



# Poynton News

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

[poyntonu3a.org.uk](http://poyntonu3a.org.uk)

Issue 30

Winter 2019

## An Aqueous Theme

Last year's Winter edition had a theme marking the end of World War I. This year's Winter edition seems to have the theme of Water.

Most of the inhabitants of Poynton and the surrounding areas have seen enough of water descending from the heavens in prolonged bouts of rainfall. Some have been very badly affected by flooding; others have had minor skirmishes with excess water. This issue has some recollections of those days from our members. Major local attractions like Lyme Park and the Brookside Miniature Railway were badly hit again but are now happily up-and-running.



*The collapsed Moggie Lane Bridge*



*A sunny day for the visit to the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port*

Other members have had more pleasurable experiences connected with water. The Science & Technology group had an interesting visit to the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port which is described later.

We also have some suggestions about visiting other canal-related sites.

You may remember from our last issue that many of the trips undertaken by our Walking Group and the Short Walks Group involved walking alongside canals and streams which in this situation have a mellowing effect. In that issue the Geology Group were observing rock formation near the Teesdale waterfalls. Even the Bird Watching Group appreciate water-birds who sit obligingly to be observed while others flit about and hide in trees.

Perhaps the definition of a flood is similar to the definition of a weed. Whereas a weed is a plant growing in the wrong place maybe flooding is water flowing in the wrong place!

Hopefully we will have some quieter days ahead when we can enjoy watery views instead of hating the sight of it.

## Our Brookside Correspondent



*A tranquil scene at Poynton Pool*

# Committee News

## Chairman's Remarks

The U3A's Conference and AGM was held this year in August at Nottingham. The AGM itself is only a small part of this program and the major discussion item was the launch at the conference of the Development Plan. The UK is today a very multicultural nation and it was argued strongly that the U3A movement needed to broaden its reach and diversity in terms of its membership.

Last year saw a 6% growth in the total membership of the U3A but this represents only 3.6% of the UK population aged 60 to 89. (In Poynton we have of course a much greater percentage as I have noted previously.) There are plans for a new membership survey, something which has not been done for 10 years and within the Development Plan is a target to establish 20 new U3As *per annum*. The focus in future will be on a reference to our organisation by the simple title of "U3A". The phrase "University of the Third Age" will be phased out. In future there will be an annual "U3A Day", the first to be Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020, and it is hoped that this will be a vehicle for local promotion as well as something of regional and national interest to the press. One major perpetual problem that needs resolution across the U3A movement is the challenge to get new committee members – as we are well aware in Poynton! And further challenges were seen for future growth in the later retirement ages together with the likelihood of the continued increase in grandparent duties during retirement.

In general, it was agreed that the major strength of the U3A movement was that it wasn't a "one size fits all" movement. Local bodies were best equipped to meet local needs.

**David Sewart**

## Joining the Committee

I've been a member of Poynton U3A for a few years and about three years ago someone asked me if I'd ever thought about being on the committee. Well, I didn't think I had any special skills to offer and I'd never been on a committee before, so the prospect seemed quite daunting. I said no at the time, but the idea did mull around at the back of my mind, as I felt I had got a lot out of the organisation, and perhaps should give something back.

So, three months or so later I went along to my first committee meeting as an observer. It was quite an eye opener. Everyone was so friendly, so welcoming, and so NORMAL. At first, I'd just help out at meetings and then wrote the adverts for the local paper. When Joan Stepto announced her retirement from the role of Interest Groups Coordinator, which she had held since the inception of Poynton U3A, I offered to take over. Eighteen months later I'm still here, and really enjoying it. I've met so many lovely people, both in and outside the committee, and if I have any problems or concerns, I can always call on the rest of the committee for help and advice.

Several members of the committee will have to stand down next year, having served their term, so we really do need members to join the team and new people mean new ideas. Please think about it and if you are interested to try it out, please contact any of the committee members.

