



## **Acting Chairman's Remarks**

Those attending our Christmas Meeting were entertained by a virtuoso performance from our busker and story teller, Eric Newton. He gave us glimpses of a life of differing fortunes – some good and some not so good - in a long and varied career, covering travels between the UK and Australia. If we had not been constrained by our booking of the Civic Hall, it may well be that many of us would have been happy for him to continue into the evening, possibly sending out to the local shops for fish and chips, pizzas and the like to sustain us!

Our January meeting was attended by a record number of 199 members, both rejoining as members and also hearing from one of the country's most outstanding experts, Professor Tony Ryan OBE, of Sheffield University, on the sources of energy at our disposal in future years. Those, like me, who got lost in the details of the chemistry of carbon, will still have carried away with them a greater understanding of what the world faces in its hunger for energy.

At our AGM in March we will have a new Committee under our new Constitution. We will also be looking inwards at ourselves in Poynton as Malcolm Adams, our Town Clerk, will be showing us the video 'Welcome to Poynton' which has been commissioned by Poynton Town Council. Now that our U3A is probably the largest membership group in our town, perhaps we should spend some time thinking about how we can reach out even further to all the people of Poynton we were set up to support.

**David Sewart**

**Acting Chairman**

## **Coffee Mornings**

The Coffee mornings for all our members (and especially new members) are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Wetherspoon's Kingfisher from 10.30am, so the next one will be 26<sup>th</sup> March (then 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> May). Buy yourself a coffee on the way in and come for a chat. We are usually in the section beyond the bar, near the glass-fronted cellar area.

**Anne Wynn**

## **Life Planning for the over Fifties**

Wilmslow Guild (01625 523903) are running a free one day course on Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 from 10.00am to 4.00pm to help you consider current and future choices and to give you ideas for a change of pace or direction.

<b>Diary Dates</b>	
<b>Monthly General Meetings</b>	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month at 2pm Poynton Civic Hall</b>	
<b>March 18th</b>	<b>AGM</b>
<b>April 15th</b>	<b>Mike Clarke</b> <b>The True History of Chocolate</b>
<b>May 20th</b>	<b>David Tomlinson – Ex-Managing Director of Warburtons</b> <b>The Staff of Life</b>
<b>June 17th</b>	<b>Barry Jackson</b> <b>Vexillology – The Study of Flags</b>

The next copy date for the Poynton U3A Newsletter is May 9<sup>th</sup>. Can you please email your contribution to [newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk) or give it to a committee member.

# News from the Groups

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## Science and Technology Group

In February we enjoyed an interesting trip to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and at our meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March, we had an excellent trip to Robinson's Brewery. In the future we plan to have some meetings where we will discuss various Scientific and Technological Issues, interspersed by trips to places, such as Jodrell Bank. Our next meeting is on 1<sup>st</sup> April from 2pm till 4pm. If you would like to know more about this group please contact **Jo Leach** for details.

## Table Tennis

Table tennis is proving to be a very popular activity. There are 40 plus members on our list, and we regularly have more than 24 players each session. To enable everyone to have a reasonable number of games, we are increasing our time by one hour. We will be meeting from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first 4 Thursdays in the month.

**Janet Gill**

## Birdwatching Group

Date	Destination
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Marbury, Northwich
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Sandbach Flashes
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Lindow Common (Dawn Chorus-6.30)
May	Woolston Eyes( full day)
May/early June	Conway (full day)

We had a lovely day at Pennington Flash and we saw over 40 species of birds. For more details please contact **Peter Owen**

## Diners' Club

**Gerard Miller** has kindly taken over the overall organisation of this group and he is now looking for volunteers to plan the meals for July and November 2014.

## DIY

We all met at Viv's on Tuesday 25th February to decide on our next project(s). We have been given a book on DIY by one of our members and we were asked to choose something we wished to make from this book. We were then given a copy of the plans. Carol bought a cushion cover she had made and suggested that we have a session on making these. Our next meeting is to be Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April at Sue's

where we will shown how to gift wrap difficult shapes. Then on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April we will meet at Jane's, where we will review the project we have decided on, and, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June we will meet at Carol's to begin making a cushion cover, for which everyone will need to provide their own cushion inner and material.

