



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 47-1

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Poynton u3a Update

Committee Change

Jayne Barnes has unfortunately had to stand down from her role as Secretary for personal reasons. She has been replaced by Kate Clarkson. Jayne remains on the committee.

General Meetings

The next General Meeting is on Tuesday 20th May when *Gerry Hambridge* will be describing her *Uganda Adventures*.

Following that, there is a meeting on Tuesday 17th June when *Nawab Gill* (or an associate) will be informing us about the *Legacy Fortress for Generations*. This title needs a bit of explanation.

“The speaker will delve into subjects such as Wills, Trusts, and how these legal instruments can serve as a robust fortress for safeguarding your assets during unforeseen life events.

The talk will also touch upon the significance of Lasting Powers of Attorney, effective strategies for managing care fees, and an exploration of Sideways disinheritance, particularly in the context of remarriage.

The speaker injects a dose of humour and ensures the session is far from your typical information overload.

The primary goal is to share valuable information without any strings attached. This is not a platform for sales pitches.”

Poynton Arts Festival and our Art Group

Poynton Arts Festival runs from Saturday 21st June to Sunday 29th June. During the period of the festival, the Art Group are having a display of their work in Poynton Library. Do come along whenever the library is open and have a look. We hope it will encourage other u3a members to join our friendly group.

Elizabeth Browne

Members' Contributions

The Night The Lights Went Out

The night the lights went out,
They were all in the dark.
Down deep in the underground,
A mass of people followed the painted mark.
First the flicker of a match,
Then a candle burned as bright.
Still people were afraid to speak,
In case the noise attracts a fight.

Leaving their homes, before bombs rained down,
They all prayed for a lasting peace.
Children wrapped in blankets swiftly found,
Safe and sound, for now at least.
The platform filled with families,
Some read, some slept, some cried.
They dreamed of better times ahead,
But hope was in short supply.

Deafening sounds were heard from above.
Then the call of injured souls.
A cloud of choking dust descended,
Forming a smoggy roll.
No-one moved, no-one dare,
Until the siren announced all clear.
The sound of someone's song filled the air,
Breaking the silence and allaying fear.

People started to laugh and joke,
Relieved the menace was gone.
They all moved in single file,
To see what damage was done.
Until, no more sorrow was to be endured,
As the Second World War finally ended.
There was dancing and singing in the streets,
As the terrifying enemy surrendered.

Susan J Pyett

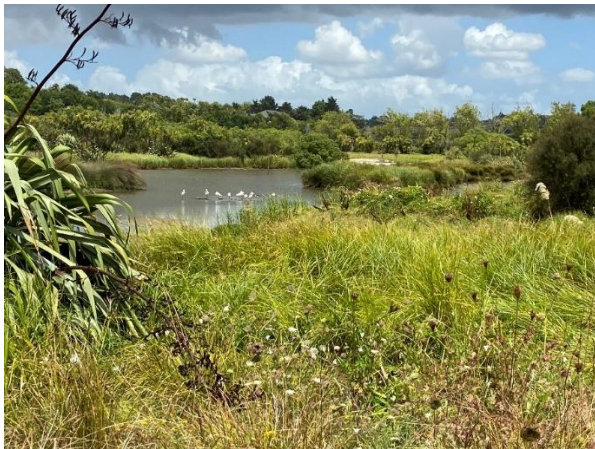
(Written to mark the 80th anniversary of VE day on 8th May.)

New Zealand Gardens – Part 1

Ayrlies Garden and Wetlands

At the end of January 2025, we arrived in New Zealand for our sixth visit. Having spent many hours researching interesting places to visit, my husband presented me with a suggested itinerary for the first week of the holiday. We enjoy visiting gardens so having picked up a rental car our first visit was to Ayrlies Garden and Wetlands just south of Auckland. It is privately owned by the McConnell family but open to the public. It was originally developed by Beverley McConnell in 1964 from bare paddocks. It takes its name from the McConnell family farm in Scotland.

We wandered around the gardens and then into the wetland area. There was a variety of wildfowl, including spoonbills. Returning to the gardens, we passed an unusual feature at the edge of a small lake. According to the guide they are fondly called 'knobbly knees' and are the surface roots of swamp cypress. Other areas of interest included a rose garden, streams, banks of rhododendron and azaleas, a meadow, rockery, summer borders and a temple, dedicated to past family members, from where there is a stunning view of the gardens.



The Wetlands



The Knobbly Knees

Auckland Botanic Gardens

On the outskirts of the city the gardens occupy a large area of suburban Auckland. Despite its proximity to the city, it has a relaxed openness with many different planted areas including native plants, edible growing area, African plants, palms, perennials, roses, arboretum, rhododendrons, camellias, forest, waterfalls and streams. There was even a dog exercise area.

We were lucky to be there when a sculpture exhibition was on in the gardens. I definitely had a favourite which, coincidentally, the gardens had agreed to purchase from the sculptor so it will be on permanent display. There were numerous ponds, lakes and streams around the gardens too. I loved the vibrant colours as well as the lush, green tropical bushes and trees which provided much welcome shade on a hot day.



