



## AGM Resolution – The Background

For the beginning of its first year the Poynton U3A committee determined that the membership fee should be £10 per annum. This has continued and remains the same in our 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation. But we are now aware that this is unlikely to continue very much longer. You will have seen from the report for this year's AGM that from that figure of £10 we pay £3.50 to The U3A Trust. This provides us with the essential membership which makes us part of the national U3A movement as a charity. It also covers insurance for all U3A members while they are engaged in U3A activities. You will also have seen that we pay an additional amount of £1 per member for use of the *Beacon* record system which we have adopted (as have at least 400 other U3A's) since it provides a firm base for our membership records and our contractual requirements under the new data protection legislation. And so we are left with £5.50 for financing our various activities for members in Poynton. While it has become a bit more difficult to operate within this figure, we have still managed through "good housekeeping".

However, we are now aware that the U3A Trust will have a motion at its AGM in August of this year concerning the £3.50 per capita payment. At the moment we don't know what proposal is likely to be put to that AGM or when it will come into operation. But I think we can be sure that it will mean an increase. It is for this reason that Poynton U3A's Committee is putting a resolution to our AGM in March to give it authority to change the local payment figure on the assumption that it will be essential to do so because of the increase in the per capita payment to The U3A Trust. It seems probable that we might have to do this for 2021.

David Sewart

## Short Walks Organiser – Needed Urgently

Joan is reluctantly stepping down from organising the short walks at the end of this session, so we are looking for volunteers to lead the walks, and a person who would take over as organiser. The organiser liaises with the walk leaders to establish a programme of walks for the year, using the walks already established, with variations, plus a few new ones. Walks are normally about 2 to 3 miles long and take about 1 to 1.5 hours. A rota is drawn up with all walk leaders including the organiser taking their share of leading a walk. Poynton Post is emailed asking them to include the month's walks in their next edition. The idea would be that the more volunteers there are to lead walks, the less each person has to do. The format is not set in stone, and could be changed to suit the needs of the group. Unfortunately, if no organiser or walk leaders are found, then the group will have to finish. It would be preferable for Joan to show the ropes to any potential volunteers over the next few months, so if anyone is interested, or would like to know more, please come and see me at a General Meeting, or you can send an email to [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk). Alternatively, you can contact Joan Stepto.

**Sandra Batchelor** - Groups Coordinator

*Meanwhile our Walking Group (pictured below) strides on. See Page 12 for views of their latest jaunt.*



# Committee News

## Chairman's Remarks

For two of our committee members our AGM on 17 March is their final meeting. Both by then will be rounding off contributions of two consecutive three-year periods under our new constitution.

Lynda Green, as our Events Organiser has, more than anyone else, showcased Poynton U3A in our area, making sure that we had representation and presence at the wide range of local meetings, most of which arise from the calendar of events which our Town Council publicise. Throughout her period of office she has quite literally set up our stall and become the face of Poynton U3A for us. But perhaps her greatest contribution for our members has been to our annual Christmas parties, designing the seating plan, ordering refreshments and providing tablecloths and table decorations. Successful Christmas parties don't just materialise by the waving of a magic wand. They are the result of careful and extensive planning. But no amount of planning can cover every eventuality. And it will usually be Lynda who comes to the rescue on these occasions. Someone who has spent their life delivering babies, on one occasion on a boat on our canal, with all the complexities and possibilities associated with that activity, is not at all likely to be fazed by anything that seems to be going wrong in a Christmas party!

Just like Lynda, Anne Wynn, who also has a nursing background, has filled a vital role while remaining for the most part in the background. Anne has been our official "Welcomer", meeting with those just joining us, making sure that those who come along as new members have a background to our U3A activities and following up on specific requests for information and advice. She above all others on the committee is the person who has had by far and away the most individual contacts with our members and for many years she ran coffee mornings in Wetherspoons for them. A significant number of Third Agers in Poynton are members of our U3A. Often they say hello to me when I'm walking around Poynton. They recognise me because I say a few things at the beginning of our General Meetings but I don't always recognise them outside the meetings. The reverse is true for Anne. It's not that most people know her, rather it's that she knows most people.