**Sue Badger**

## Day Trips 2014

The programme for this year's day trips has now been announced, the information is available on our website or at the General Meetings. Bookings are now being taken for our first two outings.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April We will be going to the National Trust Dunham Massey. To mark the centenary of WW1 it has been transformed to Stamford Military Hospital as it was between 1917 and 1919.

Depart Poynton 10.00am and leave Dunham Massey approx 3.30pm.

National Trust Members £7.00. Non-National Trust members £17.00

(Although this trip is now fully booked, you can still add your name to the waiting list)

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May We will go to Blists Hill Victorian Town in Telford, where you can discover how the Victorians lived and worked.

Depart Poynton 9.30 am and leave Blists Hill about 3.30pm. Cost £22.00 per person

If you would like to book for these trips please contact Iris or Gerry.

**Iris and Gerry Neale**

## Short Walks

Short walks are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. All the walks are gentle, about two miles in length and take one hour to one hour and a half. Meet at the Civic Centre at 10.30am, or at the start of the walk at 10.45am. The programme for March to May 2014 is:

Date	Walk
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Petre Bank, start at the Civic Centre
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Jackson's Brickworks Nature Reserve
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Happy Valley, Bramhall
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Lyme Park from West Park Gate
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Lyme View from Nelson Pit Centre
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Bluebell Walk and Styperson Pool

**Bob Stepto**

# News from the Groups

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## Art appreciation group

In September 2013, two members joined a trip to Glasgow organised by the Cheadle Hulme U3A to visit houses and museums associated with Charles Rennie Mackintosh and they gave a presentation to the group about it in February.

During the 4-day trip they visited the Burrell Collection, the Huntarian Museum and saw fine examples of works by the Glasgow Boys and the Scottish Colourists in the Kelvingrove Gallery. The highlight of the trip was a visit to the House for an Art Lover, a beautiful building designed by Mackintosh for himself and his wife Margaret. Margaret Mackintosh was a brilliant decorative artist in her own right and was arguably an influence on the Secessionist artist Gustav Klimt. Later, they had afternoon tea in the renowned Willow Tea Room on Sauchiehall Street and visited the world famous Glasgow School of Art, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

On the last day they went north to Hill House in Helensburgh. The House was designed by Mackintosh for the publisher Walter Blackie and showed great attention to detail regarding the furnishings and fixtures.

The next date arranged for the Art Appreciation Group are Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March when we'll probably catch the 10.30 train from Poynton, to visit Manchester Art Gallery to see the latest exhibition, 'Time Machine', followed by lunch. Then we will go to the drop-in session at 2.00pm.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April we will meet at Glenys' house to discuss women artists from the early 1600s to the present day. We will each choose an artist and tell the group about her work.

**Kath Bell and Carol Gatenby**

## Creative writing

A mere two and a half years ago, we were a young group, struggling for numbers to the extent that we became an 'open' group, admitting members from other U3A groups in North East Cheshire. This must have been the shot in the arm we needed because

now we are thriving, so much so that in the summer we published 'Memories', a well-received anthology of our work. A few copies remain (£3 a piece) at the time of writing.

What are we up to now? In December, we visited two care homes to read our Christmas stories and poems to residents who were pleased to see new faces as well as enjoying the entertainment. Currently we are writing about spring.

In a mutually encouraging environment writers gain confidence and produce increasingly good work. We welcome new members, keen to discover their latent talent. Please come to speak to us at our table before or after General Meetings. We meet at 2pm, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at Davenport Golf Club on Towers Road.

**Veronica O'Connor & Ann Walker**

## Embroidery

The group has taken part in two projects this year. The first was to make a tactile book for the Clear Vision Library, which is a postal lending library for blind and sighted children and adults to share. The completed book was shown at an open meeting before being sent to the library by Melanie Mortimer, who co-ordinated this project. Our thanks are due to her for all her hard work.

The second one was the Patchwork Meadow Project, which aims to create a giant patchwork meadow celebrating our floral heritage. Plants, flowers or trees native to this country were stitched into 15 cm squares using any embroidery technique and then mounted individually before being collated and sewn into one giant work by the Patchwork Project itself. All our work included the name of Poynton U3A and, hopefully, we shall be able to view some of the finished work when it goes on exhibition. This project was organised by Maggie Morrison and we are very grateful to her.