'Hand Down' - Sculptured in New Zealand Argillite



Kate Marsham

Tales from the Outer Hebrides

Eriskay

Eriskay is a small island to the south of the Outer Hebrides. The name is from the Old Norse for "Eric's Isle". It is joined to South Uist, the island to the north, by a causeway which was opened in 2001. The island is about 2½ by 1½ miles and had a population of 143 according to the 2011 census.

Charlie's Beach

Eriskay is very important to the history of the Jacobite rising of 1745. On 23rd July 1745, the privateer *Du Teillay* arrived there and temporarily put Prince Charles Edward Stuart (known more popularly as Bonnie Prince Charlie) ashore upon the island.



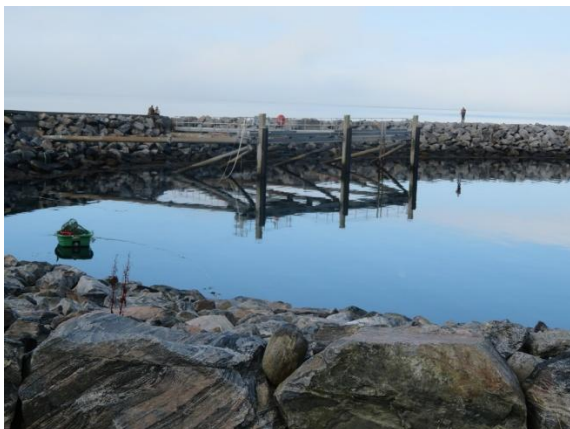
Charlie's Beach in the foreground and the Barra ferry terminal in the distance



*Charlie's Beach with very white
"silvery" sand*



*Cairn erected by local school children to
commemorate the 250th anniversary of
the landing*



The ferry terminal for the car and passenger ferry to Barra, the most southerly island in the Outer Hebrides. Except when we went to catch the ferry, it wasn't running because of the fog which is just about discernible in the photos.

On 25th July, he sailed for the mainland. He raised his Standard in the Highlands at Glenfinnan on 19th August when he announced to all the mustered clans that he claimed the British throne in the name of his father James Francis Edward Stuart. Following victory at the Battle of Prestonpans (east of Edinburgh) on 21st September, he moved south taking Carlisle on 17th November. He reached as far south as Derby before deciding to retreat to Scotland (6th December).

On 17th January 1746, the Prince was victorious at the Battle of Falkirk before being heavily defeated at Culloden (16th April).

On 26th April, he sailed back to the Outer Hebrides. He then moved from island to island narrowly escaping capture before his famous escape to Skye dressed as Flora MacDonald's servant. After sailing "Over the sea to Skye", the Prince continued his highland journey for another three months before returning to France.

St Michael's Church

St Michael's Church (also known as St Michael's of the Sea) is built on a hill overlooking the island of Eriskay and dates from 1903. It is a Category C listed building and was built on the initiative of iconic poet and folklorist Fr. Allan MacDonald (1859-1905), who remains one of the most important figures in modern Scottish Gaelic literature.



The altar is supported on a boat's bow, with a ship's lamp on a nearby column. The iron bell to the northeast, on an iron frame, is from the SMS *Derfflinger*. It was recovered from Scapa Flow.



The causeway linking Eriskay to South Uist pictured from the high ground next to the church

St. Michael's Church features in the book *The Lewis Man* by Peter May. Many significant places in the Outer Hebrides are represented in Peter May's original *Lewis Trilogy* and in his recent addition to the series *Black Loch*.

Eriskay Football Club

Despite its small population, Eriskay has a dedicated football club with its own pitch. In 2015, the pitch was recognised by FIFA as one of the eight most remarkable places in the world to play football. "It's hard to play football on Eriskay," said player-manager, Sean MacKinnon, "because the conditions aren't always ideal. The pitch is not exactly... flat. There's a wee hill in the corner." It is also a wee bit bumpy!



Derek Gatenby

New Charges at Civic Centre Car Park

The following is taken from the PUN (Poynton Update & News) for April 2025.

"Cheshire East Council have confirmed to Poynton Town Council that the Civic Centre car park will remain free after 3pm for the foreseeable future. However, Sunday charging will commence from the 26th May. This only applies to spaces marked with a P in a square. See Cheshire East signage in the car park for more details. Please remember, the Waitrose car park is currently free for up to two hours every day, with no restrictions after 6pm or on Sundays."

Contributions to the Newsletter

The timing and length of the newsletter is dependent to a large extent on the contributions submitted by our members. If you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, send your contribution to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk

Things to Do

Sudoku No 60

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

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

Below is the solution to No 59

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. When Gyles Brandreth was an PM, where was his constituency?
2. What's the first word in the Bible?
3. Who wrote 'The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face'?
4. Native American impersonator wrestler, Billy Two-Rivers, is the father of which famous fashion designer?
5. Who was the first person buried in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey?

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

1. Where was Mary Queen of Scots beheaded?
Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire
2. What is the purest form of gold?
Twenty-four carat gold, which is 99.9% pure
3. Where in England is the major oak situated?
Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire
4. Which country has a red flag with a yellow star in the middle?
Vietnam
5. What nationality is former football goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel?
Danish