**Sandra Batchelor**

<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>	
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Meeting
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Rupert Richards - Behind the Scenes at Gawsworth Hall
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Holden - They Should've asked my Husband
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	AGM

## Christmas Meeting

*Because of restrictions on numbers, entrance to the Christmas Meeting is by ticket only. Tickets cost £2 which includes a raffle ticket. You will be able to buy tickets at the November General Meeting.*

# Members' Corner

## Bus Pass Explorer Trip to Whaley Bridge

It was announced on the news on 9<sup>th</sup> August that Whaley Bridge was open for business as usual after a week of shutdown. A major disaster had been averted as the water in Toddbrook Reservoir had been lowered to a manageable level after the dam had been strengthened where it had been damaged. Whaley Bridge breathed a sigh of relief as the threat of potentially disastrous flooding had receded and residents were allowed home.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August I caught the Manchester to Buxton 199 bus at the stop on the A6 opposite the 'Rising Sun' pub, a reliable half hourly service and conveniently close to the 'Park and Ride'. Twenty-five minutes later I got off the bus at the train station stop in Whaley Bridge. It was good to see the town was buzzing on a Monday. The three cafes were busy at 11.30am. With my 'cappuccino to go' in hand (my own reusable purple thermos mug goes everywhere with me), I set off up Reservoir Road.

The steep road was lined with parked white vans, evidence of a number of organisations and agencies maintaining a presence there. I could see, in the distance, a lot of activity around the dam and reservoir. Winding my way back to the town centre, via Memorial Park, which is situated below the dam, I was constantly aware of the sound of rushing water coming from the overspill from the reservoir and the overfull streams flowing down to the River Goyt.



*All is now quiet at Toddbrook Reservoir*

It started to rain so I abandoned my idea of a walk by the canal, and instead joined the queue outside 'The Fryery'. Sitting in the bus shelter, enjoying a tray of fries while waiting for a 199, a 60 Bus passed me going in the opposite direction, destination Macclesfield. With hindsight I could have got that bus then home on a 391/392 from Macclesfield....a circular trip to do another time.

[Those of you who travel to Macclesfield on the 391/392 are probably aware that, due to the partial collapse of the bridge on Dickens Lane at Wardsend, and its closure, there is a diversion along the main road, A523, turning left at the Legh Arms Adlington, continuing to Pott Shrigley. The Miners Arms and Wood Lanes are currently off the route. As this may have changed since writing, please check the latest information with the bus company.]

**Vivienne Arnold**

## A Personal View of the Floods

Sitting here in the garden in mid-September enjoying the warmth and sunshine, it is difficult to imagine that six weeks ago the majority of the garden was under water. The rain that came down that Wednesday afternoon was unbelievable, leaving a trail of havoc and destruction behind.

My cottage was not as badly affected as many other homes but I still had water coming up from the ground into the cellar and through the bedroom ceiling due to the heavy rain displacing a few slates on the roof.

Thankfully the garden has now recovered, the cellar mainly dried out and the roof has been repaired but it makes you realise the destruction that heavy rain can cause in a very short time.

**Anne Wynn**



*Flooding at Glastonbury Drive*

## Thanks from the Creative Writing Group

The present and past members of the Creative Writing Group would like to thank Veronica O'Connor and Ann Walker for their years of work running the group for Poynton U3A. Now they have left and gone on to other endeavours we wish them well.

**Clive B Hill**

# Members' Corner

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## Creative Writing Group

Poynton Creative Writing Group meets at Davenport Golf Club each month on the second and fourth Mondays at 1.30pm, to read our own pieces and listen to others read theirs. This can be so enlightening, hearing others' thoughts on the same subject. At the moment our membership is eleven and we have a small sub-committee who will be running the meetings and suggesting topics which we might write about. Writings can include prose or poems, in all their forms, in fact anything that takes your fancy.

This sub-committee have now just finished collating some of our writings into a book which will be printed by the time you are reading this.

As well as the reading and the listening we have interesting discussions on all sorts of subjects, sustained by a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. We have been described as a group of amateur scribblers; amateur we certainly are, scribblers also, but the term cannot begin to indicate the amount of pleasure we derive from this writing.

We are looking forward to being joined by anyone with an interest in writing who might like to attend a meeting to see what they make of us.

All U3A members can come along, including those who belong to U3A groups in neighbouring areas. They will be made very welcome, by this like-minded but disparate group of people. We write for our own pleasure and, hopefully, for the pleasure of others in the group, when they hear us read.

There is much enjoyment in reading out our pieces and when listening to the other members read theirs. Our life experiences are very varied and this becomes apparent in members' writings, notably in the amusing poetry written by some of the group.

If this interests you please contact Clive Hill for a chat and more information.

