



Poynton News

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 22

Spring 2017



The Christmas Meeting. A good time was had by all!

Chairman's Comments

2016 with its 5th anniversary of our foundation proved to be a successful year for Poynton U3A in a number of ways, not least in our membership which, by the end of the year was over 470. The year closed with quizzes and an entertaining recital from Biddulph U3A Ukulele Group at our December General Meeting.

2017 began with one of the most entertaining presentations we have had - The History of the British Postage Stamp. Peter Kirk had brought numerous examples and skilfully wove the various groups of stamps into the history of the times as letter writing expanded from professional business use to become a regular means of communication for new generations. Many stayed on beyond our tea break to take the opportunity of browsing through his collection and listening to more of his anecdotes.

In our February meeting Kevin Dranfield spoke about the history of the Stockport Viaduct, a piece of architecture which has dominated Stockport's skies since 1840. When built it was the largest viaduct in the world. And it still remains one of the world's largest brick structures.

Finally, you may have heard that Clive Hill is leaving the committee. Clive has had a major influence on restructuring the production, presentation and contents of the Newsletter. You will be pleased to learn that Clive is going to be carrying on with the editing of the newsletter.

David Sewart

Diary Dates	
Monthly General Meetings	
3 rd Tuesday in month at 2pm - Poynton Civic Hall	
April 18 th	Peter Levy – From the First Edition to the City Final – Manchester Newspapers
May 16 th	Steve Abbott – The Last Drop! The last public hanging for murder at Shrewsbury Jail
June 20 th	Mary Hoult – From Meadows to Medals. Creating an RHS Show Garden at Tatton
July 18 th	Janet Bradshaw – Nine Lives – Characters from Saxon times to WW2

Committee and Other News

One Thousand U3As

At the end of last year the 1000th U3A in the UK was established and at the time of writing there are 1004 with 384,436 members. It was only in October 1983 that The Third Age Trust was registered as a charity set up to act as an umbrella organisation to help the establishment of local U3As which are independent and self governing charities in their own right. And in the summer of 1984 representatives of 15 local U3As met in Keele University for the first National U3A Conference.

100 years before that there had been quite widespread opposition to mass education – the teaching of reading and writing - in England and Wales. It was claimed that it would make labouring classes 'think' and then they might realise that their lives were not very satisfying and revolts would occur as people sought better working conditions. Fancy that!

The Elementary Education Act 1870, set the framework for schooling of all children between the ages of 5 and 12 in England and Wales but was simply not taken up in all areas and it would be the 1880 Act which extended compulsory attendance at school until the age of 10.

Of course there were some people who could read and write before that. But, if we take the ability of a person to sign their name on the marriage registers of the time as the absolute minimum level of "literacy", we find that only about half the people could do that in the 1750s. And by 1840 it was still only 58%. By the later 1880s the illiteracy rate had suddenly dropped to 10%. My grandparents began school in the 1880s and so were the very first generation of my family who had an elementary education. Sometimes I find it almost impossible to believe that. But how much more difficult would it be for them to comprehend that one of their grandsons went to university and one day typed an article which would be printed in a Newsletter which would be available to some 500 people who could all actually read it. And he lives in a village where nearly a third of the population is over the age of 60 and almost 1 in 10 of these is actively engaged in social learning in a strange organisation known as a U3A!

David Sewart

For All Hearing Aid Users

For two years the Looping Poynton group has been very busy encouraging local business to use an Induction loop. Many places had them in dusty corners and no-one knew how to use them. We have visited and worked with members of staff regularly. Last October we held a training day at the Civic Centre, with one session in the morning and one in the afternoon. It was a great success. Twenty people attended in the morning and eighteen in the afternoon. They were all representatives of local banks, shops, cafes, doctors and supermarkets.

Poynton is well Looped. IT IS OVER TO YOU NOW.

Look for the blue signs, a large one outside the shop and a smaller one inside to indicate where the loop is. You should never need to ask. The loop will be on all the time. All you have to do is adjust your aids.

PLEASE use them or all our efforts will have been in vain.

