



Bob Stepto (1937-2015) – An appreciation

Bob was a kind, gentle man who worked tirelessly for Poynton U3A. He and Joan were founding members and believed passionately in getting the organisation up and running for the benefit of the Poynton Community.

Bob and Joan were the groups coordinators for Poynton U3A from the beginning. The U3A is defined by its groups and it was a huge task to get them started, but a task that was taken on willingly by Bob and one from which he never wavered. He beavered away in the background, even when he was unwell, and always wanted his computer when he had to go to hospital so that he could keep abreast of the work.

He took on many roles in the organisation, including leading the Short Walks, being involved with the German group, helping to get other groups started and sending articles to Poynton Post. He was a key member of the communications sub-committee and was instrumental in deciding on the content of the Newsletters and Website.

He was a delight to work with – always unfailingly courteous.

Bob was the man in the waistcoat, serving bubbly to Interest Group Leaders at the annual gathering.

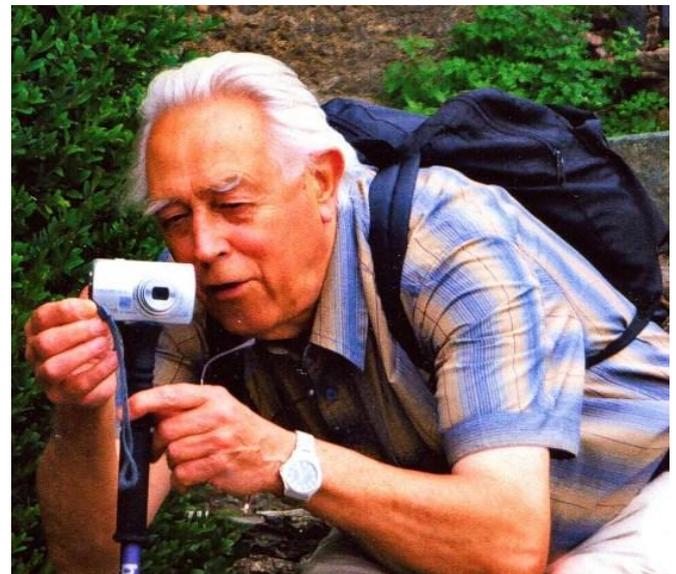
He had an illustrious scientific career, of which we knew little until his funeral, and used his academic

contacts to secure Professor Tony Ryan as speaker at our general meeting in January 2014, where he insisted on introducing Tony to the audience.

Bob enjoyed putting his computer skills to the test and was a stickler for accuracy. In the earlier days he was a sound councillor, bringing his life's knowledge to the team.

Thank you Bob. You will be greatly missed.

Memories from original committee members



Malcolm Adams, Poynton's Town Clerk, has retired. We would like to thank him for his help since the inauguration of the Poynton U3A. It was during a period of flux in Poynton, moving from a Village to a Town, and the inception of the shared space, together with the proposed new road schemes. Malcolm was always available and happy to be consulted on various matters. His calm diplomatic manner will be very much missed. We wish him a very happy retirement.

Clive B Hill – Vice Chairman

Committee News

Chairman's Remarks

We are greatly saddened to report the death of Bob Stepto. Bob was one of the dedicated group who worked to bring about our U3A in Poynton 5 years ago. An appreciation appears on the previous page.

Our August General meeting was treated to an interesting – perhaps gripping is a better word – presentation on the early life of Mary Queen of Scots and we look forward to hearing of her later life – and abrupt end - at some point. In September we were reminded of the importance of the hatting industry in this area. Our speaker had brought a huge selection of hats from all round the world. And his talk provided us with an explanation of the often dangerous and extremely unhealthy processes by which hats emerged from animal fur. We were also invited to see more at the tours round the hat Museum in Stockport.

At our October Committee Meeting we confirmed that our membership fee for 2016, our 6th year of operation, will again remain at £10. We have also begun to take a look at the sort of membership, mailing and finance systems which we will need in the future, retaining our existing methods but also at the same time beginning to offer on-line registration and payment for those who prefer this. Meanwhile we will continue with our existing systems throughout 2016.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Christmas Meeting on 15th December which offers Christmas fare, quizzes and music provided by Mart Rodger's quartet playing Traditional and Dixieland Jazz.