**Clive B Hill**

## Your committee may need you

Over the past two or three years you will have noticed that there have been a number of changes amongst the members of the Committee. This keeps Poynton U3A moving forward and proves that we can all contribute to the continuance of this excellent organisation. Some committee members will have done their allotted stint by March 2020, and so maybe some of you can be thinking of offering yourselves as

replacements to help with the running of our U3A. The committee meets eleven times a year, usually on a Tuesday afternoon, August being the month when there is no meeting.

Membership of the committee is not an arduous task, but gives a great deal of satisfaction to the committee members knowing so many people derive such pleasure from attending the variety of groups, and the monthly open meetings.

The time has come for all Poynton U3A members to be aware that unless members who are prepared to join the committee come forward over the next few months there is a chance that Poynton U3A could cease to be.

**Ed**

## Praise for the Newsletter

The following text was sent unsolicited to the editor of your newsletter by one of the Committee in mid-September this year. We reproduce it intact and take a great deal of pride in doing so. You could join the Newsletter group to help us and share the pride which contributors of articles and photographs will do when they read the following in this newsletter.

*'The other day I was visiting a friend who happens to be a member of the Poynton Branch of U3A. In an idle moment I noticed a copy of the summer edition of Poynton U3A News Bulletin lying on her coffee table. Having in the past been involved in publishing and printing I was immediately attracted by the tasteful typographic layout; the good quality white paper; the colourful photographic reproductions and the use of well spaced, clearly readable lines of sans serif type used for the text. I was equally impressed by the organisation and layout of the inside pages: the clear, bold headlines; the well laid-out tables of events and the interesting, colourful photo-reproductions. It's not often that one finds such good typography and professionalism in local productions. It most certainly stimulated me to read the contents which I found very interesting and informative. The team who produced the "News" well deserve to be congratulated.'*

This is certainly blowing our own trumpet. A lot of the praise should go to Derek Gatenby for the layout and for so many hours of hard work in producing the Newsletter, to say nothing about his contribution of articles and photographs.

**Ed**

# Members' Corner

## Short Walks

These are gentle walks of about 2 to 3 miles, taking approximately about one hour and a half. Meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at **10.45 a.m. at the start of a walk**, or at **10.30 a.m. outside the Civic Centre, Poynton**, if you need a lift or can provide a lift to the start.

Date	Walk and Starting Place
12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Sugar Lane Round, start at the car park on Holehouse Lane, past the Windmill Pub
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Coppice, start at Coppice car park.
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Hagg Farm Circuit, start at Nelson Pit Visitor Centre. Followed by lunch (optional) at the Boars Head pub.
<b>Christmas Break</b>	
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Petre Bank, start at Civic Centre.
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Poynton Pool, start at Civic Centre
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ladies Incline, start at Civic Centre.
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Poynton Pool Circuit, start at South Park Drive car park.
10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Prince's Incline, start at Civic Centre.
24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Four Winds and Lyme Park with coffee stop, start at Nelson Pit Visitor Centre.
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Clarence Mill, start at Holehouse Lane car park
28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Lyme Park, start at Nelson Pit.
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Bluebell Walk & Styperson Pool, start at car park Holehouse Lane, past Windmill Pub

26 <sup>th</sup> May	High Lane Walk, start at Jackson's Brickworks car park
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Adlington Basin, start at Nelson Pit.
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Wild Flower walk, start at lay-by near the Miners' Arms.
14 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Jackson Brickworks, start at Nelson Pit
28 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Edge of Lyme Park and picnic, start at Nelson Pit

**Joan Stepto**

## Membership Renewal

As for the last two years we are using the Council Chamber in the Civic Hall for all membership registration on January 21<sup>st</sup>, before members go into the Main Hall paying the £1 entrance fee in the usual manner. The Council Chamber will be open for membership renewal from 12.30pm stopping at 1.50pm to prepare for the start of the General Meeting. Don't worry if you haven't managed to renew by 2.00pm, you can still go into the meeting using your old membership card. It may then be possible to renew your membership immediately after the speaker has finished.

You will be able to make your membership payment by debit/credit card (including contactless, Apple Pay and Android Pay) as well as cash and cheque.

As in previous years, from December 1<sup>st</sup> you can renew your membership for 2020 by post using the form at the bottom of this page if you are unable to attend the January General Meeting. Don't forget the stamped self-addressed envelope so you can receive your membership card.