It is interesting that, because of our success here in Poynton, many other towns are now attempting the same, including Macclesfield.

We would love to hear what you think and to find out about your experiences. We meet about every two months and you are welcome to come and chat to us. For more information, please contact me at a General Meeting or through a member of the committee.

Good Hearing.

Veronica O'Connor

Coffee Mornings

Members continue to enjoy the Coffee Mornings at Wetherspoons on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.30 am. The next dates are March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th and June 28th.

Anne Wynn

Archivist

The Town Council's is in need of a volunteer archivist. If you feel you have the relevant skills and would like to get involved please contact Liz Osborn, the Town Clerk.

News from the Groups and Other News

Short Walks

You would not expect to see something like this walking along Middlewood Way but then on a walk there is always the unexpected. Herons waiting to catch fish, the first buds on the trees, views of Lyme Park or White Nancy but, whatever the weather, it is never dull.



Joan Stepto

Cake Decorating Group



Crinoline Ladies

60 years of singing at St George's

Most Poyntoners are aware that the town is home to one of the country's best Brass Bands, but did you know that Poynton can boast an amateur choir which has been described as on a par with the Hallé choir?

St George's Singers is Poynton's second oldest music making group (after VBS Band) and this September

marks the beginning of their Diamond Anniversary season. The Choir was formed in 1956 by Rev Eric Chapman, Vicar, and Geoffrey Verney, organist and choirmaster of St George's Church as a community choir to perform the major choral works. 35 Poyntoners came to the first rehearsal, the first concert was that Christmas with Handel's Messiah, and within two years the Choir was able to perform one of the masterpieces of the choral repertoire, Bach's St John Passion.

Over the last 60 years SGS has grown to a highly respected choir of about 90 singers who come from as far afield as Warrington, Huddersfield and Leek (though Poynton is still well represented). It has evolved into one of the most highly respected amateur choirs in the North West, and now sing an incredibly wide range of music from classical to jazz, from Renaissance to contemporary and from the great oratorios to a capella singing. They have performed live on BBC radio a number of times and have been invited to participate in Proms concerts at the Royal Albert Hall and to sing with the amazing young musicians of Chetham's School of Music at their concerts at the Bridgewater Hall. SGS tours each spring in the UK or abroad, this year they sang at various venues in Lincolnshire including Lincoln Cathedral and their 2017 tour will be to Costa Rica to renew their link with choirs there.

Unfortunately, as Poynton has no suitable space for a large choir and orchestra, the Singers can no longer perform regularly in Poynton. Most concerts are at the major city centre venues such as the Royal Northern College of Music, the beautiful Gorton Monastery or the Bridgewater Hall. However they retain their local roots, rehearsing every Tuesday in St George's Church hall, holding their annual open Singing Day in the church, regularly taking part in local events such as the Christmas Fest and the Jubilee Festival and they usually provide coach transport from the Civic Hall car park to their Manchester concerts.

St George's Singers hope you will come and join them in their exciting Diamond Anniversary season - whether as a Singer or in the audience. The Choir is always interested in hearing from singers, particularly tenors and basses, who share their ambition of performing great music to the highest standards. Information about how to get tickets or how to join the choir is available on the website www.st-georges-singers.org.uk or by contacting the secretary Jacqui Smith by email enquiries@st-georges-singers.org.uk.

News from the Groups

Music Appreciation Group

This is a new group and our first meeting was held on 1st December. The programme of music we listened to was based on the theme 'Winter'. Each of the 8 members present had chosen some music based on this theme. We listened to a wonderful range of music; from the medieval carol Gaudete via Vivaldi's Winter from the Four Seasons and Tchaikovsky's Winter Daydreams to Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride and Enya's And Winter Came, calling in on the native Americans for Winter Ceremony by Sacred Spirit and New Zealand for Raindrops - music incorporating natural sounds from Ana and Norval Williamson.

The theme for the January meeting was Celebrations and musical choices varied from music celebrating battles from Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, celebrating our Queen's coronation from Handel and celebrating weddings from Wagner and Grieg.

At the February meeting, we had a musical world tour calling in at Austria, Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, New Zealand, Paris, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Turkey and the USA.