David Sewart

[The Christmas Meeting will be for Poynton U3A members only. The normal £1 admission charge will apply – Ed]

Diary Dates	
Monthly General Meetings	
3rd Tuesday in month at 2pm - Poynton Civic Hall	
December 15 th	Christmas Meeting
January 19 th	Paul and Nick Bianchi - The History of Arighi Bianchi
February 16 th	Val Cottam MBE - My Road to the Olympics
March 15 th	AGM

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held at Wetherspoons on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.30am. All members and prospective members are welcome to join us for a coffee and chat in informal surroundings.

Please note there is no coffee morning in December.

Anne Wynn

Membership Renewal

You will be able to renew your membership for 2016 using the form printed here if you are unable to attend the January General Meeting. Renewal details will also be sent by email in January. Please do not send postal renewals before January 1st 2016. In order for us to keep in touch with you please let me know if your contact details have changed, that is, phone, address or email. You can contact me on membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk or by enclosing a note with the renewal form. If renewing by post please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for return of your new membership card.

Membership is staying at £10 per annum.

If you would like to renew your subscription to the Third Age Matters magazine you will be able to do so on renewals day in January.

Kate Marsham – Membership Secretary

Poynton U3A Membership Renewal Form Subscription for 2016 is still £10.00

Memberships expire at the end of December and you cannot attend the AGM in March if you are not a current member. To continue to enjoy the activities run by Poynton U3A you need to renew your membership by January 31st 2016. You can do this at our General Meeting on Tuesday January 19th 2016 or by post using the following form.

Title _____ First name _____ Family name _____ Membership no. _____

Please list any changes to your contact details (including changes to your email address) :-

Please post this form with your old membership card, a stamped self-addressed envelope and a cheque for £10.00 (made payable to Poynton U3A) to Poynton U3A Membership Secretary, 98 Vernon Road, Poynton, Cheshire SK12 1YR.

Views from the Groups

Science Group

If you stand on the Otterspool Bridge next to the Wyevale Garden Centre and look downstream you will see Stockport Hydro. We've driven over the bridge lots of times and never seen it!



Stockport Hydro is a community micro hydroelectric scheme which 14 members of the group visited in September. We had a very interesting tour lead by a pair of the scheme's volunteers. Thanks to Helen and John Long for organising the visit.

Derek Gatenby

Bus Pass Explorer Group

This was great, only one and a half hours ago I left Poynton on the No.392 bus to Macclesfield then the No.27 to Knutsford. I walked along Princess Street (known as Top Street) to the end, turning right immediately after The Old Sessions House. The Heritage Way led me down to the Courtyard Coffee Shop and The First Penny Farthing Museum. An assortment of penny farthing bicycles are suspended from the ceiling of the conservatory and café, where a model train runs on rails round the walls at picture-rail height. Outside is a delightful courtyard with seating area, where I had a coffee and later returned for a bite to eat. Next door in the Heritage Centre one can see the impressive Knutsford Millennium Tapestry. The Volunteers in the shop were helpful and informative, and offered me an Official Town Guide, which I perused while sitting on a bench in one of the two secluded little courtyard gardens.

There are some picturesque and historic lanes and yards off Princess Street and King Street (known locally as Bottom Street). A fine example is Marble Arch, set in an elegant Georgian building which was once probably a coaching inn. In July the view through was enhanced by a colourful display of flowers. On the same street the Italianate style Gaskell Memorial has the titles of Elizabeth Gaskell's novels engraved on it, a reminder of the influence the town had on this Victorian author.

At 3:15pm I left Knutsford vowing to return, I will try to make it on a Friday as there is a one hour walk round Knutsford, charge £5, and there is more to explore, such as the Knutsford Antique Centre and the Brook Street Heritage Site.



The garden at the Knutsford Heritage Centre.

Members of the group have done day trips to several destinations, including Buxton, The Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester Art Gallery, and Well Dressing at Ashford-in-the-Water, sharing their experiences at the following meeting.