When I was a boy my family didn't have a car so our holidays always began with a train and in those days it was a huge locomotive. Those were the days of steam and at large railway stations as you were waiting for

the train to start you often heard the regular metallic sound as wheeltappers with their long-handled hammers struck the wheels and listened to the sound from their hammers to determine their integrity. Cracked wheels, like cracked bells, don't ring true and the whole safety of the train rested on these men who were heard but hardly ever seen. Anne and Lynda have carried out such roles for us. They have been regular providers of feedback on the integrity of our operation. And our committee, especially our chairman, will greatly miss their reports and comments. Our thanks to them for their contribution to our organisation.

**David Sewart**

<b>Diary Dates</b> <b>Monthly General Meetings</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month at 2.00pm - Poynton Civic Hall</b> <b>(Doors Open at 1.30pm)</b>	
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Victor Crawford - North West Air Ambulance
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	John Taylor - B.Sc. Herbal Medicine - 'Herbs for Health' including the treatment of colds, flu and osteoarthritis
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Paula Rabone - My time in the Crown Court
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dave Joy - Liverpool Cow Keepers - 'A Family History'

*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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> 2020.*

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

# Members' Corner

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## Journeys through Time and Mind

Why do we reach the stage when we find it hard to remember names and faces of people we know so well, and see often? We suffer the cringe-making, seemingly endless seconds when we begin to introduce one familiar person to another, equally familiar, and we flounder as the mind goes blank. Some people use word association tricks to remember names; not something which I find works for me. It leaves me so busy thinking about the crucial words until I have long lost the thread of any kick-start which might work.

The flip-side of this coin is having very distinct memories of faces, and sometimes the names, of folk who briefly crossed my path many moons ago.

Trixie, who sat next to me in 1974 on a flight to New York, and who never seemed to stop talking for the entire trip, apart from when eating or drinking, accompanied by a thankfully much quieter James. I remember that she related how her mink coat was made of tiny squares of fur sewn together by prisoners in Cyprus.

A little boy in the '60s in an hotel in Anglesey touring the tables after dinner and asking us, in the broadest Bolton accent, if we knew any jokes. We listened to his "Well there was this elephant and it got a peanut stuck up its trunk, so they covered it in chocolate and it come out a treat". All said with a deadpan face and no understanding of his punchline, which of course is now both dated and defunct but still makes me smile.

Long dead friends and relatives sometimes seem clearer than they did in life, while others have disappeared from my database for ever. Suddenly with amazing clarity past friends, or even those most unloved, crawl into my consciousness. Why? What happens in one's mind to resurrect these memories? Even more disconcerting is having a vivid dream about somebody who, when searching my brain on waking, I know has not appeared in my conscious mind for years.

How many people must we know during a lifetime, and why do some stick with us for ever? Answers on a postcard please.

**Helen J Stanley**

## What's in a Name?

Whilst taking a U3A short walk along the Poynton Canal we were in conversation with a fellow walker who commented on the amount of narrow boats lining the route. She has become quite fascinated by the names of the boats and wondered how and why they had been chosen

As we are owners of such a boat, we were able to tell her how we came to call our narrow boat 'Parys' (pronounced 'Par ace'). This is our story.

Whilst working in South Africa, Sandra and I took a holiday break into the Drakensberg Mountains, in the Transvaal. We came across the lovely, but wild, freshwater nature reserve by the name of Parys. A wonderful time was spent on the reserve where we hired a rowing boat and toured around the islands and amongst the wild life that lived there. It was such a wonderful place that it captured our hearts and we still think of it today.