Regular monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm in members' homes. We enjoy discussing the music and sharing a cup of tea or coffee and chat in the interval.

If you are interested in joining, please contact me at a General Meeting or through the website.

Liz Markham

Theatre Trip Group

When looking through some old files recently I discovered that I organised my first theatre trip for the High School PTA in January 2007 so, more than 100 trips later, we have just celebrated our 10th anniversary!

I started to think about how it all came about. I was a member of the PTA at the High School for over 20 years and it was always a challenge to think of social events to involve the parents which might also have the added benefit of raising a little money for PTA funds. Someone suggested a theatre trip, I volunteered to look into it and our first outing was to see Mamma Mia at the Palace Theatre. The trip was so popular and successful that we thought that we would repeat a winning formula. Initially the trips were just advertised to parents and students but then relatives, friends and neighbours began to join in and we opened them up to anyone who wanted to come.

The advantage of having a larger group of people involved was that a more varied programme and a greater number of trips could be offered and individual trips would be more likely to attract enough people to be viable. What started as a one off event has now mushroomed into several trips a year to musicals, plays and concerts at the different venues in Manchester.

By the time I joined the U3A there was a large and well established group of theatre goers. To restrict the trips to only U3A members would exclude a lot of these people so it was decided to keep the Theatre Group as an open group so non U3A members would still be able to take part. Also to many people a big bonus of the trips is that transport is provided and keeping the connection with the High School means that we are able to use the school car park as a pick up point for the coach.

Sometimes people wonder how it all works. What happens is that I reserve seats for shows that I think will be popular (not as predictable as you might think!) and the theatres allow a few weeks to sell the tickets. I then confirm which tickets we want and pay for them; any unsold ones are released back to the theatre. We get a group discount which means that we can often offer the ticket and transport by coach from the High School for around the usual price of the ticket alone and you do not have to pay any booking fees or travel and parking costs. Should any money be left over, after the tickets and transport have been paid for, it goes into the PTA funds. Hopefully this is a win-win situation for everyone.



If you haven't been on one of the trips before why not give it a try? You might fancy a concert at the Bridgewater Hall, a musical at the Palace Theatre or a play at the Royal Exchange. Details of all the current trips may be found on the U3A website.

Elaine Roe

News from the Groups

Acoustic Band

The idea of an acoustic group came from Geoffrey Brindle over two years ago. He found someone else interested then there were two but now the group has four members. Geoff, Steve, Dave and Frank are all very enthusiastic, they play guitar, banjo and harmonica. Although acoustic music is not supposed to have amplifiers an electric guitar is sometimes included to provide more variety. Ideally they would like to have one or two more in the group.



They play folk, pop and even rock music. Since joining the group they have been sharing ideas and interests and feel they have expanded their music spectrum. It is not too serious, but they play well, they have great fun and have made new friends. Why don't you join them?

Joan Stepto

Family History

Family History is a story about you. Well, it starts with you. It's what we tell our members when they begin to put together their family tree. By the time we reach the age we are now, most of us will have some information about our ancestors. If not, there are plenty of web sites that can be used to find out. In the past, we have all been told stories about our family background from relatives, but are these stories true?

That was one of the reasons why I joined Family History. Was I prepared for the odd skeleton that may jump out? I was about to find out. Family trees are made up of a family structure and can be as untidy as old wires in a drawer.

Following the bloodline is most important in your quest. It is why joining Family History has been a great help. We can all reach a brick wall at some time in our research and talking to other members can be very helpful.

Sue Pyett

Family History meet on the first Wednesday in the month at 2.00pm in the Civic Hall.

Laptop and Internet Basics Group

The Laptop and Internet Basics Group was set up around 5 years ago to provide self-help to those who wished to improve their computer skills. In the early days of the group, the topics were mainly centred about the use of email, and the use of email folders, on laptop devices. As time has gone by, the group has evolved to cover a wider range of topics and a wider range of devices.

Today, in addition to laptop devices, we help with internet connected mobile phones and with tablet devices. In addition to email topics, we cover internet browsing, digital photograph storage, digital music, spreadsheets, etc..

