

Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 35-4

12th Jul 2021

Editorial

Welcome to a packed twenty-third edition of these electronic newsletters. As always contributions are welcome. Send them to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Poynton u3a Update

Relaxation of pandemic requirements

In the light of the recent statements by the Prime Minister it seems to be very likely that the various restrictions on movements and meetings, which have arisen from the Covid 19 pandemic, will be removed on 19th July. Interest groups will be making their own plans for a return to their own normality and your Committee is making plans for the restoration of our programme of General Meetings in the Civic Hall on the third Tuesday in the month. At the moment we are hoping to do this for 21st September. On the assumption that something very close to normality will be announced formally on 19th July we will let you have more details.

David Stewart

Short Walks Group - Help Needed

Before the pandemic the short walks group was always popular and took place every 2 weeks on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday morning of the month. They were normally about 2 to 3 miles long, and took about 1 to 1.5 hours. The walks were fairly local, starting within a 3-mile radius of Poynton.

As you possibly know, Joan was reluctantly giving up organising the short walks just before lockdown and nobody came forward to take over the role. Now that we can get back to walking together, we are looking for volunteers to lead the walks and a person (or persons) who would take over as organiser. Previously the organiser would liaise 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. A rota was drawn up with walk leaders agreeing which walks they would lead, but this could change if a leader became unavailable and "swaps" could happen.

I'm sure some previous members of the group who know the walks would be willing to assist a potential leader. 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. Perhaps if insufficient leaders come forward, the group could meet monthly, instead of fortnightly. Unfortunately, if no organiser or walk leaders are found, then the group will not be able to run.

If anyone is interested, even if you could only lead 2 or 3 walks a year, or would like to know more, please send an email to groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk. I would hope to set up a meeting for any interested people so that we could discuss the way forward.

Sandra Batchelor - Groups Coordinator

Website

At the start of the pandemic, the website essentially went into hibernation. Now with a relaxing of restrictions and some groups starting to have trips again, it has been decided to reactivate the website. The details for the various groups that are running have been updated. If the details for your group are not up-to-date or are incorrect, please contact webmaster@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Geology Group

The Geology Group has successfully kept going via zoom during the lockdowns and restrictions arising from Covid. We have covered topics such as the Nature of Limestone, Igneous Rocks, Soil, and the Great Oxidation Event – all presented by members of the group. We've also been able to review current events like the eruptions in Iceland (thanks to several excellent videos available on the web). Many local branches of the Geological Association also have made their own zoom talks open to non-members and that has provided us with additional opportunities to satisfy our thirst for geology!

Now that it has become easier to meet outside in larger numbers, we have restarted our programme of field trips. In May we went to Grin Low Country Park near Buxton to examine the limestones there and to see the evidence of limestone quarrying going back to the eighteenth century. All being well we will continue our outings with a trip to the upper Goyt Valley to look at the geological structure of the area and see the evidence of coal mining near Buxton. Later in the year, we will be going to the Torrs at New Mills to see the sandstones in the gorge and the impact of glaciation in the Goyt Valley. Beyond that we're in a "wait and see" situation. Circumstances permitting, we will continue with our field trips, followed by indoor meetings when winter approaches.

Peter Bennett

Photography Group

The meeting at the beginning of July gave us an excellent opportunity to share photos of Tegg's Nose that we gathered either together on the group outing or during individual visits. Not having visited Tegg's Nose for many years, I was reminded of just how beautiful a location we have on our doorstep. It certainly provided us with the opportunity to capture some stunning scenes – the farm proved to offer a popular target for our cameras.

We also looked at the quarterly project which was Triptychs – the combination of 3 photos in a single slide. There were some very interesting and imaginative combinations offered for comment and admiration. I am certainly pleased to have been prompted into combining photos in this manner, the resulting slide often being far more interesting than an individual photo.

Janet gave us some useful tips on how to get the best out of photographs of or with waterfalls. We will have the chance to make good use of these tips during this month's outing to Etherow Country Park.

The group will not be meeting in August so the next meeting will be at the beginning of September when we will review our park and waterfall photos.





Keith Batchelor

Walking Group

Earlier this month, we had a lovely walk led by Pete and Kate starting in Timberbrook. We had superb weather and the walk was enjoyed by a small group. We had some lovely views including Jodrell Bank Lovell telescope.

Route: Weathercock Lane, Overedge, Rainow Hill, Dial Lane, Gosberryhole Lane, Weathercock Lane. 5 miles, approximately 100m of ascent (but not all in one go!)



We were joined by a new walker and welcome more newcomers. For more information contact Marilyn Westbrook using groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

TerraCycle Blister Pack Programme.

Well done to all those who collected blister packs for recycling!

In March, a couple of us on the committee saw that Superdrug are working in conjunction with TerraCycle who will convert empty tablet strip packs into reusable raw materials using its unique recycling process – preventing empty packs spending a lifetime in landfill.

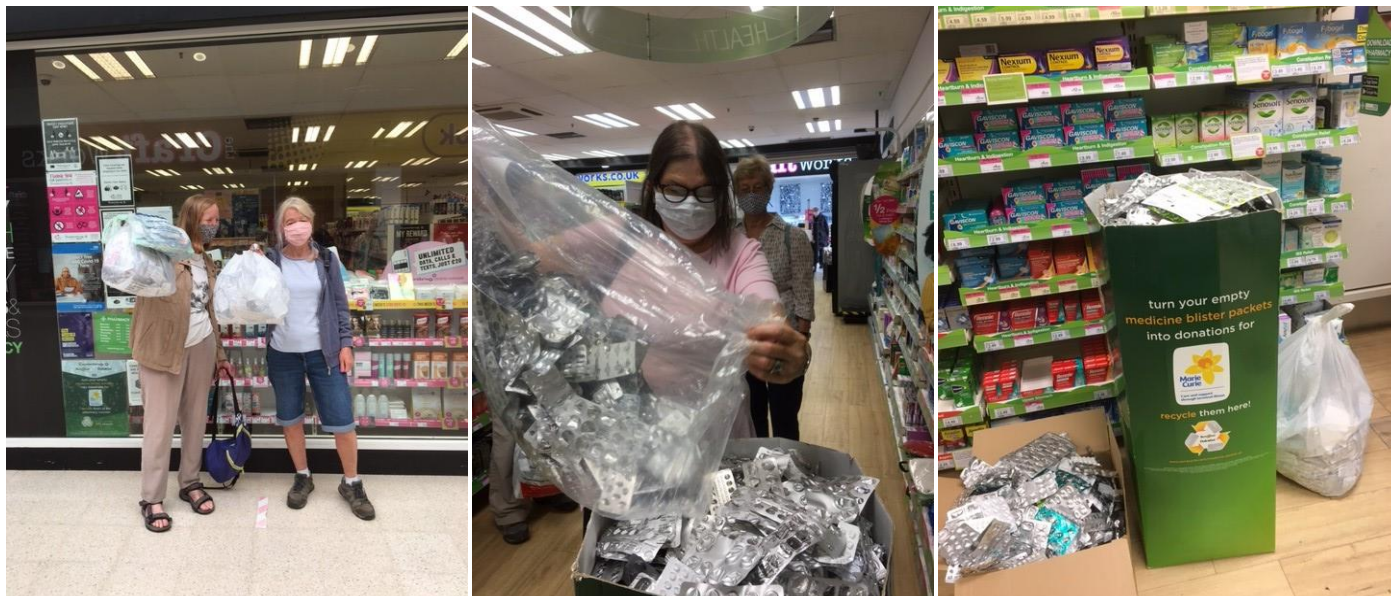
Superdrug are supporting Marie Curie as each empty blister packet that gets recycled as part of the 'Little Packs, Big Impact' scheme contributes to the charity. It's easy - it's free and it's a double whammy - recycling and supporting a fantastic charity too. We thought that Poynton u3a might want to get involved with this.

Subsequently, lots of Poynton u3a members, their families and neighbours have been saving up their empty blister medication packs and, on 10th June, 6 members of your committee took them to Superdrug in Buxton for the TerraCycle



recycling project. We delivered several large bags full of empty blister packs that were gratefully received. We also had a lovely day out!!

Please keep saving yours. We will have another collection/drop off week in the next few weeks and hopefully when general meetings start again, we will be able to have a collection point at the Civic Hall.



Jayne Barnes

Poynton Stones

The stones originally laid in a line on Poynton Pool and pictured in the 10th June 2020 issue (32-7) have found a more permanent home outside the Civic Centre.



Members' Contributions

My June Nature Diary

This year spring simply did not happen. April was cold and very dry; May was cold and wet. So, when the sun shines in early June it feels like summer has truly arrived. On 5th June I get off the bus at the Miners Arms to join the canal towpath to walk to Higher Poynton. I have walked this stretch of the towpath in different seasons and today it is the brightness of the colours of nature which strike me.

The first field on my left is a yellow carpet of buttercups, dotted with pink lady's smock. Orange tip butterflies are often attracted to these flowers but I only see a few white ones. So far this year there has been a scarcity of butterflies, probably due to the strange weather. The hedges round the fields are white with branches of hawthorn laden with flowers, cascading down.

Farther along I spot a family of nine mallard ducklings watched over by mother duck as they swim amongst the reeds. Above a buzzard is hanging in the air, wings outstretched.

A donkey standing alone in a field of buttercups glances at me as I pass.

Fluffy white clouds drift across a cerulean blue sky and I hear swallows twittering. They are sitting on a telegraph wire above a field of cows where there is a ready supply of insects. Cumbersome wood pigeons have ousted them from their preferred wire closer to farm buildings. Their ornithological name 'barn swallow' tells us where this species chooses to nest.

The next stretch of the path is shady and on the opposite bank, in damp soil the fresh green leaves of ferns recently unfurled from their fronds catch dappled sunlight.

Out in the open again and my hand brushes against the frothy white heads of cow parsley. Closer to the ground, white starlike flowers of stitchwort stand out amongst blades of grass.

Just before the iron bridge which people cross to start their walk over the fields to Lyme Park, is a seat which reminds me there used to be a small memorial garden here. Until a few years ago it was tended but is now neglected. As I sit down, I see that I am framed by several arching branches covered with yellow roses. Wild roses are pink or white so I guess this is a cultivated variety, 'canary bird'.

At the 'Trading Post' I buy a hot chocolate and look for a seat where there are no boats moored with an uninterrupted view of the water. Hoping to see swallows, I do. They swoop down, fast flying and low, just above the water, taking insects. They quarter a short stretch of water, flying just below my eye level and I am able to appreciate the colours of their back and wings, shiny, dark metallic blue.

The weather stays warm and sunny, so a few days later Kate and I go to Jackson's Brickworks, to look for dragonflies for her to take photos. At midday on 9th June, we concentrate first on the wildflowers growing in the grassy patch at the entrance. Hidden amongst the red campion, poppies, harebells, ox-eye daisies, yellow rattle, red clover, buttercups and vetches is an unexpected gem, a bee-orchid! We look more closely and find two more, then share our discovery with a couple who are on a wildflower walk.

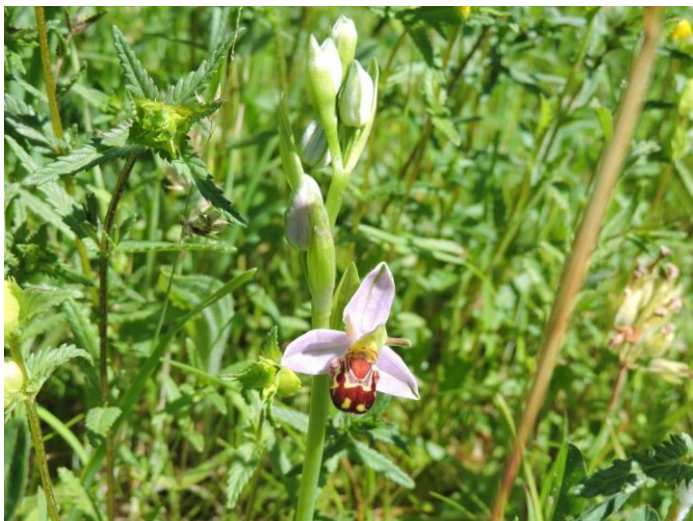


Then we follow the path to the ponds where we see several species of dragonflies, broad bodied chasers and four spotted chasers, and damselflies, azure and red. They are darting, chasing and mating, constantly on the move!

On 21st June I walk to Poynton Pool and am struck by how different the park looks since the grass is no longer being grazed by sheep. I love how it now looks so natural. So many different wild grasses are growing tall with seed heads of pale colours, rippling in the breeze.

Viv Arnold

Pictures from Kate at Jackson's Brickworks



Bee Orchid



Four spot chaser

Pictures from Our Perambulations - RHS Garden Bridgewater

RHS Garden Bridgewater is situated on the site of the estate of Worsley New Hall in Salford. It was intended to open in mid-2020. This had to be delayed and it actually opened on May 18th this year. The Garden is named after the Bridgewater Canal which runs alongside the site.

The Hall was built between 1840 and 1845 for Francis Egerton, 1st Earl of Ellesmere. There were also extensive gardens landscaped over a 50-year period. The Hall was demolished in the 1940s and the estate returned to nature. In 2017, the RHS started work on the site to create the fifth RHS Garden.

The centrepieces of the Garden are two adjacent walled gardens. The first is the Kitchen Garden. Before work could commence on this garden, the topsoil had to be replaced because it was contaminated with arsenic used as a pesticide by Victorian gardeners but now undesirable in an area intended for edible crops.

The second walled garden is the Paradise Garden. The microclimate created by the walls allows for the growing of Mediterranean and Asian species. In the centre of this garden is the lily pond. There were problems with the construction of this feature and, so far, there are no lilies!

Along by the wall on the north side of the Paradise Garden are two greenhouses. The original footings have been used with a new superstructure. One is the Mediterranean House (pictured); the other is the Fruit House.





Although the Hall was demolished, several of the other original structures remain. Two are the chimney and the Bothy. The heated greenhouses were sited in front of these two buildings with the original coal-fired boiler situated below the chimney providing hot air that was fed through hollow walls at the back of the greenhouses. The Bothy was home to young, single male gardeners, one of whose tasks was to keep the boiler fire going.

The area originally next to these greenhouses is called the Old Frameyard and is now being used for RHS plant trials.



Another of the original buildings is the Garden Cottage, which would be more accurately called the Head Gardener's Cottage. In front of the house is the Bee & Butterfly Garden.

Ellesmere Lake is an artificially constructed lake which was built in front of the original Hall which was above the lake on a terraced bank.



The Chinese Streamside Garden has been constructed in conjunction with the British Chinese Community and horticultural experts in China. It runs alongside a newly constructed stream which goes from Ellesmere Lake to a new pool, Moon Bridge Water (where there are lilies).

The above words and pictures describe some of the main features of the garden but there are more elements -

Welcome Building (containing the plant centre, the café and the RHS shop) and
Welcome Garden,
Community Growing area and Wellbeing Garden,
Orchard Garden,
Learning Garden
And a large area of trees called Middle Wood – yes, another one.

Visit Notes:

RHS Bridgewater is an approximately 30-minute drive from Poynton. The entrance is about 1 mile from the M60 Exit 19 (Worsley). There is a large car park.

You currently need to book. Even RHS members were being turned away if they hadn't booked. This is a very large site and there was plenty of room for the limited number of visitors. The café was relatively quiet in the mid-morning but crowded at lunch-time. There is a lot of seating if you take your own lunch.

The weather was fine when we visited but there is not much cover should it rain.

Derek Gatenby

Global Warming.

Planet earth is slowly changing.
We have to act before it's too late.
Planting trees to make new forests,
So Oak, Ash and Rowan can populate.
The desecration of many woodlands,
To make way for roads and homes.
A promise to replace the trees in future,
A safer place for wild animals to roam.
Climate change is the greatest threat,
By fire, many forests are wiped-out.
Devastation and unwelcome floods, as the
Ground washes away, causing drought.
Our region was home to coal-mines
And chemical works, built in the thirties.
A project for a vast urban forest is planned,
The aim is to create an abundance of trees.

Parts of our world will become forest again
In which we can all ramble at will.
As each day we take a different path,
Side stepping Sweet Violet and Wild
Daffodil.

As we walk through the forests dark heart
Following the line of the riverbed,
Under canopies of multi shaped leaves,
Through which we find the light ahead.

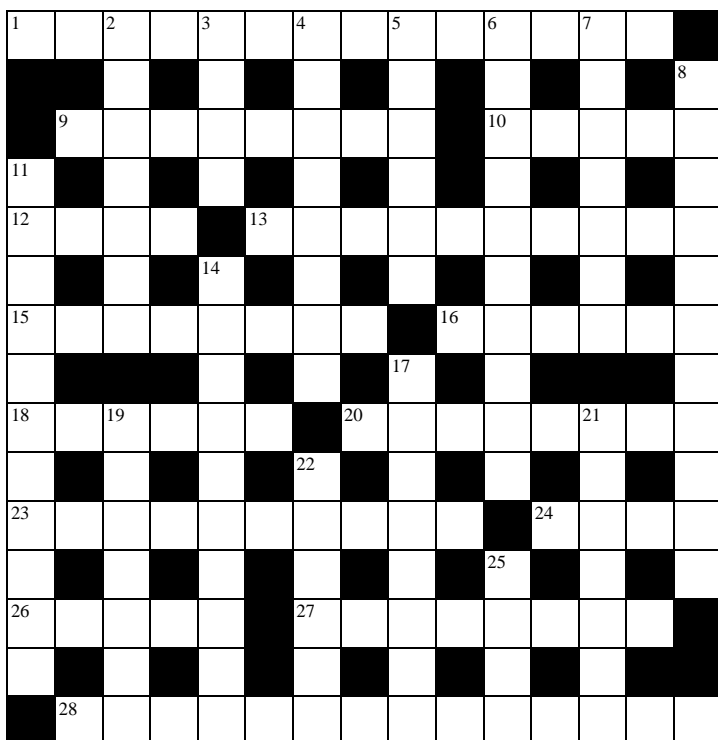
Global temperatures are rising,
At unprecedented rates.
Plant a tree in remembrance of someone
dear,
That way we can all celebrate.

(National Trust -Plant a Sapling from £5)

Susan J Pyett

Things to Do

Crossword No.33



Submitted by **Nigel Burin** and **Eileen Shore**. If you are interested in being part of a u3a group to compile crosswords, please contact Nigel via groups@poyntonu3.org.uk.

Solution to Crossword No 32

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

ACROSS

1. Home of open areas? No, but we are all represented there (5,2,7)
9. Source of spray (8)
10. Bother, the game is even (5)
12. Mere pigment (4)
13. Talk to Ms Paige, the lady of the house (10)
15. Rogue musicians (8)
16. Reportedly a crack in a rock made by a man with a rod (6)
18. Backing in sheltered by hidden ditch emerges a spider (6)
20. First rate spinner, Nick (3,5)
23. From noble age it is thought to be open to discussion (10)
24. Portent for no males (4)
26. Terrorists provide the wrong approach (5)
27. Understood what has been achieved (8)
28. Ghostly cleric in 1 Across? (6, 8)

DOWN

2. Timeless fall out naked into wine condition (7)
3. Reversal against fiery mountain (4)
4. Her feast ruffles these (8)
5. Reorganisation concerning NATO was over elaborate. (6)
6. RU team going after gong for cuts of meat (10)
7. No ancient city is home to provide sustenance. (7)
8. Regarding Kent area bending over for investigating matters (11)
11. Limpet, for example, has uncertain outcome (5,6)
14. Hundred stood around Sam initially and were over-protected (10)
17. Old German chancellor and Jewish teacher losing heart for vegetable (8)
19. Before an hour pig pictures are produced by old pictorial satirist (7)
21. Storm from European politician involved in International (7)
22. Spoil the line in the vegetable plot (6)
25. With time short I obtain a vehicle (4)

Sudoku No 23

					4		6	
			1	3		2	4	
		3		8				
	1		8					
		6	4		7		3	
2								
	8	1						
	5	2	3		6	7		
			7		8	1		

Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9

Below is the solution to No 22

7	2	5	4	1	9	3	6	8
1	3	4	5	8	6	9	7	2
6	9	8	2	7	3	5	1	4
9	7	1	3	4	2	8	5	6
5	6	2	8	9	7	4	3	1
8	4	3	1	6	5	2	9	7
3	1	9	7	2	4	6	8	5
2	5	7	6	3	8	1	4	9
4	8	6	9	5	1	7	2	3

More quiz questions from Hooah.

1. For which English League Football Team does Finnish international Teemu Pukki play?
2. The Queen has personally met more US Presidents than any other living person; how many?
3. Name the new musical which Andrew Lloyd Webber is putting on in the Gillian Lynne Theatre in London.
4. What is the name of the unique medieval clapper bridge over the River Barle in the Exmoor National Park?
5. Name the city in Ohio where Jerry Springer was mayor in the 1970s.

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. When was Poynton's Brookfield Cinema built? *The Brookfield Cinema opened in 1930.*
2. Which famous racehorse drew the largest crowds ever to attend Poynton Show when making a guest appearance at the Show in 1978? *Red Rum.*
3. Where is The Black Prince buried? *The Black Prince is buried in Canterbury Cathedral.*
4. Of which wood were English longbows made? *Longbows were made from yew wood. Their first recorded use in Britain was in a battle in South Wales between the English and Welsh in 1188 but the earliest longbow ever found dated to about 3,300 BC.*
5. What was the source of the name of the indie pop band Blossoms, formed in 2013? *The band from Stockport took the name from The Blossoms Hotel, situated at the corner of Bramhall Lane and Buxton Road, Stockport.*