After moving back to the UK some years later, living in Sandbach close to the Trent and Mersey Canal, then later moving to Poynton where we have the lovely Poynton Canal, it triggered the South African memories and we subsequently bought a narrow boat hull. We had a great time fitting out the boat to suit ourselves over the following years, between taking trips along the canals in the area. The only name we could choose to call it was of course Parys.

**John and Sandra Horsman**

## ***WARNING: THE FOLLOWING IS NOT AN ADVERT*** **Alexa**

For Christmas we decided to give ourselves a present of an Amazon Echo Dot, otherwise known as Alexa. Although we didn't expect her to arrive until early January she actually arrived before Christmas. We were so excited that, after collecting her from next door, lunch and putting the shopping away were both put on hold while we downloaded the App so that we could converse with our new toy. Every question starts with a 'wake' word to attract her attention (a bit like a small child) but we can ask about the weather, she makes a shopping list to order and can even turn lights on and off. She provides interesting facts about every day and wished us a Happy New Year but we declined her offer to sing Auld Lang Syne. If Alexa is unable to answer a question, she may say she doesn't know or refer you to the Alexa app.

*Continued on Page 10*

# Photography Group

## Photography Group - Portmadog

Every month the photography group has an outing - but there is a really special one. Only once per year. Although I am co-leader of the group, I've never been on that special one. Until this year.

Joyce organised it for us, planning well ahead, reccing the location, accommodation, opportunities, everything to make the outing a success.

This year it was Porthmadog in North Wales, a quaint little town that is well located for wildlife, steam trains, mountains, castles, everything that North Wales has to offer, including the weather. There was the odd opportunity of taking pictures entitled 'Abysmal', 'Totally Frozen', 'Absolutely Soaked', but over all we were very lucky, it was June after all.



*Harbour, Portmadog*

Much of the wildlife was keeping its head down making for challenging photography. We did manage to see, up close, some pretty birds, Blue, Great and Long Tailed Tits, Woodpecker, Egret - and more. So the experts tell me, as I'm not a twitcher. From further away, through telescope and video camera, we observed an Osprey family at Glaslyn Ospreys. They not only kept their heads down, they huddled together - sensible bird the Osprey.



*Blue Tit*



*Harlech Castle*

Harlech was the castle we went to see and the very pretty Portmeirion. We wandered around there, shooting what didn't move and had a coffee. We did visit quite a few cafes come to think of it. Later, by sheer chance, we could also observe Portmeirion from the mud flats across the estuary. The tide was totally out, the visibility was perfect, the light was good and all the wildlife decided to keep out of the biting wind, hiding in the hollows. They must have been, as we only saw the odd head bobbing up. No posers here. It still made for good photography as there was such a fine gradation of tones and hues - that's technical for pretty.



*The Toll House, Portmeirion*

Obviously we had to ascend to 1,085 metres (3,560 ft), yes, that's Snowdon, and all 7 of us were part of the 582,000 people who visit it each year. We did act our age and dipped into our pockets for the return journey by train. While waiting for our time slot at Llanberis, we had the odd cup of tea/coffee and wandered around searching for the 'Lone Tree By The Lakeside' which makes such an iconic photograph. We didn't find it. My theory is that a mean photographer chopped it so that he would be last to photograph it. Others think we looked in the wrong place.



# Photography Group



*Llyn Padarn  
from Dolbadarn  
Castle*

*(A view found  
during the failed  
search for the  
'Lone Tree')*

Our train was on time and it huffed and chuffed ever upwards with cloud shadows wildly chasing below us. We arrived close to the peak that was obscured by a thick, grey, cloud, but at least it wasn't raining. However, thanks to the howling conditions that featured so strongly in this venture, it didn't last long, and by the time we were on the actual peak, visibility was so good that we could see the sea. I've never been up there in such clear weather. Don't know how long it lasted as our choo-choo was descending and I didn't fancy a long walk.