The group meets very informally once per month at my house where I have a fairly fast broadband connection with unlimited data download capacity. Group members bring their own devices (Laptop, Tablet and/or mobile phone) and the meeting agenda is governed by the questions that members bring about their own concerns and desires. We try to find a solution to these problems in a manner shared by all.

There are currently two group meetings per month, usually on the third Thursday in the month, one from 10am-12noon, and one from 2pm to 4 pm, and each meeting is limited to six members as experience has shown that this is the optimum number when looking at the various email clients on the member's devices. There is a nominal charge of £1 per person per meeting and members joining the group need to have their current U3A membership card with them.

If you are interested to join this group, please contact me at a General Meeting or through the website.

Jack Taylor

Bridge

The Bridge Group is looking for new members. They meet fortnightly on a Monday at the Civic Centre starting at 2pm. They welcome beginners, improvers and those who just wish to enjoy a game in a friendly environment. If you are interested, contact Dorothy Rowland.

Groups List

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Acoustic Folk/Rock Band	Geoff Brindle	Contact Organiser
Art	David Williams Tony Worthington	1.45-3.45pm Mondays Civic Hall
Art Appreciation	Kath Bell Carol Gatenby	Monthly. Contact Organiser
Ballet Appreciation	Meg Humphries	1 st Thursday or 4 th Wednesday each month
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 Evelyn Shepherd	Contact Organiser
Cake Decorating	Ann Tofield	Contact Organiser
Creative Writing	Veronica O'Connor Ann Walker	2.00pm 2 nd & 4 th Mondays in month Davenport Golf Club
Crosswords	Ed Milius	By arrangement with the organiser
Day Trips	Iris & Gerry Neale	Information at General Meetings & on website
Diners' Club	Gerard Miller	
D.I.Y.	Sue Badger	Contact Organiser
Embroidery	Barbara Davies	1.45-3.45pm 4 th Thursday in month at the Civic Hall
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
French Conversation	Sandra & Keith Batchelor	Monthly. Contact Organiser
Geology	Peter Bennett	Monthly. Contact Organiser
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly
History	Wendy Fermor Dorothy Bayman	2.00pm 4 th Tuesday in month
Laptop & Internet Basics	Jack Taylor	Information at General Meetings & on web site
Music Appreciation	Liz Markham	2.00pm 1st Thursday in month
Newsletter	Clive Hill	Contact Organiser
Photography	Peter Bennett & Hilary Tivey John Jurics	Monthly. 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 at Wetherspoons
Science & Technology	Carol & Derek Gatenby	Contact Organisers
Scrabble	Dorothy Bayman	2.00pm 2 nd Monday in month
Short Walks	Joan Stepto	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays in month
Spanish	Paul Freeborn	Mondays 10-11.30
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	Every Wednesday 2.00-4.00pm and every Thursday 1.30-4.00pm at Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 st Thursday in month

Our thanks go to Judith Davies for the commitment she gave organising the Antiques Group and Irene Johnson for her commitment in organising the Exercise Class since the start of our U3A in 2011.

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

NEC Network U3A Open Groups

Group	Organiser	Telephone	Meeting
Badminton (Bramhall)	Douglas Moore	Contact Bramhall U3A	2.00-4.00 Tuesdays
Creative Writing (Bramhall)	Pat George	Contact Bramhall U3A	2.00 2 nd Wednesday in month
Cycling (Wilmslow)	Richard Thomas	Contact Wilmslow U3A	Weekly – Contact Organiser
Embroidery (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	Contact Bramhall U3A	10.00 alternate Wednesdays
Line Dancing (Bramhall)	Chris Chapman	Contact Bramhall U3A	1.30 -3.30 Wednesdays
Personal Image (Bramhall)	Catherine Jones	Contact Bramhall U3A	6-week courses, Thursdays 10.00-12.00
Scottish country Dancing (Bramhall)	Sheila Bruce-Smith	Contact Bramhall U3A	1.30-3.00 Fortnightly, Fridays
Wine Tasting (Bramhall)	Jenny Richmond	Contact Bramhall U3A	Bi-monthly

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 Joan at General Meetings or email groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk .

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 June 8th 2017.

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.*

In Case of Emergency (ICE)

It is important that, if you have an accident, the Emergency Services know who to contact.

If you have a mobile phone, create an entry in the address book under ICE giving contact details. This is the first place the Emergency Services will look. Some phones have a pre-existing entry whilst with others you will have to create your own.

As an alternative you can carry an "In Case of Emergency" card. These will be available free of charge at General Meetings. Ask a Committee Member.

Photography Group

Neighbourhood Plan

While taking shelter from the rain at the Poynton Family Fun Day, I got to chatting with Sarah-Jane Gilmore, the Neighbourhood Plan project co-ordinator. She mentioned that they were going to be looking for photos of Poynton to include in the Plan. Time passed and inevitably the Plan urgently needed photos of Poynton. I volunteered that as one of our photo shoots the U3A Photo group would have a go. Six of us turned out on an overcast August morning. We had a drink in the Acoustic Lounge to discuss what we were about to do and have a general chatter then went and clicked away, shooting even if it didn't move. A portfolio of digital images was put together and sent off to the project co-ordinator. I'm very proud of the community effort from the U3A Photography group as almost half the images used in the Neighbourhood Plan were from our members.

More photographs of Poynton are needed. The Twinning Association is holding a competition to find suitable pictures for their next Christmas card. Have a go whether you are a member of the photography group or not.

John Jurics

Here are some examples of the photographs included in the Neighbourhood Plan.



Members' Corner

Science & Technology

The first time I got involved with our Science & Technology group was on a trip to the Avro Heritage Museum. The other members seemed relatively normal, so when they were going to Lion Salt Works, I decided to join them. Later in the year we, that is, the S & T group, now including me, went to The Anderton Boat Lift. I had been to all three of these venues years before with my family, the latter two whilst they were still operational. In both cases though, soon after our visit, they were closed for safety reasons. I never felt responsible for the closures but you never know.

Whilst Aerospace were still operating, they loaned a building close to Chester Road to enthusiasts for a museum to store and display air related memorabilia. The group hoped that when the whole site was sold the builders would help them to create a Museum to house all these artefacts, which they did, and the collection is growing exponentially with models and pieces of aircraft, including parts of a VC10, a Nimrod, Lancaster cockpit, Anson nose section and, of course, a complete Vulcan Bomber outside, acting as gate guardian.

The Lion Salt Works is now a museum showing how salt was panned from brine. Salt has been extracted from this area since Roman times and probably earlier. There are a number of lakes round the site where the ground has sunk, locally they are referred to as flashes. The subsidence is responsible for the style of building in places like Northwich, using wooden frames enabling the houses to be jacked up when subsidence occurs.

The Anderton Boat Lift has been fully restored giving quick access from the canal to the Weaver Navigation and vice versa. A display inside the Museum shows the building of the original lift and subsequent changes and alterations. Various goods were transferred from river to canal and canal to river by the lift, salt being one of them.

It was after these trips that I decided to attend some of the group's varied meetings at Derek and Carol's house. There I confirmed they were indeed perfectly normal people, not a lab coat with a row of pens in their top pocket in sight. The first time Peter Bennett from the geology group talked about tectonic plates which was very interesting; the earth nearly moved. We have spent time watching a sterling engine going round and round powered by temperature differential. Dropping household liquids and powders into red cabbage water, creating wonderful colours: there are

easier ways to test for acid or alkali, but not as much fun or as colourful; making paper aeroplanes. Talks on Darwin by Derek and his trip on the Beagle, not Derek's, Darwin's, and on philosophy given by John Ashton, mainly on Galileo. Our next outing is to Waters in Wilmslow where they develop Mass Spectrometry Systems. I am not keen on having my ions accelerated and deflected, but I will still go there.

