



Carol and her many roles

At our AGM I was able to make a presentation to Carol Gatenby and in this edition of the Newsletter we can record our thanks for her services. Illness has forced her to stand down as Vice-Chairman and Speaker Secretary – just two of the roles she has filled in the last nine years.

Carol's involvement in Poynton's U3A goes back to the distant and misty times at the end of 2010 when a range of individuals were discussing the possibilities of starting up a U3A here in Poynton. Out of those discussions arose a Steering Committee which, in the course of 2011, laid most of the foundations for the organisation which we have today. Carol acted as Secretary for the discussions of that Steering Committee and began the recording of our history. With her departure your committee loses its last contact with those involved in its creation in 2010.

Carol has volunteered to take on a number of roles for us in the years which followed. But almost certainly the most important has been the position of Speaker Secretary, a task which she first took on in April 2012. She has carefully researched the suitability of potential speakers through a wide range of contacts which she has established. The result has been an extraordinary variety of interesting speakers, several of whom (e.g. Edwina Currie and Sir Philip Craven) are national figures. Throughout this time she has also represented us at meetings of the North East Cheshire Network which brings together six local U3As and provides our members with access to an even wider range of Interest Groups. Finally, and most recently, she had taken on the role of Vice-Chairman, one of the four "Officer" roles which the Charity Commission demands that we fill.

Thanks to her husband Derek's efforts, we have recently put together an electronic archive of our short history, starting with the first documents which Carol compiled as Secretary. It does no harm to remind ourselves of our earliest days before some of the people who brought it into being move on.

David Sewart

Question: How many Poynton U3A members can you fit into a bus shelter? **For the answer:** See page 3.



Question: Where is the sun shining on these Poynton U3A members? **For the answer:** See page 12



Committee News

AGM

At our recent AGM we were fortunate to be joined by a number of new Committee members. Rose Diplock has taken over the role of Secretary, replacing Beryl Simpson who has had to step down from that role through illness but who still supports us as a committee member. Jayne Barnes has become our deputy Membership Secretary, supporting Kate Marsham. Janet Hughes and Joyce Streets have jointly taken on the role of Speaker Organisers and are now well into setting up a programme for our General Meetings in 2020. The last year has shown us how vulnerable our committee is to illness. But it is also showing us what a wealth of talent is available to us from Third Agers on our doorstep. New people mean new ideas - a useful challenge to our ways of operating and doubtless a redirection of our thoughts.

Your Committee	
David Sewart	Chairman
Kate Marsham	Vice-Chair & Membership Secretary
Kay Dacey	Treasurer
Rose Diplock	Secretary
Sandra Batchelor	Groups Co-ordinator
Jayne Barnes	Asst Membership Secretary
Lynda Green	Events Co-ordinator
Anne Wynn	Welcome Co-ordinator
Joyce Streets	Speaker Organiser & Publicity Co-ordinator
Janet Hughes	Speaker Organiser
Beryl Simpson	

A Letter to the Editor

"When I visit a doctor's surgery, shops and a whole range of public and private sector organisations, I see notices that "abuse to staff will not be tolerated". The need for such statements is a sad indictment of our times.

At our General Meeting in May I witnessed a tirade of discontent towards a committee member from some U3A members regarding the problems of the sound system at the Civic Hall.

These are problems that the committee has tried endlessly to overcome. Any solution is expensive and does not lie in the hands of the U3A Committee.

It's worth remembering that the U3A Committee is composed entirely of volunteers. Anger will only turn volunteers away from what they are trying to do.

Perhaps we should more correctly be praising volunteers in a difficult situation beyond their control, reminding ourselves that without them there would be no Poynton U3A."