*Conquest of Snowdon*



*View from Snowdon*

A very pleasant surprise from our excellent B&B host was a discount voucher for the Ffestiniog Railway. As this was the last day, we decided to have a shorter trip on this narrow gauge, just to Tanybwllch - in the Pullman Carriage. It is truly beautifully crafted. As a keen woodworker I was amazed by the effort, skill and time that must have gone into creating it. A short walk in the forest to snap a waterfall was all we had time for before heading back to the station. Going, we were the only occupants except for two Australians who booked the prime seats 6 months in advance. Coming back, there were more passengers, but a very jolly lot.



*Ffestiniog Railway, Tanybwllch*

Like all good things, it had to come to an end. After 3 days, I was itching to load my creations onto the computer and start the process of ditching, grading, editing and uploading images and have a proper look at them on a big screen. The 5 photographers on the journey produced 192 that they were willing to share with fellow U3A photographers.



*Station Inn, Portmadog*

Now, we just have to persuade Joyce to arrange the 'Really Special One' for 2020.....

**John Jurics**

# Groups List

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Acoustic Folk/Rock Band	Geoff Brindle	Contact Organiser
Art	David Williams	2.00-4.00pm Mondays at the Civic 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	Clive Hill	1.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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	Contact Organiser
Discussion	Barbara Jackson	Contact Organiser
D.I.Y.	Sue Badger	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in month
D.I.Y. 2 (Basics)	Jim McCann	Monthly. Contact Organiser
Electro-Acoustic Band	Ian Bowden	Contact Organiser
Family History	Moyna Barrott	2.00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday in month at the Civic Hall
French Conversation	Sandra & Keith Batchelor	Monthly. Usually Friday afternoon. Contact Organisers
Geology	Peter Bennett	Usually 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in month. Contact Organiser
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly
History	Wendy Fermor	2.00pm 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday in month
History 2	Geoff Reason	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday in month 2.00pm at Brookside Garden Centre
Music Appreciation	Liz Markham	2.00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday in month
Needlecrafts	Beryl Simpson	2.00-4.00pm 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in month at the Civic Hall
Newsletter	Clive Hill	Contact Organiser
Photography	Peter Bennett & Hilary Tivey John Jurics	Usually 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday in month 2.00pm at the Community Centre. Contact Organisers
Play Reading	Catherine Owen	2.15pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday in month
Reading Group 1	Iris Neale	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday in month. Contact Organisers
Scrabble	Kay Henshaw	2.00pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday in month
Short Walks	Joan Stepto	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in month
Spanish	Paul Freeborn	Mondays (except Bank Holidays) 10.15-11.45 at Wetherspoons
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	Every Tuesday 9.45-12.15, every Wednesday 2.00-4.30pm and every Thursday 1.30-4.30pm at Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday in month

# 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 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday afternoon at URC
Art Appreciation (Cheadle Hulme)		Contact Cheadle Hulme U3A	2.00-3.00 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday
Bridge (Cheadle & Gatley)	Linda Ewing	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in month
Cycling (Wilmslow)	Kate Bryant	Contact Wilmslow U3A	Weekly
Embroidery (Bramhall)			10.00-12.00 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday in month
English Country Dancing (Wilmslow)	Shan Bristow	Contact Wilmslow U3A	1.30-3.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays in month
Environment (Cheadle & Gatley)	Peter Briggs	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of month at 1.30pm
German (Cheadle & Gatley)	Lee Fairlie	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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



# Minibreak

## Norfolk

On our way to Norfolk we stopped off at Belton House in Lincolnshire, often described as the perfect example of an English country estate and one of the National Trust's most popular properties. We had time to visit this impressive house with its grand principal rooms, the not nearly so grand servants' quarters and the beautiful gardens before continuing our journey to our hotel in Norwich.