Clive B Hill

What U3A Means To Me

If I were not a member of Poynton U3A today there would be a lot of things I would not know. For example, I would not know that "aa" means 'a type of lava' in Scrabble, having no idea previously of the importance of two letter words. I would not know that in 1726 in the reign of George I a lady called Mary Toft fooled the king's doctor into thinking she was giving birth to rabbits. I would not know that Noel Coward underwent rejuvenating monkey gland treatment. I would not know the difference between a crow and a rook or a Bewick from a Hooper swan. I would not know that the world's first postage stamp was issued on 1 May 1840.

If I were not a member of Poynton U3A I would not enjoy so much fun and friendship. I would not be able to walk down Park Lane and be sure of always meeting somebody I know. Poynton's geography would not be so familiar to me because visiting members in their homes as well as in Poynton's public meeting places is greatly improving my local knowledge. I would not have visited many interesting places such as the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and Clonter Opera at Swettenham Heath and have the enjoyable prospect of future outings to come.

So many thanks to Peter Laslett, Michael Young and Eric Midwinter, the three prime movers of the U3A movement in the United Kingdom in the early 1980s and to our local founders here in Poynton who led to our inaugural meeting in January 2011. Long may U3A grow and continue to enrich our lives.

Catherine Owen

Art Appreciation Group

A few members of the group attended the Exhibition on Screen – "The curious world of Hieronymus Bosch" at Parris Wood cinema on 3rd November.

The exhibition was held at the Noorbrabants Museum in the Dutch city of s-Hertogenbosch to mark the 500 years anniversary of the death of Hieronymus Bosch.

Members' Corner

The event was a huge success, the venue having to be kept open until 1.00 a.m. because of the large crowds wanting to visit. The museum's director – Charles de Mooij – explained how they had managed to secure loans of 17 of his 24 surviving paintings and 19 of 20 extant drawings.

Hieronymus Bosch, born Jheronimus or Jeroen van Aken, finally adopted the Latin version Hieronymus and Bosch as a surname after the town where he was born –s-Hertogenbosch. He was born in 1450 and died in 1516.

We were shown several paintings which were discussed in detail. The camera lingers on Bosch's intricate depictions of animals, monsters and religious scenes, while talking heads such as Peter Greenaway put them in context and explain how the exhibition came to be.

Unfortunately, probably the most famous – The Garden of Earthly Delights – could not be brought from its home in the Prado in Madrid but we looked in detail at The Haywain Triptych, Saint Wilgefortis Triptych, Death and the Miser, Gluttony and Lust, The Wayfarer, Ecce Homo, St. John on Patmos and the Hermit Saints Triptych.

His paintings foretold by several centuries paintings by the surrealists and shows how extraordinary and ahead of his time Bosch was.

Kath Bell

No selfie for me!

"You haven't a dog," the lady in Lyme Park said to me when I was enjoying a walk. "No, but I have my camera," I replied. Even though my 'companion' was inanimate I'm sure I was having as much pleasure with it as she was with her four footed friend and it doesn't need as much looking after! I photograph whatever takes my interest, then assess at my leisure.

Some of my images I take to the monthly meetings of the photography group where we view and discuss our work, giving praise, help and advice where appropriate. We also practice our camera skills on various outings.

Our topic to work on throughout this year (2016) was either a self portrait taken each month or a rainbow. No way was I going to take a selfie! So I'm trying to be creative with a rainbow! The little grey cells continue to be challenged, and hopefully I will produce some worthwhile images!



Here is my finished 'rain bow'. I enjoyed working on the project but indigo and violet were difficult colours to find. I took the photographs and used a raindrop template from the net to cut them out. For the title I used my colourful beanie and grandson's plastic letters!

Jill Hargreaves

Notes from a new member

Having known about Poynton U3A from the outset it has taken me all this time to join, but last year I did. Friends who became members when it first started said that I should go along and see, so in September I decided to go to the Open Day. There I found a few groups that would be of interest to me, like the theatre and day trips, and a friend suggested the Bus Pass Explorer group as I didn't drive and am a regular bus and train user.

I went to a bus pass meeting and found I knew some of the people and everyone was friendly. Hearing about the journeys they had made was very informative so I will be planning a trip in the better weather.