(A U3A member)

Diary Dates	
Monthly General Meetings	
3 rd Tuesday in month at 2.00pm - Poynton Civic Hall (Doors Open at 1.30pm)	
August 20 th	Chief Petty Officer Gary Wenn – My Life in the Royal Navy
September 17 th	Dr Craig Horner – Early Motoring in the North West
October 15 th	John Stirling - From Toytown to Buckingham Palace
November 19 th	Dr Diana Leitch – The Science of Chocolate: Food of the Gods. Including tasting experiences

Poynton U3A

Our U3A arose from discussions between a small number of Poynton residents in the autumn of 2010. They sought advice from the U3A Trust for setting up a U3A and had their first open meeting on 18th January 2011 when Poynton residents were encouraged to become members for an annual fee of £10 and, if they so wished, join one of the initial Interest Groups. Some of that first small group of Poynton residents are still members of our U3A today. They had begun as a Steering Committee and operated with a temporary Constitution for the first year. They decided that we should run our finances and programmes on a calendar year and that, if the organisation took off, Poynton's U3A would have its first AGM on 20th March 2012. It was at this first AGM that the first election of officers took place in accordance with the draft constitution which was also formally agreed at the first AGM. By mid 2012 Poynton had received its Certificate as an independent Charity from the Charity Commission.

The membership of our U3A grew steadily. However, the initial constitution had proved unworkable in some aspects and so a new constitution was put to and agreed by the AGM on 17th March 2013. The latest version of the constitution in which the objectives have been rewritten in accordance with the wishes of the Charity Commission was accepted by our AGM on 20th March 2018. Membership numbers have continued to increase and last year passed the figure of 500. –
Continued on Page 9

Members' Corner

Peover Walk March 2019

On a very wet, cold day in March we led a walk from the Park Gate Inn, Over Peover. Being a hardy bunch eighteen walkers turned up on this inauspicious morning. We were huddled up in anoraks, wore waterproof trousers and kept our backs to the rain where we could!

Early on our route we entered the grounds of Peover Hall, an Elizabethan house which is still used today as a family home. It was built originally by Sir Randle Mainwaring in 1585 and had a new wing added in the 1760's. It is currently owned by the Brookes family.

General George Patton of the United States 3rd Army used the house as a base when it was requisitioned during WW2 for training troops for the D Day landings. There was also a POW camp on the estate.

The Brookes family moved back into the house after the war and undertook major renovations, badly needed after a fire cause by a US soldier.

The house has many fine features including splendid oak panelling and furnishings with a connection to Peover and the Mainwaring family. Externally there are beautiful gardens, a five hundred year old oak tree and Carolean stables built in 1654.

The house and gardens are open to the public, information is on their web site.



Peover Hall

Passing through the estate we continued our walk, slipping and sliding through woods and over swollen streams! We passed very close to Jodrell Bank, the huge dish looming out of the murky weather.

The Park Gate Inn was a welcome sight at the end of our walk. The hosts were very welcoming and we were soon drying out by a roaring log fire and being served our pre ordered lunches.

Kate Marsham

Answer from page 1 - 16!

Walking around Bollington

On Thursday 4 April 15 Long Walk members set off from the Rangers Office car park on Adlington Road, Bollington for a 5+ mile walk, organised this month by Sheila Kent and Liz Arrowsmith. It was one of those spring days which had sunshine and wind, so was cold on high ground but very bright, fresh and invigorating. Just as we arrived back at the car-park we had a slight shower of rain, which continued all afternoon, so we were very lucky.



The walk took us around Middlewood Way over to Styperson Pool then along Long Lane, where we descended onto the canal. Here we passed the Mill, onto the recreation ground and eventually the car park. Quite a few of the fifteen walkers had not been to this area before and were really impressed with the views of surrounding countryside.



At the end of the walk most of us opted for the pub across the road, where we enjoyed some lovely food, drink and good company.

A very enjoyable walk we all agreed.

Joyce Streets

Members' Corner

Short Walks – Clarence Mill

Lovely exercise walking along the canal and the Middlewood Way enjoying the sunshine. Being a keen photographer, the walk provided me with the opportunity to take some photos. I particularly liked the ones of the ducks, the beautiful Spanish bluebells and the forget me nots. I enjoyed chatting with other group members and getting to know them as well as learning about the history of Clarence Mill. The time passed quickly and we were soon at the end of our walk. Looking forward to the next one!