Vivienne Arnold

Creative Writing Group

The Creative Writing Group continues to produce interesting work as enjoyed by the audience at our Reading Afternoon at Poynton's recently refurbished Library on 28th September. We read a variety of prose and poetry, some of which had previously been published in our "Memories" anthology. To add to the theme of memory, we had a small collection of everyday items and papers from the past, which prompted anecdotes from everyone.



The reaction of the audience to hearing the pieces read to them was quite interesting. Especially well received was an amusing dialogue between a mother and her young son. Several people asked when we would give another reading. Watch this space! Another example of our reaching out to the community has been reading to residents in care homes who were greatly entertained by our efforts, and we will be doing this again in the future.

Ann Walker

Groups List

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Acoustic Folk/Rock Band	Geoff Brindle	Contact Organiser
Antiques	Judith Davis	Contact Organiser
Art	David Williams Tony Worthington	1.30-3.30pm Mondays St. Martin's Church 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.
Bridge	Dorothy Rowland	2.00pm alternate Mondays Civic Hall
Bus Pass Explorer	Vivienne Arnold Evelyn Shepherd	Contact Organiser. Next meeting in Spring
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	Contact Organiser
Day Trips	Iris & Gerry Neale	Information at General Meetings & on website
Diners' Club (Overall Organiser: Gerard Miller)	Elaine Mason Olga Jones	Lunch at The Three Bears, Jacksons Lane. Friday Nov 20 th - 12.00 for 12.15
D.I.Y.	Sue Badger	Contact Organiser.
Embroidery	Barbara Davies	2.30pm 4 th Thursday in month
Exercise Class	Irene Johnson	St Martin's Church Hall 10.45 - 11.45 1 st Wednesday in month (For additional classes see next page.)
Family History	Moyna Barrott	Twice monthly. Contact Organiser.
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 Beginners	Catherine Owen	Monthly. Contact Organiser.
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly
History Group 1	Wendy Fermor Dorothy Bayman	2.00pm 4 th Tuesday in month
History Group 2	Les Simpson	Contact Organiser
Laptop & Internet Basics	Jack Taylor	Information at General Meetings & on web site
Photography	Jan Slinn John Jurics	Monthly. Contact Organisers.
Play Reading	Catherine Owen	2.15 1 st Tuesday in month
Reading Group 1	Iris Neale	2 nd Tuesday in month
Reading Group 2	Glenys Parry-Jones	Contact Organiser.
Science & Technology	Carol & Derek Gatenby	Contact Organisers. (Next meeting Friday 20 th November)
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 10-11.30am
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	2.00-4.00pm 1 st four Thursdays and 1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays in month, Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 st Thurs in month

Groups List

Other Poynton Groups open to our U3A Members

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Exercise Class	Irene Johnson	St Martin's Church Hall 10.45am-11.45am 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Wednesdays in month
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	Meeting
Art (Bramhall)	Peter Richardson	1.00-3.00 alternate Mondays
Badminton (Bramhall)	Douglas Moore	2.00-4.00 Tuesdays
Church History (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	10.00 alternate Wednesdays
Creative Writing (Bramhall)	Pat George	2.00 2 nd Wednesday in month
Cycling (Wilmslow)	Richard Thomas	Weekly - Contact Organiser
Embroidery (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	10.00 2 nd Thursday
Line Dancing (Bramhall)	Chris Chapman	1.30 -3.30 Wednesdays
Personal Image (Bramhall)	Catherine Jones	6-week courses, Thursdays 10.00-12.00
Scottish Country Dancing (Bramhall)	Sheila Bruce-Smith	1.30-3.00 Fortnightly, Fridays
Wine Tasting (Bramhall)	Jenny Richmond	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 committee member. The next copy date for the Poynton U3A Newsletter is February 8th 2016.

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. Also remember to check that participants in your group are Poynton U3A members. It is in your own interest!

Members' Corner

Cheshire Show

As you are probably aware, it is the centenary of the Women's Institute. It is also the 95th anniversary of the Cheshire Federation.