**Kate Marsham**

### **Poynton U3A Membership Renewal Form      Subscription for 2020 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. You can do this at our General Meeting on Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 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, 72 Clifford Road, Poynton, SK12 1JA.



# Science & Technology

## National Waterways Museum – Ellesmere Port

In August a set of members from the Science and Technology group visited the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port. Here are some memories of the day.

Nobody lived in Ellesmere Port until 1795. Shropshire businessmen were seeking a quicker way to transport raw materials and products. They wanted to link inland areas to the Mersey in the north and the Severn in the south. The idea was to build a port on marshland at the edge of the Mersey. The scheme for a new canal was agreed at a meeting in Ellesmere some 30 miles to the south. The first part of the canal was opened in 1795 and the point where the canal met the Mersey was known as Ellesmere Port.

The canal was extended bit by bit and has had several names but is now generally known as the Shropshire Union Canal. Subsequently the Manchester Ship Canal was opened in 1894 and also entered the Mersey at Ellesmere Port.



*The view from the slipway at Ellesmere Port first across the Manchester Ship Canal and then the River Mersey with Liverpool in the distance.*

The first canal boats were horse drawn and there were facilities all along the canal for stabling horses.



*This statue was commissioned by the Waterways Museum to serve as a lasting reminder of the importance of horses to our canal heritage. The stables were in the building to the left of the picture.*

Not only were goods transferred between vessels but they were also repaired. To achieve this the boats were dragged up a slipway on a specially designed rig.



*The slipway*

Goods were transferred from the canal boats to larger vessels to cross the Mersey to the port of Liverpool. There are two sets of locks linking the canal to the Lower Basin where the goods were transferred. The narrow boats used the locks on the right and the wider boats the ones on the left. Why two sets? Because you lose twice as much water from the canal using the wider locks and water is valuable.



Originally there was a substantial brick warehouse in the Lower Basin reputedly designed by Thomas Telford. It burned down in 1970 a few days before it was apparently to become a listed building. Strange that!



*The Lower Basin is now a repository for examples of significant vessels of the past.*

# Science & Technology

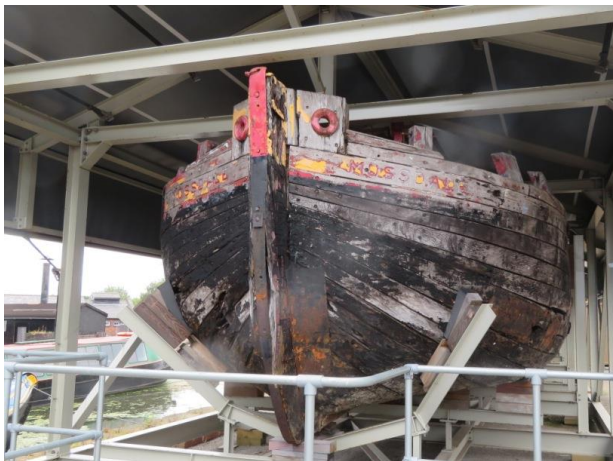
When Ellesmere Port was in its hey-day there were cottages on the site to accommodate some of the workers and their families. Four of the cottages still exist and have been renovated in the style of four different decades.



*Porters Row*

The television series *Peaky Blinders* recently used the cottages as part of a street scene but to make it look more authentic the fronts of some more houses were erected on the other side of the street.

Being the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port has a large collection of boats that have had a significant impact on this country. One of the prize exhibits is Mossdale.



Mossdale (originally Ruby) is the only remaining all-timber Mersey flat. She worked out of the Port of Liverpool on canals, rivers and along the coast. With no engine she was a 'dumb barge' and was towed by a steam tug. She is now in a fragile state and is being carefully dried out in a specially designed cradle.

Elsewhere, one of the most interesting boats in the museum is a modest boat called the Starvationer". The Duke of Bridgewater owned coal mines in Worsley from which coal was brought out along miles of narrow canal tunnels in these boats made of oak.



In the mid-1700s, the coal was being transported to Manchester where demand was high by pack horses and the duke was looking for a faster way. His answer was to use the canal principle on the surface and the outcome was the Bridgewater Canal, arguably the first canal of the industrial revolution which opened in 1761. The nickname "Starvationer" is said to derive from the fact that the ribs of the boat looked like the ribs of a starving person.

And there are lots of more typical canal boats where families lived as well as carrying goods up and down the canal.



The fact that families came and went around Ellesmere Port gave it a rather odd reputation.