Janet Hughes

Different Walks

My mother as a young woman endured some of this short walk enjoyed by the U3A walkers; winter and summer, going to work before six o'clock in the morning, and returning after six in the evening. From their cottage on Brookledge Lane, Adlington, she walked with her sister, brothers and father, joined others making their way to their respective work. At the canal bridge, near Sugar Lane, the Clarence Mill workers veered off onto the towpath, some of the others going to farms, but most went to Styperson Quarry, all to meet up again at the end of the day.

My father's journey to Clarence Mill was very different. In his mid-teens he was painting iron bridges for the LNER railway company. These bridges were across Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, spanning roads, rivers and canals. The rural towns and villages were in great contrast to the towns he encountered when stepping over the border into the muck, smoke and poverty of Lancashire and Cheshire. There he began a new contract with the Fine Cotton Spinners painting mills from north Manchester towns to Stockport, Macclesfield and Bollington.

In the four years painting bridges and later painting mills, my father had travelled many miles whereas my mother had trudged the same route each day. Both now in their early twenties it was possibly destiny that their paths would cross. For him the last of these mills was the Clarence Mill where, working high above the spinning machines, through the noise and dust, he made a connection with a young woman, my mother, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Clive B Hill



Groups List

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Acoustic Folk/Rock Band	Geoff Brindle	Contact Organiser
Art	David Williams	2.00-4.00pm Mondays at the Community Centre
Art Appreciation		Organiser Required
Bird Watching	Peter Owen	Monthly. Contact Organiser (Programme on web site)
Bridge	Dorothy Rowland	2.00pm alternate Mondays at the Civic Hall
Bus Pass Explorer	Vivienne Arnold	Contact Organiser
Creative Writing	Ann Walker	2.00pm 2 nd & 4 th Mondays in month Davenport Golf Club
Crosswords		Contact groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk
Day Trips	Iris & Gerry Neale	Information at General Meetings & on website
Diners' Club	Norma Shreeve	Next meal is in September
Discussion	Barbara Jackson	Contact Organiser
D.I.Y.	Sue Badger	4 th Thursday in month
Family History	Moyna Barrott	2.00pm 1 st Wednesday in month at the Civic Hall
Film Discussion Group	Maggie Eagland	2.00pm 3 rd Wednesday in month at Wetherspoons
French Conversation	Sandra & Keith Batchelor	Monthly. Usually Friday afternoon. Contact Organisers
Geology	Peter Bennett	Usually 4 th Thursday in month. Contact Organiser
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly
History	Wendy Fermor	2.00pm 4 th Tuesday in month
History 2	Geoff Reason	Monthly Wednesday 2.00pm
Music Appreciation	Liz Markham	2.00pm 1 st Thursday in month
Needlecrafts	Beryl Simpson	2.00-4.00pm 4 th Thursday in month at the Civic Hall
Newsletter	Clive Hill	Contact Organiser
Photography	Peter Bennett & Hilary Tivey John Jurics	Usually 1 st Friday in month 2.00pm at the Community Centre. Contact Organisers
Play Reading	Catherine Owen	2.15pm 1 st Tuesday in month
Reading Group 1	Iris Neale	2 nd Tuesday in month
Reading Group 2	Glenys Parry-Jones	Last Monday of the month 10.30am Contact Organiser
Science & Technology	Carol & Derek Gatenby	Usually 4 th Tuesday in month. Contact Organisers
Scrabble	Kay Henshaw	2.00pm 2 nd Monday in month
Short Walks	Joan Stepto	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays in month
Spanish	Paul Freeborn	Mondays (except Bank Holidays) 10.15-11.45 at Wetherspoons
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	Every Tuesday 10.00-12.00, every Wednesday 2.00-4.30pm and every Thursday 1.30-4.30pm at Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 st Thursday in month

Please be sure to let us have any news items and photographs from your group's activities for our Website and Notice Board, via your Group Organiser.

If you are interested in joining any groups, contact the group organiser, or if you are interested in forming a new group, speak to Sandra at General Meetings or email groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Science & Technology

Abbeydale Industrial Museum

Recently a group of Science & Technology members visited two sites west of Sheffield. The first was at Abbeydale which is a well-preserved heritage site from the start of the steel-making industry. The site produced scythes using water-driven machinery.



A dam in the River Sheaf creates a reservoir which provided continuity of flow for the four waterwheels.



If you want to see a waterwheel in action you need to visit on a Wednesday.



The basic scythes were made using the Tilt Forge



Steel was made in crucibles which were heated in the crucible furnace shown above

David Mellor Cutlery

About a 15 minute-drive away from Abbeydale lies the David Mellor site just outside the village of Hathersage. David Mellor is one of the best known 20th century British designers. You first encounter the striking Round Building which contains the cutlery making.



Science & Technology

Then you find the cutlery Design Museum contained within the Café building.



And then there is the street furniture.



As the information board says of these two pictures

“David Mellor Street Scene

One of David Mellor’s great aims as a designer was to improve the quality of the everyday urban environment.

His modern lighting columns, bus shelters, litter bins and post boxes, bollards and outdoor seating were widely distributed and altered the appearance of the street scenes throughout the UK.”



Finally, there is the so-called Country Shop which contains a large range of quality kitchenware.

If you wish to visit either of these sites it is safe to use the postcodes with your SatNav. Abbeydale is S7 2QW and David Mellor is S32 1BA.

Looking at the pictures you may think that they look familiar. They both featured in one of the series of BBC television programmes entitled “Made in Great Britain” introduced by Steph McGovern.

Amazon Fulfilment Centre

Members of the Science & Technology group have also visited the Amazon Warehouse at Airport City and you can visit it too. You just need to book your place through the Fulfilment Tours website.

The website to use is aboutamazon.co.uk. Select “Tour an Amazon Fulfilment Centre” on the Home page. If you want to use a search Engine to find the site, try “Amazon Fulfilment Tour” and select “Amazon Fulfilment – Book a Warehouse Tour”. Make sure you get the UK site and not the American one!

We can’t show you many pictures because you are not allowed to take photographs inside. However outside....



and they will take a picture for you.



Derek Gatenby

Groups List

Other Poynton Groups open to our U3A Members

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Hallé Concert Visits	Yvonne Sharma	Information at General Meetings & on web site
PHS-PTA Theatre Trips	Elaine Roe	Information at General Meetings & on web site
PHS-PTA Minibreaks	Elaine Roe	Information at General Meetings & on web site
Walking Netball	Liz Arrowsmith	Every Monday 11.20am-12.20 at Poynton Leisure Centre

NEC Network U3A Open Groups

Group	Organiser	Telephone	Meeting
Archaeology (Cheadle & Gatley)	Lois Evans	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A	3 rd Tuesday afternoon at URC
Art Appreciation (Cheadle Hulme)		Contact Cheadle Hulme U3A	2.00-4.00 3 rd Thursday
Bridge (Cheadle & Gatley)	Linda Ewing	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday afternoon at URC
Bridge (Wilmslow)	Mavis Merryman	Contact Wilmslow U3A	7.30-10.00pm Monday
Computers (Cheadle Hulme)	Kelvin Vann	Contact Cheadle Hulme U3A	10am 4th Tuesday of month
Creative Writing (Bramhall)	Pat George	Contact Bramhall U3A	2.00pm 2 nd Wednesday in month
Cycling (Wilmslow)	Kate Bryant	Contact Wilmslow U3A	Weekly
Embroidery (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	Contact Bramhall U3A	10.00-12.00 2 nd Thursday in month
English Country Dancing (Wilmslow)	Shan Bristow	Contact Wilmslow U3A	1.30-3.30pm 2 nd and 4 th Mondays in month
Environment (Cheadle & Gatley)	Peter Briggs	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A	4 th Monday of month at 1.30pm
French (Wilmslow)	Ann Thompson	Contact Wilmslow U3A	Alternate Mondays at 2.00pm
German (Cheadle & Gatley)	Lee Fairlie	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A	3 rd Tuesday of month, mornings
Line Dancing (Bramhall)	Chris Chapman	Contact Bramhall U3A	1.30 -3.30 Wednesdays New starters 1.00-1.30
MOOCS (Massive Open on Line Courses) (Cheadle & Gatley)	Batsheva Samely	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A	See website for details
Photography (Cheadle Hulme)	Neil Rackham	Contact Cheadle Hulme U3A	10am 2nd Tuesday of month
Scottish Country Dancing (Bramhall)	Sheila Bruce-Smith	Contact Bramhall U3A	1.45-3.45pm Every Friday
Tai Chi (Cheadle Hulme)	Gaynor Johnson	Contact Cheadle Hulme U3A	10.30am every Thursday
Video & Film making (Bramhall)		Contact Bramhall U3A	Alternate Fridays 10.30am

Members' Corner

Poynton U3A – continued

In the 2001 census there were 15,442 people in Poynton and in the 2011 census 15,282. There will be another census in a couple of years but for 2017 quite a lot of work has been done to provide interim numbers and the result was an estimate of 15,146 people at that time. Within this the number of females was 7,939 and for males 7,207. In addition, an age distribution was done for 10 year blocks. I have picked out the three blocks which I think it is fair to say could be considered as Third Agers. For 60 to 69 years the total is 2,281, for 70 to 79 years 1,982 and for over 80 years 1,175. That's a total of 5,438 Third Agers which is almost 36% of the total population of Poynton. The national comparative statistic for Third Age females and men always favours women but gradually accelerates so that for every 1,000 males aged 90 and above, there are 1,973 females. We don't ask members for their age but there is no reason to imagine that this is not true of Poynton residents.

Poynton U3A with its more than 500 members hence has approximately 10% of the Third Agers in Poynton. In general the U3A Trust seems to recognise that a U3A membership of 5% of the possible Third Agers (3 combined age groups) is very good and should be aimed at. Our figure is way beyond that and is probably one of the highest in the UK. But that is not a reason for ceasing to strive to do better!

As a U3A, along with another 1038 local U3As, we are members of the U3A Trust. We follow the aims and guiding principles of that organisation. It has a duty to advise on good practice and on hazards to be avoided. For example, it offered U3As guidance so that they could comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations. We pay a standard per person annual fee (£3.50) to the Trust which covers the insurance of our members while engaged in U3A activity. But we are recognised as an individual and self-governing charity operating under its own Constitution and setting our own budgets and membership fees. There is no such thing as Headquarters or a Head Office in the U3A movement. It goes without saying that membership fees would be very much higher in order to finance a large central office for an organisation which now has 1039 local U3As and more than 430,000 members – approximately double the size of the WI. As most of you will be aware our annual membership fee is £10. It was £10 when we started in 2011 and it will almost certainly be £10 next year too!

David Sewart

Somerset Mini Break

Our spring mini break this year was to Somerset. Our first stop was Tyntesfield, a Victorian Gothic revival house and estate, formerly the home of the wealthy Gibbs family who made their considerable fortune by importing guano, (Peruvian bird droppings), the best fertilizer of the day. The house was remodelled and considerably extended with interiors richly decorated and furnished by the country's leading craftsmen, there is a purpose built chapel and lovely gardens. Four generations of the Gibbs family lived here until waning fortunes resulted in the house being bought in 2002 by the National Trust.



Tyntesfield

From Tyntesfield we travelled on via the impressive Cheddar Gorge to the Swan Hotel in Wells. This was a more expensive hotel than we usually stay in but it was universally agreed that it was worth it due to its location right in the centre of England's smallest city with views across the Green to the Cathedral, the excellent food and the lovely staff. Some rooms had four poster beds, some had Cathedral views, some lucky people had both but unfortunately I wasn't one of them!.



View from Swan Hotel, Wells

Members' Corner

Saturday morning was spent exploring Wells, visiting the Cathedral with its unique scissor arches and 14th century astronomical clock, the Bishop's Palace, lovely streets such as the Vicar's Close and attractive independent shops



Scissor Arch, Wells Cathedral

In the afternoon we made our way to Glastonbury, a town known for its ancient and medieval sites, including Glastonbury Abbey, the Chalice Well and the Tribunal. Some people managed to climb the Tor, a tower-topped hill once said to be King Arthur's burial place, despite it being quite a windy day. Glastonbury has become something of a centre for New Age culture and spiritual healing. I'm not sure where the locals do their grocery shopping but if you want magic and mystic items including crystals, wands and cauldrons, art, crafts, and spiritual books this is the place to go!



Glastonbury Abbey Ruins

On our final day we visited the lovely city of Bath where there are the remains of one of the finest spas of the ancient world, Aquae Sulis, the Roman Baths.



Roman Baths

We didn't sample the waters as they are reputed to taste foul! We went in the Abbey and the Royal Assembly Rooms, viewed Pulteney Bridge and many beautiful buildings including those in the Royal Crescent, a magnificent sweep of 30 Georgian houses featured as a backdrop in countless films and TV dramas. We finished the day in a cosy café sampling a delicious Bath bun of course!



Elaine Roe

[Elaine has asked us to mention that, at the time of writing, there are rooms left for the Ireland holiday in May 2020 - see the Minibreaks page of our website for details.]

Diners' Group

The dining group enjoyed their May meal at the Deanwater when 16 members enjoyed good food and good company. The next meal will not be until September, due to many members being on holiday during the summer months. Full details will be available at the August U3A monthly meeting.

A meal is arranged every two months, usually at a local restaurant and is open to all our U3A members. The aim is to enjoy good food with friends, for company and pleasure, not essentially a gourmet dining experience. If the venue is further afield, lifts can be arranged. Hope to see you at the next meal.

Norma Shreeve

Members' Corner

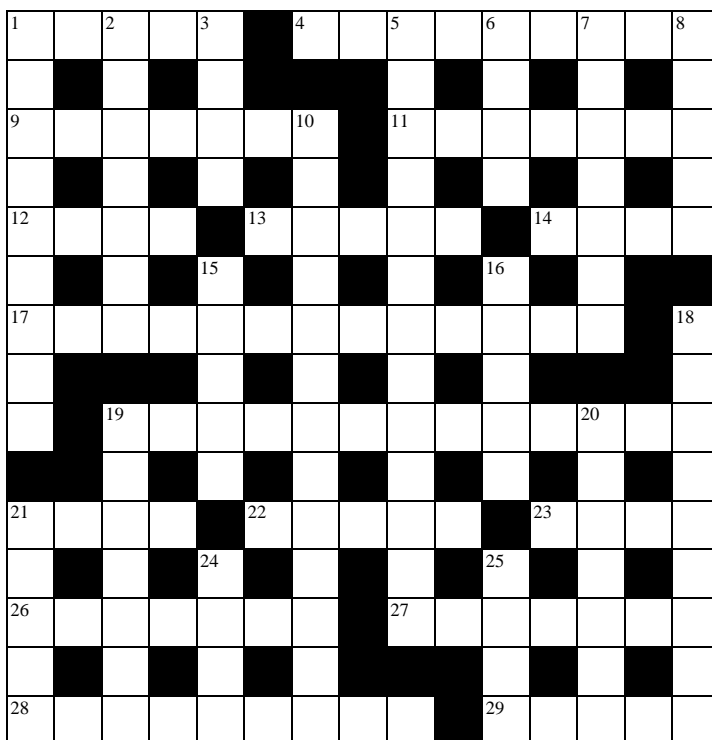
POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.26

ACROSS

- 1 OBE awarded to New Liberal? No, it's a different award. (5)
 4 Extent of debts whilst chasing success. (9)
 9 Hiker on the Cotswold Way - to neigh like a horse. (7)
 11 Turn round and rue about bringing up. (7)
 12 Piety without heart? What a shame. (4)
 13 Nomadic animal back in sty - no trough! (5)
 14 A touch of summer eventually comes to the lake. (4)
 17 Middle Eastern vehicle, darling, is a very expensive thing to have in the house. (7,6)
 19 East - not Northern poet - in his own ground, of a Jane Austen stately home. (9,4)
 21 Told to go by bike to a resort on the Isle of Wight. (4)
 22 Freed to hold back. (5)
 23 Lengths of Astrakhan offering cushioned comfort. (4)
 26 Southern sleeper is the ship's captain. (9)
 27 Abi told a twisted tail for the newspaper. (7)
 28 Frighten a bird to frighten birds. (9)
 29 Short street in Scottish river of good quality. (5)

DOWN

- 1 All you need to know daily is spelt out in 27. (9)
 2 Swelling beetle. (7)
 3 Part of a snowflake found in the water. (4)
 5 Tellers troubled about Florida maybe - better in black than red! (4,9)
 6 Thanks to the Royal Navy for discovering this lake. (4)
 7 Unfinished piece of music hired to the wealthy. (7)
 8 Spot a credit note in a commotion. (5)
 10 Sounds as if wet weather could be very dangerous. (5,2,6)
 15 Scotsman enters Post Office with a musical instrument. (5)
 16 Fine pottery found among herd of seals in Southern Europe. (5)
 18 Short roadway walk beset with difficulties. (9)
 19 Alcoholic drink produced in company of IRA. (7)
 20 A room made untidy by us is hot. (7)
 21 A morose situation in which to produce flowers. (5)
 24 Mushy peas served in part of a church. (4)
 25 A musical instrument coming up and up against. (4)



Crossword Puzzle No.25 Solution

Compiled by the
Poynton U3A
Crossword Group.



Thanks to everybody who has contributed to the current newsletter. If you would like to submit articles or photographs for a future newsletter, please email your contribution to newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk or give it to a member of the Newsletter Group. The next copy date for the Poynton U3A Newsletter is October 8th 2019.

Message to all Group Organisers: When you email your group members about arrangements, please send a copy to webmaster@poyntonu3a.org.uk so that we can keep the website up to date. Thank you.

Geology

Geology in Teesdale

Towards the end of May, 12 of us set off in our cars for a 4-day field trip heading for the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It was also Britain's first European Geopark, and a founding member of UNESCO endorsed Global Geoparks Network. We're a fairly hardy bunch, as "geologists" need to be, so we went equipped for all eventualities - waterproof trousers, jackets, woolly hats, sturdy shoes, gloves, sun hats, sun cream, cereal bars, water, etc. Our leaders, Peter and Hilary, informed us that we could be walking up to 4 miles a day, so we were hoping for reasonable weather. Our hotel was in Middleton in Teesdale, a small market town on the edge of the AONB, and the staff were really friendly, with that lovely North East lilt to their voices.



I should point out that the level of knowledge in the group varied from interested amateurs, with no background in geology, like myself, to one or two who had an excellent knowledge of the subject. It didn't matter, Peter expertly explained everything in terms that we could all understand. Fortunately, the weather obliged with sunshine, if a bit windy at times. (The woolly hats and jackets came in handy on some occasions). The walks were spectacularly lovely.



Low Force Waterfall

This is the answer to the second Question on page 1

"We were blessed with sunshine, which enabled us to combine the geological exploration of Teesdale with studies of alpine plants, local birdlife, as well as observing the power of water in waterfalls and river erosion. The scenery was marvellous." — Moira



High Force Waterfall

The first walk started beside the River Tees, where we saw Low Force waterfall, and we then walked on rocks containing fossils of sea creatures and corals that had formed over 300 million years ago, when the North Pennines was in a warm tropical sea, near the equator. An added bonus was the sight of a huge carpet of bluebells, and lapwings in the fields and flying over us. Other walks and trips included High Force Waterfall, Cow Green Reservoir, Cauldron Snout Waterfall, an idyllic babbling brook, the sight of rare Arctic plants in bloom, and spoil heaps and other remnants of lead mining, which had been going on since Roman times. Lead mining was a major industry here, and we had a guided tour (some of it outside) of Killhope Lead Mining museum. This gave us an insight into the terrible conditions that the miners had to endure.

"Peter and Hilary selected a number of textbook examples of various geological features and phenomena. Once again, visiting and viewing field examples proved to be most illuminating for the whole group." — Phil

The whole area has so many pluses. There are very few people living here, so it is a walkers' paradise, unspoilt, peaceful, with natural beauty. It is also a great place to see the night sky (weather permitting!) We would all like to reiterate our thanks to Peter and Hilary for organising the trip so well, and making it so memorable.

Sandra Batchelor