For the Cheshire Show, Middlewood & Higher Poynton W.I. did the combined co-operative class entitled "Happy Birthday Cheshire". Members from the knitting group headed by Jean Doyle knitted the Town Crier. Ann Tofield (Cake Decorating) made the tea tray, teapot, sugar basin and milk jug in the style of Clarice Cliffe. She also made the biscuits iced with a Cheshire cat motif. The staging was a combined effort by Ann and Beryl Marston (another U3A member). We were very pleased to win 1st prize in our category.

Three proud Poynton U3A members

National Memorial Arboretum

A personal reflection

September's outing saw our members visiting the National Memorial Arboretum at the western end of the National Forest near Lichfield, on a pleasant autumn day. Within its 150 acres there are over 50,000 trees and more are being planted every year. The Arboretum was opened in 2001. It has some way to go before it can match the magnificence and maturity of the Westonbirt Arboretum near Cirencester. But that had a 150 year head start! And the National Memorial has, as its name implies, a more important purpose. It is a living tribute to the memory of men and women who suffered and lost their lives in the service of others like ourselves.

Like many of us I went on the trip with a purpose. Less than 2 years ago I attended the funeral of the last member of my parents' generation – those who had real experience of World War II. Each of them had come through the war. But only at a cost - some physical, some mental. And that experience made them different from me. As a small boy in the centre of post-war Manchester there was nothing more exciting than the exploration of bomb sites and the search for bits of shrapnel or ammunition casings to

collect and swap at school. For my parents' generation these sites had a very different and much more sinister meaning. They were the ever-present reminders of times when death came to Manchester at night from the sky.

But I found amongst the hundreds of memorials that I expected to see, surprises which were much closer to my own personal experience. The first news report which I ever followed in the Manchester Evening News was the breakout of HMS Amethyst in 1949 from the Yangtse river after being trapped by Chinese Communist forces for some 3 months. The ship's commander was killed in the first round of engagement and its cat, Simon, seriously injured. But Simon recovered to return to his task of ridding the ship of rats. He became a national celebrity in British and World news and was awarded the Dickin Medal (the animal VC). And he has his memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum.

In January 2003, the year before we came to Poynton, I had read of the murder by a terrorist of Stephen Oake, a member for over 20 years of the Greater Manchester Police. Posthumously awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal he had been born in Poynton. And his memorial is pictured here (thanks to David Lloyd's photography).



It is possible, of course, to describe the Arboretum simply as a memorial of man's inhumanity to man. My fellow travellers and I preferred rather to see it as a memorial of thanks to those who have given us the freedom in which we live today.

An enjoyable, inspiring and thought-provoking day. Our thanks to Iris for arranging it.