We are all doing our own thing at present, but hope to come up with another project which will co-ordinate our different interests.

**Barbara Davies**

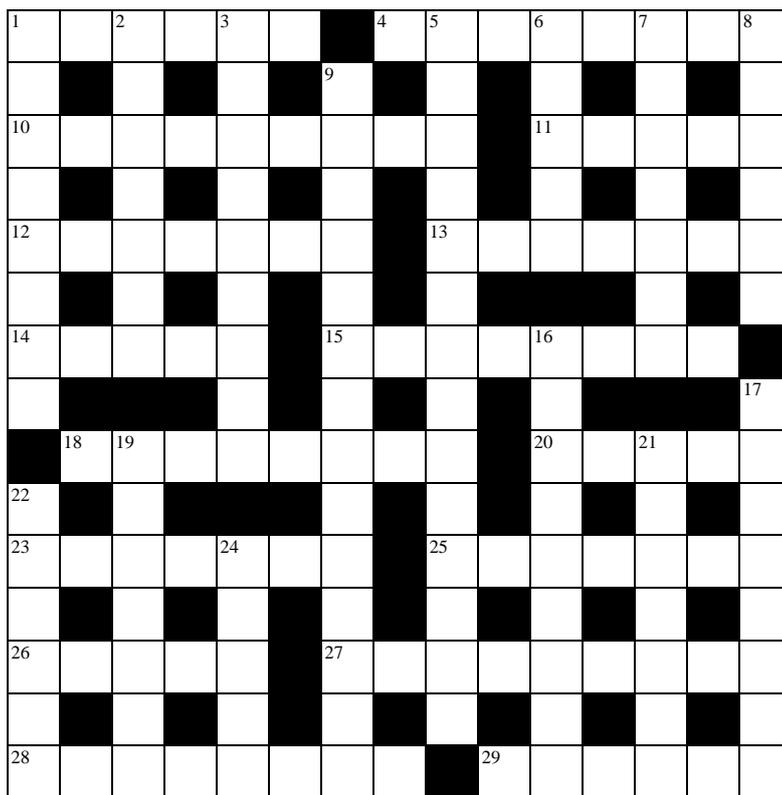
**Message to all Group Organisers :** When you email your group members about arrangements, please send a copy to [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk) so that we can keep the website up to date. Thank you.

# Members' Corner

## POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.9

### ACROSS

- 1 Mixed pate served outside cricket club – I'll have some. (6)
- 4 With the Bishop on TV, Marie was quoted exactly. (8)
- 10 Very bright star seen in brilliant reflection of river. (9)
- 11 Spinning plane finds Asian country. (5)
- 12 To comfort in an old fashioned way. (7)
- 13 Female saint in Europe. (7)
- 14 Ogre reborn as diving bird when beheaded and tailed. (5)
- 15 Stride round very softly, having been plundered maybe.(8)
- 18 An umpire wearing a wellie hasn't any shoes or socks.(8)
- 20 A hundred fail to finish. (5)
- 23 A stipend owed contains enough to provide for one gifted. (7)
- 25 Wanting mixed fuel den. (7)
- 26 Five in blue involved in forging. (5)
- 27 Cancelled – I'm stuck in a ploughed field with only nitrogen and uranium left! (9)
- 28 Doddy ventured outside where it was unlit. (8)
- 29 Silver pipe? – Yes! (6)



### DOWN

- 1 Barge set loose to clean. (8)
- 2 Each cup provides headgear for religious order. (7)
- 3 Cut inside drunken peer and carry on. (9)
- 5 I spy extra angle – how irritating. (14)
- 6 Seems like these people don't allow union membership. (5)
- 7 Beef about best team. (7)
- 8 Old comedian sick in French sea. (6)
- 9 Letters of agreement. (14)
- 16 Kent pig from west end of Cirencester involved in striking. (9)
- 17 Heard said the clue is inside, yet tucked away. (8)
- 19 What a cockney robber demands in Hampshire town. (7)
- 21 Illegal position footballer is in when he's not on edge. (7)
- 22 Male held in complete regard. (6)
- 24 Wield broken Oscar. (5)

Compiled by the Poynton U3A Crossword Group. If you would like to join us contact Ed Milius

## Poynton U3A Crossword Puzzle No.8 Solution