*Belton House*



*Belton Gardens*

In glorious sunshine on Saturday we explored Norwich, the best preserved medieval city in the UK with its historic cobbled streets, city walls, and the Norman castle and cathedral. There was something for everyone here, many interesting buildings, museums, attractive gardens and riverside area, independent and High Street shops and the largest permanent undercover market in Europe. An added bonus was that this was a heritage open day and so entry to all the museums was free. Mid-afternoon we set off to Wroxham, hub of the boating leisure industry, to catch a view of some of the Broads, the waterways for which Norfolk is famous.



*Norwich Cathedral*



*Wroxham*

On Sunday we travelled first to Holt, a historic Georgian market town with interesting buildings and independent shops, where apparently (although we didn't see one!) the royals are reputed to do their shopping. Our coach driver Malcolm then had some fun making everyone think that they might have to walk to our next destination before announcing a surprise trip by steam train on the heritage 'Poppy Line' railway to the lovely traditional seaside town of Sheringham.



*Poppy Line*



# Minibreak



*Sheringham*

By this time, although it was pouring with rain almost everywhere else, it was 27°C in Norfolk, the warmest place in the country and perfect weather for eating crab sandwiches and ice cream on the prom. Our last destination of the day was Cromer, a classic Victorian resort, now a little faded. It has a traditional seaside pier, the tallest church tower in Norfolk and a couple of interesting museums. We went into the one dedicated to Henry Blogg, a quiet and unassuming man but the most decorated RNLI lifeboat man in history, who served for 53 years on Cromer's lifeboats, and with his crew, saved over 870 lives.



*Cromer*

On Monday on the journey home we stopped first at Ely, home to one of England's most magnificent cathedrals with its unique and stunning octagon tower and a museum with a wonderful collection of stained glass. This city, the second smallest in England, has a compact centre with historic buildings, interesting shops and a very attractive waterside area where some people had a cruise on the river.



*Ely*



*Ely Stained Glass*

Our final stop on the tour was St Ives (not the one in Cornwall but the one in Cambridgeshire where you might have met a man with seven wives!) This historic market town was once an important river port; it has an attractive town centre and quay side and is particularly known for its 15<sup>th</sup> century bridge which unusually has a chapel in the centre. The Monday market was almost over when we got there but people still managed to bag a few bargains. Half an hour after we set off for home it started to rain but we didn't care as we were warm and dry on the coach by then!



*St Ives Bridge*

**Elaine Roe**

# Members' Corner

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**Alexa** – *continued from Page 3*

We had been in need of a replacement alarm clock for a while. After a few trials we now have one! Alexa 2 arrived yesterday. She plays music from our requested stations after waking us up! If we want a different radio station, we simply ask her. No more faffing about trying to find the correct one.

However, like any child, you can spend ages explaining exactly what alarm you want for different days of the week only for her to go her own sweet way and do exactly what you didn't want!

This Smart technology will eventually catch on, there are plugs, bulbs and even thermostats all controlled from your armchair. You merely have to say what you want. However, the day when she washes up or irons your clothes has yet to come.

Alexa will tell you that she comes from Amazon but she doesn't tell you that she is half price at the moment! *[Ed - At time of writing!]*

**Carol Gatenby**

## **"God bless the Queen of the Poor"**

So said the people of St Pancras. Edward VII said of her, "after my mother, the most remarkable woman in the kingdom". Charles Dickens described her as "the noblest spirit we can ever know". He dedicated "Martin Chuzzlewit" to her.

So, who was this lady? Her name was Angela Burdett-Coutts and she was born on 21 April 1814, the granddaughter of the banker, Thomas Coutts. It was Thomas' second wife, a former actress who had remarried the Duke of St Albans, a man half her age, who left Angela her enormous wealth making her the richest woman in England, second only to Queen Victoria.

"What is the use of my means but to try and do some good with them?" declared Angela. She was a notable benefactor of the Church of England, building St Stephen's church in Rochester Row, Westminster and adjoining schools in 1849. The Burdett-Coutts Church of England Primary School flourishes there to this day.