There is lots more to see at the Waterways Museum which is only 45 minutes away down the A555 (so long as it isn't flooded).

For more ideas about places to visit which involve the canal system have a look at page 10.

**Derek Gatenby**



# 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	Next meal is on 28th November at Brookside Garden Centre – see website for details
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
Film Discussion Group	Maggie Eagland	2.00pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in month at Wetherspoons
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	Monthly Wednesday 2.00pm
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 10.00-12.00, every Wednesday 2.00-4.30pm and every Thursday 1.30-4.30pm at Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 <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)		Contact Bramhall U3A	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
French (Wilmslow)	Ann Thompson	Contact Wilmslow U3A	Alternate Mondays at 2.00pm
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

# Members' Corner

## Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

If you want to pursue the canal theme, you could visit the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site in the Llangollen area. The centrepiece of the area is the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct ("stream in the sky") which is only 1hr 10mins away by car. The aqueduct was built around 1800 and is a very impressive structure. The central piers are 126 feet above the river Dee.



The water runs under the walkway as well as in the canal area to balance the forces on the piers

At the same time, you should visit the Horseshoe Falls which demonstrates an innovative design by Thomas Telford to start the canal – ultimately the same canal which enters the Mersey at Ellesmere Port.



*Telford diverted the water in the foreground to create the Llangollen canal whilst the rest of the water goes over the falls and continues down the river Dee.*

These two locations and several others in the area are part of a World Heritage Site.

**Derek Gatenby**

## More Watery Visits



*The Sankey Canal straddled by a glass walkway at the World of Glass in St. Helens.*

The Sankey Canal was opened in 1759 prior to the Bridgewater Canal. However, when it passed through Parliament, it was not classed as a canal but that is what the engineers produced. Hence the debate about who was first. World of Glass has been visited by Day Trips, Science & Technology and Photography.

And a taster for the future, a picture from the recent Minibreaks visit to Norfolk



*The beach at Cromer*

Lots more of Norfolk in the next issue!

*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 February 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

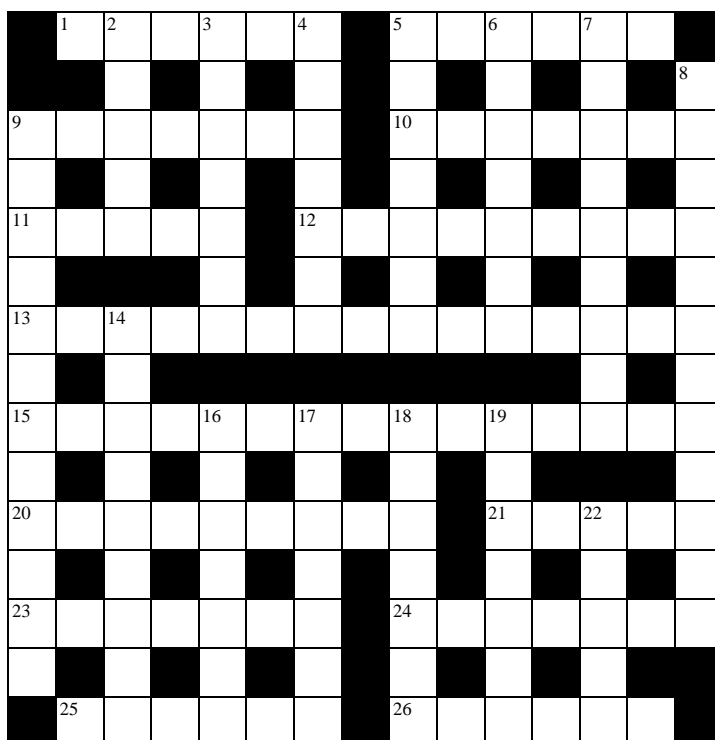
## POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.27

### ACROSS

- 1 Oxford University Ramblers on a mountain pass - showing a shade of blue Maybe. (6)  
 5 All I hesitatingly want is a bulb. (6)  
 9 Having the means we hear of a soldiers accommodation in army extremes. (7)  
 10 State a learner and sailor to a degree. (7)  
 11 Old tribe with diamonds by part of UK. (5)  
 12 Spin hoop - score will be shown in the stars! (9)  
 13 Famous in folklore, seen by Scotsmen and loners mixing around hotel. (4,4,7)  
 15 Extra time needed in a tidy spread - set up to catch criminals. (8,7)  
 20 Unwanted outputs from Eastern assignments. (9)  
 21 Poetry served without dialect. (5)  
 23 Highly poisonous subject derived from compound of latex, oxygen and Argon. (7)  
 24 Pub sign peculiar to cricketers. (7)  
 25 Donkey set about showing wealth. (6)  
 26 Require the French bug. (6)

### DOWN

- 2 I Love mixed fruit. (5)  
 3 Work in number ten? - that's what you think! (7)  
 4 Initially realise how your tempos have made such a flow in the music. (7)  
 5 Here's an example of this type of clue: A rag man! (7)  
 6 Alison and I form a partnership! (7)  
 7 Una and daughter chose not to be looked after by the local authority. (9)  
 8 Unwelcome guests who should not be in the party stage reforms around Conservative with more daring. (4,8)  
 9 Popular song about young lady similar to our female solvers. (1,4,4,3)  
 14 Various claims I applied to carbon and helium. (9)  
 16 Willing to time property. (7)  
 17 Almost worth going back to the Spanish for hand tools. (7)  
 18 Die about a single spirit. (7)  
 19 Retribution about archbishop for girl sweetheart. (7)  
 22 Learn cooking of kidneys. (5)



## Crossword Puzzle No.26 Solution

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

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).**



# Day Trips – Burton Brewery

## 'Going for a Burton'

Have you ever wondered about the origin of this popular saying? If so, read on.....

Thanks to Iris and Gerry we had a very interesting afternoon at the National Brewery Centre in Burton-on-Trent. On arrival we were given vouchers to sample up to three of their beer or ale varieties. These were available in their Tap Room adjacent to the restaurant. As we had a while to wait for our guided tour, we enjoyed a pleasant lunch with a beer while we waited.

At 2pm our guide gathered us together to begin the tour. He explained that the brewery originally belonged to the Bass Company but was taken over in 2008 by Molson Coors. They promptly closed the visitor centre which was funded by the company at that time. All the artefacts and exhibits were 'mothballed' and a steering committee was set up to re-open the centre and this became the National Brewery Centre in 2010.



*Reconstructed bar and snug*

Our guide explained how brewing started in Burton-on-Trent back in the Middle Ages by the monks at Burton Abbey as a means of refreshing the thirsts of pilgrims. Local wells provided soft water rich in calcium and magnesium salts, ideal for brewing beer. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century the town grew to become one of England's greatest brewery towns with many different brewery companies exporting their products all over the world, Indian Pale Ale being the most popular. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century their competitors had learnt how to 'Burtonise' local water by using brewing chemistry, so trade declined.

Our tour took us to many different rooms each depicting an aspect of the history of brewing. We were told of several sayings which had their origins in the brewery trade, one of which is 'going for a Burton'. This described the annual seasonal employment of young men from East Anglia who, once their harvest work was finished, would head to Burton-on-Trent to

help with the malting of the beer. Hence, 'Going for a Burton'!

It is often claimed that the phrase "Cock and Bull story" owes its origin to the names of two pubs almost side-by-side in the village of Stony Stratford which some 50 years ago became a part of what is now the large modern town of Milton Keynes. In the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries long distance travel was by horse-drawn coach, was certainly not very comfortable and sometimes taken at high risk. Stony Stratford was the first stop for those travelling out from London on the A5 to the North West and of course the last stop for those going in the other direction before they were decanted into London. Evenings before the introduction of television and radio were passed in candlelight by the guests, eating and drinking what was then the dark beer brewed from barley. But additional entertainment was provided in the two inns (Cock and Bull) in Stony Stratford by the landlords who became famous for the stories which they told. And so there was great competition between the landlords of the two pubs to fill all their accommodation for each night and to retain customers who would also be paying for their meal and staying up late and consuming greater quantities of beer if their attention could be held by good stories.



*Old pub signs*

Apart from the many artefacts of the brewing industry there were also Shire horses which are still used to pull carriages for special occasions like weddings and processions. There was also a reconstructed traditional pub complete with games like table skittles. Outside a large covered shed housed many vintage vehicles used over the years in the brewery trade. The William Worthington Micro Brewery was the last and newest of the brewery equipment on display. It produces the beer for the Brewery Tap room where we finished our tour with a further sample using our voucher.

**Kate Marsham and David Sewart**