentally, the Third Age Trust have recently changed the name of *Third Age Matters* to *u3a Matters*. [In my view 'uM' doesn't quite have the same ring to it as 'TAM' – Ed]

General Meetings

The next General Meeting after the AGM is on Tuesday 15th April when *Rebecca Done* will be telling us about *Music Through the Decades*.

Group News

Both of the History Groups and both of the Reading Groups are now full. However, if you wish to pursue either of these topics, do not despair. We can always start a new group. Contact groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk to register your interest.

Alan Hulme is not able to continue with leading the Local History Group. He is hoping someone will be willing to take over the group. He will still be available to provide advice and support. If you are interested, email the Groups Coordinator as above.

We have also received a recommendation for the Third Age Trust online events. To find out more, go to the main u3a website (u3a.org.uk) and follow Events-> Online Learning Events -> Jump to Online Learning Events and browse through the list.

Diners' Club

I have booked the next lunch at The Boars Head, Shrigley Road, Poynton for Thursday 27th February at 12.30pm. The venue does not require us to pre-order or to pay a deposit. Please inform me via email if you wish to attend.

Barbara Tankard

Members' Contributions

Bird Watching Group's visit to Martin Mere

A select few of us visited the Martin Mere Wetlands Centre on a very cold day. We were treated to some spectacular views of many different birds - see below. We also saw a pair of marsh harriers and lapwings both in the air and on the ground. A particular highlight was feeding time which takes place at 3.00pm daily.



Cape Teal



Pintail



Eider Ducks



Red-breasted Goose



Black-tailed Godwit



Ruff



Feeding time featuring mainly whooper swans and shelducks.

There were lots and lots of whooper swans but no Bewick swans. We were informed that only two Bewicks had been seen in the north-west of England this year.



A full house of goldfinches



A group of lapwings resting

Carol Gatenby

Walking Group

The Walking Group recently meandered around Rudyard Lake for their February meet. When planning was taking place in early January, we were bombarded with a series of storms and floods, so we thought we needed a firm dry surface underfoot.

On the day, we were showered with sunshine. It hadn't really rained for about a week so the paths around the lake were dry and we even saw Spring's prelude - some lovely snowdrops. The birds, nuthatch, tree creepers, long tailed tits and chaffinches entertained us with a backing track of invisible woodpeckers. Lunch at the Rudyard Hotel proved a lovely encore!



Here's to another year of walking melodies!

Tony Penny

Tales from the Outer Hebrides

Carloway Broch

Carloway Broch (Dùn Charlabhaigh in Gaelic) is a remarkably well-preserved broch standing on a hilltop above Loch Roag in the district of Carloway, on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis. It is situated a few miles north of the Calanais Stones described in the previous issue.

A broch is an Iron Age drystone hollow-walled structure. Brochs are roundhouse buildings from about 2,300 to 1,900 years ago, and are found mainly in north and west Scotland. Archaeological evidence suggests that the Carloway Broch was still in use around 1,000 AD and there are stories that the Morrison Clan used the broch as a stronghold in the 16th century.



Carloway Broch



Schematic View of the interior

The word broch is derived from the Lowland Scots 'brough', meaning fort. In the mid-19th century, Scottish antiquaries called brochs 'burgs', after Old Norse borg, with the same meaning. Brochs are often referred to as dùns in the west.

Probably built to reflect the prestige and status of their inhabitants, brochs were primarily dwelling-places for the principal family in the area. They would have provided some protection against sporadic raiding, but were not purely defensive structures.

The double skinned drystone walls support each other and make possible a high building of relatively lightweight form. The roofing and interior structures of brochs are much debated. On the east side, parts of the old wall still reach to 9 metres tall.

Many brochs are too ruinous to be positively identified. 200 sites in Scotland are probably brochs and a further 300 as possible brochs.



Mousa Broch, located on the Shetland Islands, is one of the best preserved brochs. It towers over 13 metres above the surrounding countryside and is the tallest prehistoric building in Britain.

Standing on the uninhabited island of Mousa, this broch can only be reached by boat. The broch contains three large chambers, which each have a stone cupboard built into the wall. A spiral stair also leads to six galleries.

The Lewis Chessmen

The hoard that contained the Lewis Chessmen first came to light when the pieces were exhibited in Edinburgh at the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1831. They were on display with the permission of Mr Roderick Ririe of Stornoway, Lewis.

The hoard seems to have been found near Uig bay on the west side of Lewis but there are multiple accounts of the discovery involving different people and different locations. When found, the hoard contained 93 objects: 78 chess pieces, 14 tablemen (pieces for backgammon or similar games) and one belt buckle.

Only months after its discovery, the hoard was broken up and sold by Mr Ririe. The British Museum bought the bulk of the hoard in 1831 and 1832. The remaining pieces passed through several private collections before being acquired in 1888 by the National Museum Scotland. The six pieces shown below are currently displayed in Museum nan Eilean on the Isle of Lewis, on loan from the British Museum.



King

Queen

Bishop

*Warder
(Rook)*

Knight

Pawn

The hoard contained 93 gaming pieces in total, including from at least four chess sets as well as other games. The chess pieces were probably made in the late 12th or early 13th century in Norway. Most of the Lewis chess pieces are made from walrus ivory. This was probably obtained in Greenland and traded back to Norway.

Chess is a very old game originating in the Islamic world. By the medieval period its popularity had spread across Europe. It became an important part of elite medieval society, a way of practising and demonstrating skill and strategy in a war-like setting.

Derek Gatenby

Is Pickleball everywhere?

We were just taking a stroll around the uppermost deck of a cruise liner, as you do, when what should we come across but a Pickleball court.



If you don't know what Pickleball is, it is a racket sport played on a court the size of a doubles badminton court and has aspects of tennis and table tennis. Pickleball was invented in 1965 as a children's backyard game in Washington state in the United States. The players use a smooth-faced racket (or paddle) to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball over a 34-inch-high net.

Alongside the court on the ship were the required equipment and the rules.



Here are a few of the more significant rules. The front section of the court is a 'non-volley zone' that you must not step into when hitting the ball. You serve underarm from behind the back line diagonally across the court and you only have one chance to serve. *[Tennis should follow suit with the 'one chance' rule – Ed.]*

The serve must bounce before it is hit, then the return must bounce before it is hit. Then a rally can begin with or without bounces before the ball is hit!

If you want to know more or have a go, contact Peter McWhirter who runs our Pickleball group using groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Derek Gatenby

Things to Do

Sudoku No 58

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

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

Below is the solution to No 57

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Name the four sisters in Louisa May Alcott's book Little Women
2. Which country in the world produces the most cheese?
3. Who was banned from going inside Durham Cathedral when it first opened in 1093?
4. When was the first English parliament held in Westminster Hall? 1140, 1265 or 1310?
5. Queen Elizabeth II had two other Christian names, what were they?

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

1. What is the name of an otter's home?
A holt
2. What did the French companies Baccarat, St. Louis and Clichy manufacture in the mid-1800s?
Paperweights made of clusters of glass canes, for example, Millefiori
3. Which city in Mexico has the same name as a breed of dog?
Chihuahua
4. Which country gifted the Statue of Liberty to the United States?
France
5. Which is the longest river in Scotland?
The river Tay