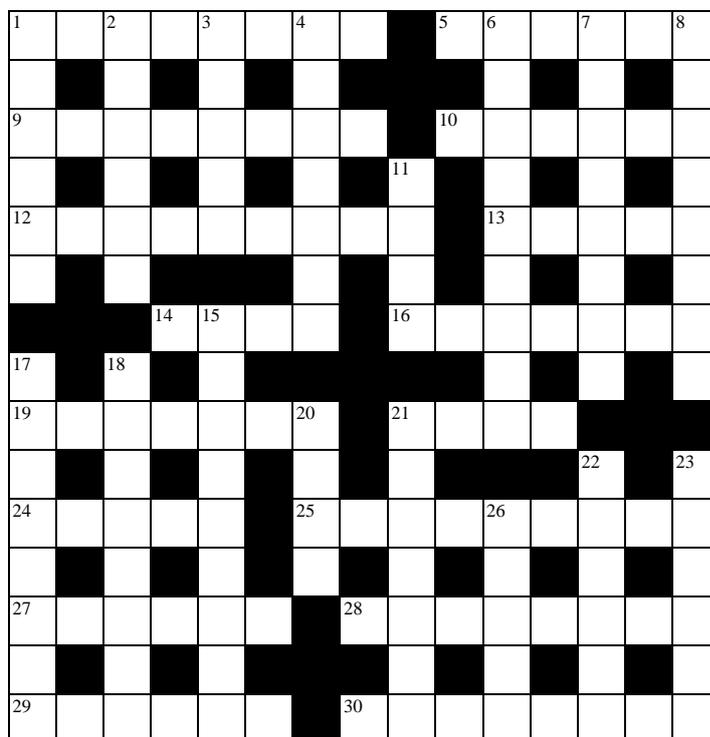
David Sewart

Members' Corner

POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.15

ACROSS

- 1 & 24 Tugboat with brandy and nothing else for an old coastal defence. (8,5)
 5 Sounds like a beauty queen, but completely out of place. (6)
 9 Pie filled with turnips, tomatoes, avocados, noodles and carrots for starters? It's chicken feed. (8)
 10 Broken windows? Wife's missing but it's not me. (6)
 12 Aquatic insect found in gory part of Flanders. (9)
 13 Central pharmacy offering a Greek start. (5)
 14 The young salmon's in reasonable condition, right? (4)
 16 In a river half a dozen start to flow back finding evidence of the past. (7)
 19 That retort was the ropiest - all jumbled up. (7)
 21 Send for a leaf. (4)
 24 See 1 Across.
 25 Cat eats polish, becoming full of aggression. (9)
 27 Din created as session regroups, having lost its central character. (6)
 28 Quantity of paper required to cover AGM - what a minefield! (8)
 29 A heavy load loses its top, leaving most of a ton. (6)
 30 Salesman has Lego pieces - enough for snakes and lizards, etc. (8)



DOWN

- 1 Despaired with speedy start for powered vehicles. (6)
 2 Furniture material made from creased tartan. (6)
 3 Orate garbage about one of the nine muses. (5)
 4 Cruel treatment, if included to make a match. (7)
 6 One Chinese dynasty allows in French film director - that's flattering. (9)
 7 Some of that powder gets stirred for use in ambulation. (8)
 8 Getting tipsy, sat and drank from these mugs. (8)
 11 Type of cowshed found in Derby residential area. (4)
 15 Crown found inside missing sponge. (9)
 17 Quiet confused man makes false claim. (8)
 18 Make music about chessman when generating. (8)
 20 Extrasensory perception you start to get a glimpse of. (4)
 21 Field beyond a river where the cows graze. (7)
 22 Refusal to face round a printer's measurement. (6)
 23 Seat on board conjures up benefits. (6)
 26 Something other holding cast metal. (5)

Crossword Puzzle No.14 Solution

P	A	N	A	C	E	A	S	I	D	E	C	A	R
A	A	L	G	O	E	O	A						
R	O	C	K	I	N	G	C	A	L	U	M	E	T
T	E	N	R	L	E	P	T						
I	L	L	A	T	E	A	S	E	G	R	O	W	L
T	L			V			A	S	E				
A	R	E	N	A	A	P	A	R	T	H	E	I	D
			N	T	F	E							
A	B	S	T	I	N	E	N	T	S	W	I	S	H
L	E	M				E			C	O			
M	A	N	G	O	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R	S
A	A	S	K	M	O	C	I						
N	I	T	R	I	T	E	A	C	T	U	A	T	E
A	O	T	I	T	O	P	R						
C	A	R	R	Y	O	N	H	O	N	E	S	T	Y

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

Art Appreciation



Port Sunlight, Whitworth Art Gallery and The Lowry

The Art Appreciation group have been on their travels again. In June we went to Port Sunlight and enjoyed a glorious day. We appreciated art and antique furniture with a guided tour of the Lady Leverhulme Art Gallery and also architecture in the beautifully preserved Port Sunlight village.

In July we visited the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester. The Art Gallery won Museum of the Year Award and the stunning new extension was short-listed for the Stirling Prize awarded by the Royal British Architects Institute. In artistic terms, we travelled all the way from trying to spot the boy who recognised himself from Lowry's painting of the Ancoats Hospital Outpatients and remembered Lowry standing drawing in the corner, to the Axe Head installation of Ai Wei Wei.

More recently a select few saw a lot more of Lowry's work, visiting the Lowry exhibition in Salford, this time swapping the tram for the more usual bus as our mode of transport. The exhibition has been totally revamped since we visited last with much more information for the visitor to read. Two daily talks are provided by volunteers and, in fact, we enjoyed the first talk so much that we stayed for the second one! We saw even more architecture in Salford but not quite as interesting as in the previous two locations.

Carol Gatenby