I have been to a number of talks at general meetings which I have enjoyed, even though I sometimes go alone, it doesn't matter as whoever you sit with speaks and makes you feel welcome. I have already booked a couple of day trips with friends which I am looking forward to.

The P 1 bus service enables me to attend meetings, as it would most people in the community, as the route the bus takes goes from Hazel Grove train station to Middlewood station. A survey has already been carried out on these buses to assess passenger numbers so please use this free service with your bus pass.

I am glad I decided to join and maybe in the future I will try other groups.

Betty Rothwell

Members' Corner

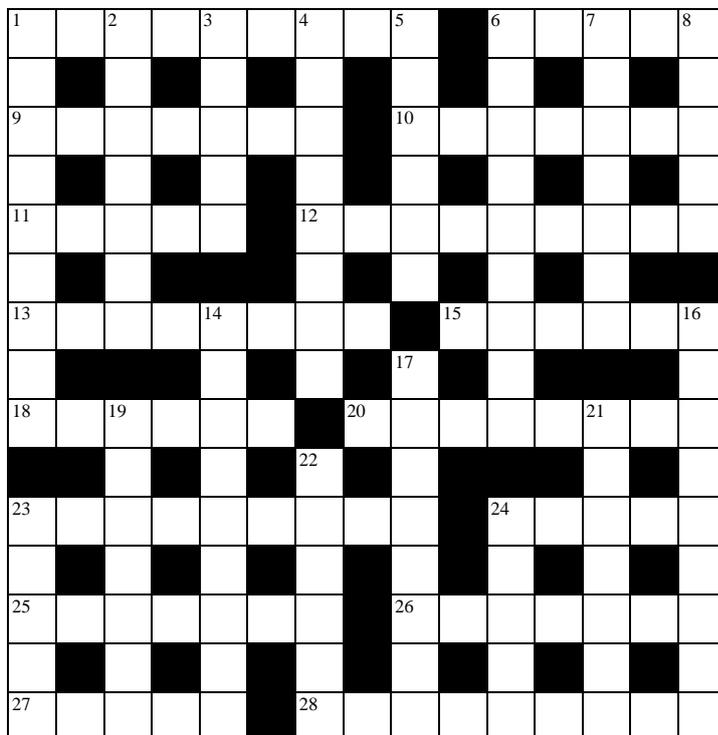
POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.19

ACROSS

- 1 Sovereign is a nobleman from a Belgian city. (5,4)
 6 A thousand cows lose direction and go berserk. (5)
 9 Explosive that can spell danger to the east. (7)
 10 A nerd lurking in Grub street finds places of pleasure. (7)
 11 Characteristic feature contained in extra items. (5)
 12 The populace created by a dissenter. (9)
 13 Fashionable Pluto late out for appointment. (2,2,4)
 15 Sleazy pub has right to titillate people. (6)
 18 German composer enlists female support for one of the Royal ships. (6)
 20 Devil has den backing up to the east – how majestic that is! (8)
 23 Cover seat manufactured for relaxation. (9)
 24 Drunken earls can easily produce a dangerous weapon. (5)
 25 Excessive labour brought about by amended rail tax. (7)
 26 Discussion about prisoner with beer belly! (7)
 27 Man wandering round outskirts of Chirk – must be unstable! (5)
 28 Giddy teen with sense is in a right state. (9)

DOWN

- 1 Bull wandering part of shoreline needs electric connection. (5,4)
 2 Tasteful squirming fish with unusual pungent smell. (7)
 3 Former partner takes the cat - spot on! (5)
 4 Make too much of speed of bowling in cricket. (8)
 5 Get Sid tipsy to swallow it all up. (6)
 6 Rowed wild over the planet! (9)
 7 To rid the dirt from winding lanes in Cheshire East. (7)
 8 Famous pop brothers found in the middle of the desert. (5)
 14 Type of government formed by wacky comrade who is heartlessly coy. (9)
 16 Tore label in a tantrum? That's hardly acceptable. (9)
 17 Boiled rice eaten by a man from across the Atlantic. (8)
 19 Old fashioned electric chair. (7)
 21 Slut with sin spitting out offensive remarks. (7)
 22 Wager that everyone's included in Swan Lake for example. (6)
 23 To discourage inside terror threat. (5)
 24 TW3 man Percival was very, very sharp! (5)