Miss Coutts (as she was most often addressed) assisted poor families to emigrate and founded the bishoprics of Adelaide and Cape Town along with Victoria in Canada. To each she gave £50,000.

She invested in Canadian railways and took an interest in the Hudson's Bay company. Two towns in Canada still bear her name.

Charles Dickens became a close advisor directing her social work and she supported his Ragged Schools and together they set up a home for "fallen" women –

Urania Cottage. They also established a model for social housing in Bethnal Green. Today the street names remain – Baroness Road, Burdett Road. Miss Coutts paid for the education of Dickens' son, Charley.

She built drinking fountains – an elaborate one in Victoria Park, London, costing £7000 and one in Ancoats. (If anyone has seen it, we would love a photograph.) The story of Greyfriars Bobby in Edinburgh moved her greatly and she funded the statue of him there.

She tried to revive the Lancashire cotton industry by encouraging cotton growing in Africa and sent out cotton gins.

Miss Coutts funded the expeditions of David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley. She sent frequent aid to Ireland and promoted the fishing industry there.

She loved animals and helped to found the RSPCA. She promoted goat's milk and was President of the British Goats' Society and the British Beekeepers' Association. One of the first meetings to found the NSPCC took place in her drawing room.

A portrait of Miss Coutts hangs on the stairway of the Royal Marsden Hospital. William Marsden who founded it in 1851 was given an interest free loan by Miss Coutts who laid the foundation stone in 1859.

Miss Coutts met anyone who was anyone in Victorian London. Queen Victoria visited her at her homes. Liszt played the piano for her at her London residence. She was friends with Gladstone, Disraeli, Michael Faraday, Charles Babbage and Florence Nightingale. She sent the latter a drying machine when she was in the Crimea which was specially built and cost £500.

Miss Coutt's private life was complex and surprising. For 18 years she suffered the attention of a 'stalker'. In her thirties she proposed to the 78-year-old Duke of Wellington (he gently turned her down), and in 1880 when she herself was 66, she scandalised polite society by marrying a man of 29, thus following the example of her stepmother. The 25 year long marriage to American Ashmead Bartlett appears to have been a happy one.

In later life many honours were bestowed on her and she was the first woman that Queen Victoria made a Baroness in her own right. She died at the age of 92 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

The Coutts Foundation today builds on Angela's legacy and one of its core areas is tackling issues that affect women and girls in the UK.

**Catherine Owen - History Group**

# Members' Corner

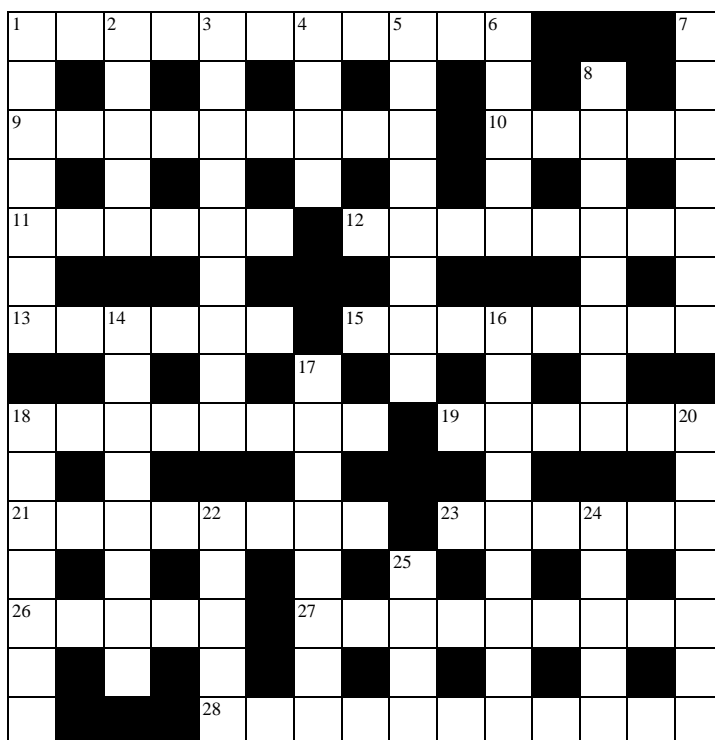
## POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.28

### ACROSS

1. Plan a trip with young adult initially becoming involved. (4,1,4,2)
9. Repairs to Big Ben that went smoothly. (9)
10. Backwards or forwards, it will keep going round. (5)
11. Take no notice – It's nearly all foreign mish mash. (6)
12. Variant of malaria initially caught from squid. (8)
13. Land tenure for Socialist with silver (Egyptian). (6)
15. Look at pet who really should be watching you! (8)
18. A small opening made from stewed pear – True! (8)
19. Raise concern about victim. (6)
21. European bird set about to dominate. (8)
23. Poet Laureate relaxed giving enjoyment. (6)
26. Very small part in play, as well (5)
27. Carl hated being used to build a place of worship. (9)
28. Noblewoman has a month to behead large female cat. (11)

### DOWN

1. One hundred and nine-ninety pins all in a jumble at outdoor meals. (7)
2. Trouble with Royal Navy – They like to dress up! (5)
3. Famous wheelsmith in the early cotton industry, associated with Joan – Sounds OK? (9)
4. A male cat is the smallest thing imaginable. (4)
5. Subtract – A Chinese, possibly? (8)
6. Opera composed by drunken Roman. (5)
7. Income is in range, strangely. (7)
8. Darts thrown backwards, 550 extra scored, now step over. (8)
14. Tarry substance made from mixing core with toes. (8)
16. Spanish gentleman to brace all with nothing stirred in. (9)
17. Mistakenly procured manufacturer. (8)
18. French well in a mountain? That should make nice surroundings. (7)
20. Confused tillers end up with a framework. (7)
22. The Peers make a right meal of it. (5)
24. Strangely eager to concur. (5)
25. Yearn for a piece of Fruitchew. (4)



### Crossword Puzzle No.27 Solution



Compiled by the Poynton U3A Crossword Group.

**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](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk).**



# Walking Group

## Bollington Walk - February

On a beautiful, sunny, but crisp day over twenty members enjoyed a varied walk led by Stephen. Starting from the Adlington Road car park underneath the viaduct in Bollington, he led us up onto the Middlewood Way giving us a history of the old railway and pointing out historical buildings from our high vantage point over the town. Before leaving the Middlewood Way we passed a stone labyrinth erected to commemorate past, present and future years of the Bollington Festival and its' founder Dr. John Coupe MBE. The stone was supplied by the nearby quarry at Endon and the artists were Jeff Teasdale and Lorna Green.



*The Bollington Festival Labyrinth*

Our route took us over Macclesfield Canal alongside which several mills had been erected allowing easy access for goods to be loaded onto narrow boats. These buildings now house various, more modern businesses.



*A Mill on the Macclesfield Canal*

We walked onwards towards the Kerridge Ridge passing quarries along the way. After reaching the top we stopped for drinks and to catch our breath before a final climb up to the trig point which stands at 313M above sea level. We paused here to admire the delightful views over Rainow and beyond.



*Trig Point on Kerridge Ridge*



*Looking down to Rainow*



*White Nancy*

Some of the group returned via White Nancy while the majority took a bridle path down to Waulkmill Wood which is owned by the Woodland Trust, along Ingersley Vale passing the former mill and its water wheel house (2nd largest in the country). Then across to Cow Lane, Chancery Lane through the Gleave estate (a fine example of sky line development (?) from the 1960s). Onto Hurst Lane down the Hole in the Wall and by the River Dane through the Recreation Ground back to the Car Park. Some then went to the Vale Inn for a late lunch.

**Kate Marsham**