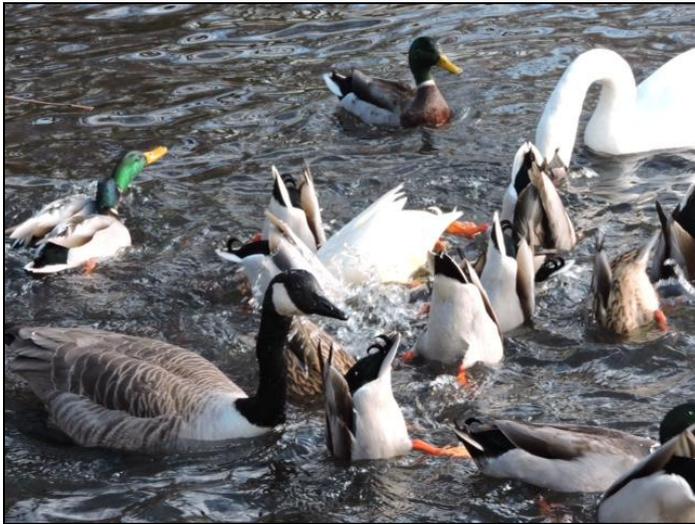
Crossword Puzzle No.18 Solution



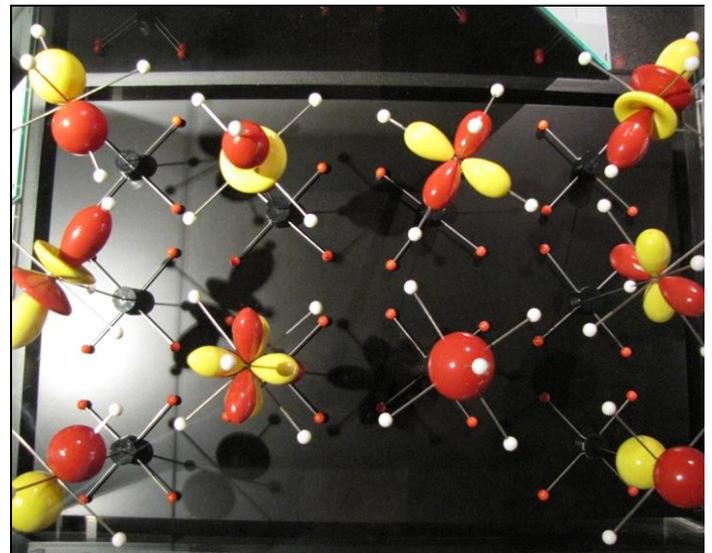
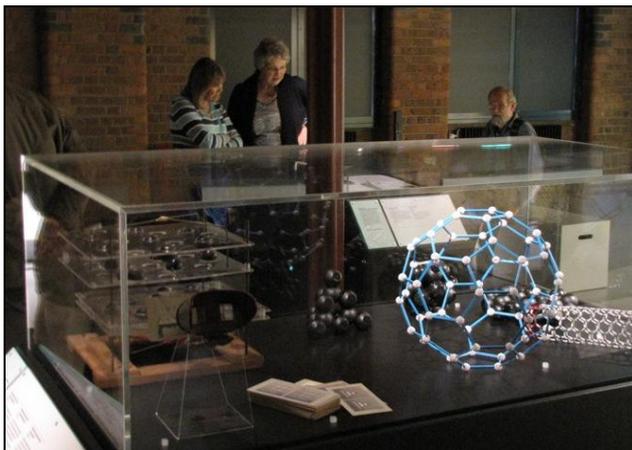
Compiled by Ed Milius and Ian Berresford of the Poynton U3A Crossword Group.
 If you would like to join us, contact Ed

Views from the Groups – Local Visits

Bird Watching Group at Poynton Pool



Science & Technology Group at the Graphene Exhibition in the Museum of Science and Industry



Art Appreciation Group visited the Wynford Dewhurst Exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery

