



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 36-4

8th Nov 2021

Editorial

Welcome to the twenty-seventh edition of these electronic newsletters.

Again, there are not many contributions by members. If you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, please send them to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Poynton u3a Update

General Meetings and Membership Renewals

The second post-pandemic meeting took place on Tuesday 19th October when there was a performance by the musical duo, Fool's Gold. The audience was somewhat smaller than at the previous meeting. Interestingly, Fool's Gold had their own sound system but there were still hearing problems. This would confirm that the building is a major factor in the problems of discerning what is being said.

The next General Meeting is on Tuesday 16th November. It will feature a talk by Dr. Michael Leach, the well-known wildlife photographer, cameraman and author. The presentation is entitled *The Natural History of Christmas*. If you are attending, please remember to bring your current membership card and a £1 coin. The correct money would be appreciated. Note, that (at present) social distancing is not required and face coverings are optional in the Civic Hall. There will be refreshments available after the presentation.

There are still a number of tickets available for the Christmas meeting which is on Tuesday 21st December. Tickets will be on sale at the November General meeting and cost £2 which includes a raffle ticket.

Renewals of membership for 2022 will no longer be actioned at General Meetings in January and February, due to the large number of people gathering. Details of how to renew will be published in December's newsletter.

Poynton u3a Committee.

Stop Press: There has had to be a late change to the speaker at the next General Meeting. Michael Leach has Covid and is replaced by Sue Holden (who did a talk for us in February 2020). Her talk will be *What Christmas Means to Me in Flowers*.

Walking Group - October

At the beginning of October, 16 of us, including 2 new members, met in Whaley Bridge for our monthly walk. It started very well and the weather was unseasonably warm and sunny. We climbed up "fairly" gentle slopes out of Whaley Bridge and were rewarded with some stunning views on the way. By this time most of us had removed our jackets and fleeces, putting them round our waists, or in our rucksacks. We passed a farm, where we were discussing whether the two animals there were alpacas or llamas. I think the consensus was alpacas! From the highest point of our walk, it was a gentle descent into the town, to our relief. We passed the (in)famous dam on Toddbrook Reservoir on our return; yes, the one that threatened to engulf Whaley Bridge back in August 2019 after torrential rain. We could see some of the works that are ongoing but it will not be fully repaired until 2023. The water level is necessarily quite low at present.



When the walk was finished, about half of us went for a very enjoyable lunch at a local hostelry, where the publican had specially put tables and chairs outside for us. I'm looking forward to the next walk.

Sandra Batchelor

Short Walks

Here is a brief description of the short walk on Tuesday 9th November.

Starting from Nelson Pit at 11.00am the walk will pass the Anson Museum, walk part of the Middlewood Road, Middlewood Way and the Poynton Inclines. Apart from two sets of steps the walk is flat with no stiles. It will take around one and half hours.

We have a walk planned for Tuesday 14th December which will include a Christmas Lunch option. On Tuesday 11th January, there will be a walk around Poynton Pool. Further details will be available on the website nearer the time of these last two walks.

Joyce Streets

Davy Notebooks Transcription

[The following letter was received by our Membership Secretary. We thought it might be of interest to members. – Ed]

I'm Dr Andrew Lacey, Senior Research Associate in the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing at Lancaster University. I found your e-mail address on the contact pages of the U3A website.

The Davy Notebooks Project (wp.lancs.ac.uk/davynotebooks) is currently doing some exciting research, with the help of the public, that may be of interest to your members. We and an international community of over 1400 volunteer transcribers are currently transcribing, using the people-powered research platform Zooniverse, Sir Humphry Davy's (1778-1829) handwritten notebooks (around 70 in all), many of which have never been transcribed before. Davy was the leading chemist of the early nineteenth century, but also a poet, moving in the same circles as Lord Byron, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Wordsworth. His notebooks contain not only chemical notes and poetry, but also material encompassing philosophy, medicine, geology, mathematics, astronomy, and more. Anyone interested in any of these topics, or science or history more generally, will surely find much of the material we're making freely available - in most cases for the first time - stimulating.

Our Zooniverse project page is here:

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/humphrydavy/davy-notebooks-project>

We'd be very grateful if you'd please circulate this amongst your local members, and help us to spread the word by whatever other means you think appropriate (e.g. social media, newsletters items, mailouts). Contributing transcriptions to our project is entirely free, both interesting and rewarding, and no prior experience is necessary - we provide full guidance on the transcription process on our Zooniverse page, and the project team is on hand through the Talk forum feature to answer any queries.

If you have any questions, please just reply to this message, and a member of the project team will respond. We can provide further promotional materials (e.g. newsletter item text, images) if you'd like them.

With many thanks, and best wishes,

Dr Andrew Lacey, on behalf of the Davy Notebooks Project team

Members' Contributions

All Aboard!

Those of you who use our local bus 391/2 between Macclesfield and Stockport probably already know that the bus station there is closed for the next two to three years while a new one is built. Eventually it will become part of the new 'Stockport Interchange', linking the bus and train stations. On the website you can see images of the planned extensive redevelopment of the area.

Meanwhile the 391/2 timetable remains unchanged, an hourly service. (Printouts of that timetable, also the free bus to Handforth Dean, are available from Poynton information centre in the Civic Hall.) Arriving in Stockport on the 391/2 the drop-off point is outside McDonald's, by the entrance to Grand Central. The stop for the return bus from Stockport is stand BB, at the main stand on the front of Mersey Square.

There is a move away from paper printed timetables and bus route maps, so if you need help finding buses to travel out of Stockport aim first for the Travel Shop, 32 Mersey Square, near to Greggs. Staff there will direct you to temporary stops around Mersey Square and the centre of Stockport.

In order to check out the system Richard and I set off one Monday morning for Broadstone Mill. We caught the 392, then made for the Travel Shop, where we were advised to catch bus number 203 to Reddish, a frequent service running every ten minutes. The temporary stop is on Egerton Street, at the far end of Princes Street. A fifteen-minute bus ride to Houldsworth Square, where we got off. Turning left on to Broadstone Road it was a fifteen-minute walk to Broadstone Mill. Arriving there we were ready for refreshments and retail therapy, before returning to Stockport on the 203 to Egerton Street, then home.

We once did a bus trip to Gorton, for Gorton Monastery, on the 203, which terminates at Aytoun Street, near Piccadilly. If anyone wants to go to Dunelm Mill the 383/4 Marple bus stops near there, and continues on to Compstall, for Etherow Country Park and Marple.

Sometimes, as with all public transport, there are unavoidable delays but, with a senior citizen's bus pass and all the time in the world, why not go for a local adventure!

Viv Arnold

Science & Technology Group visit to Catalyst

In October, the Science & Technology Group visited the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum in Widnes. The original four-storey building was built in 1860 and subsequently became the head office of the Gossage soap company which at one time was the largest of its kind in the world. The building opened in 1987 as a chemical industry museum, the only one in the United Kingdom.



The land between the museum and the River Mersey was originally a large chemical factory site. All the buildings apart from the one shown in the picture above have now been cleared and the area landscaped to provide a recreational space. The picture to the right was taken from the building looking towards Fidler's Ferry power station. It shows the point where the Sankey Canal enters the Mersey and a bird reserve known as Spike Island. There are concerns that this land may still be polluted with chemical waste.



If you have visited the 'World of Glass' museum in St. Helens, you will have encountered the other end of the Sankey Canal which was the first canal in this country.



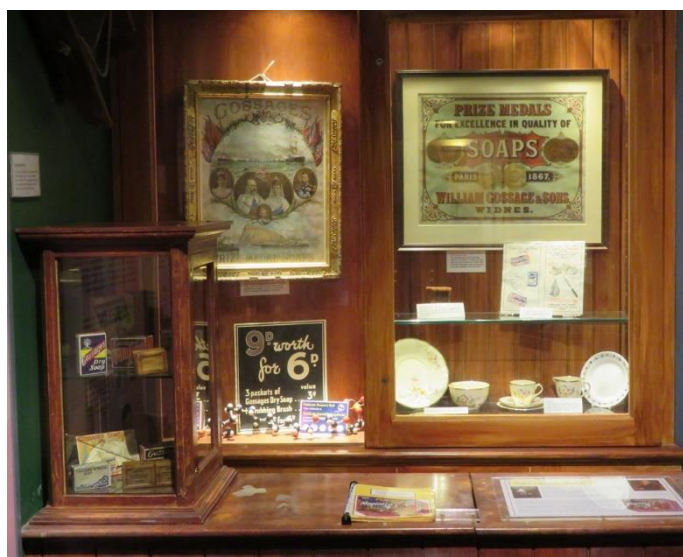
There were other chemical industries in the Widnes-Runcorn area based on the brine which was available close by from the mines at Winsford and Northwich. The most significant of these was the electrolysis of sodium chloride solution producing sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), chlorine and hydrogen.

In the entrance of the building is a version of the periodic table with a difference – it is circular rather than the more traditional rectangular shape.



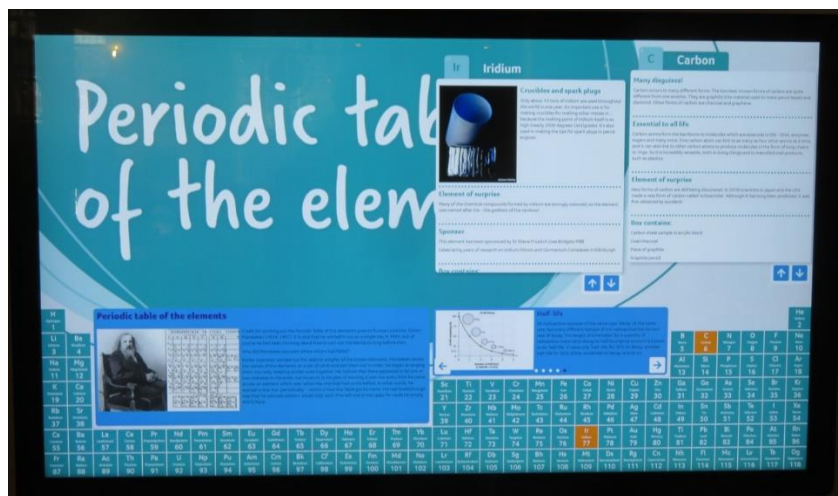
Pictures from the museum.....

Probably the most dangerous job in the local chemical factories was bleach packing. Bleach packers shovelled chlorinated lime into large tubs. They had to provide their own protective clothing. This was the most highly paid job in the factories but had a life expectancy of 39.



Some advertising material from the hey-day of the Gossage business. The company was subsequently owned by Unilever who ultimately closed the site in favour of its Port Sunlight operations with the loss of nearly all the jobs. Unilever is not popular in Widnes!

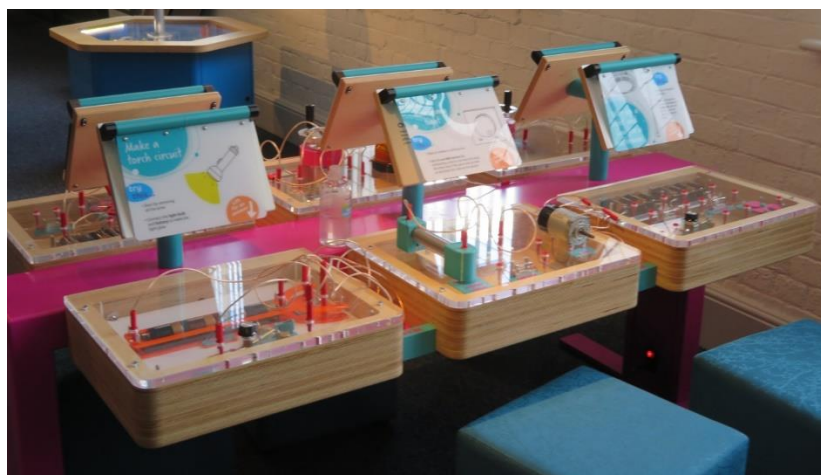
Pictures from the Hands-on-Science Experience.....



State-of-the-Art interactive Periodic Table



Wet chemistry in an enclosed environment



Hands-on Electronic Circuitry



Bubbles rising in a viscous liquid

On top of the building is an Observatory room where you obtain excellent views over the River Mersey and the bridges crossing the river. The history of the Widnes-Runcorn bridges is a story in itself (see next issue).



Derek Gatenby

All Change

Moon-glossed lines wait for, no less
The coming of the Night Express.
How blasé seem the station staff-
Too unmoved and calm by half
To welcome in the Night Express.

Black fingers of the station clock
Jerk on; suddenly, an anxious flock
Of tardy passengers appears
A human mix of hopes and fears.

The usual varied travel-kit
Much with lids that do not fit
All waiting for the Night Express.

Moments die, the air grows chill,
Hearts quicken with expectant thrill
When bells ring out their urgent code
And signals clear the iron road.
Unhinder the Night Express.

With care (no risk to life and limb)
We edge towards the platform's rim...
The giant loco blusters in
Revelling in seething din,
Chafing as the brakes repress
The progress of the Night Express.

All this has passed since diesel force
Has shunted from its metalled course.
The handsome, steaming iron horse
And banished, with complete success
The magic of the Night Express.

Ian Beverley

Things to Do

Sudoku No 27

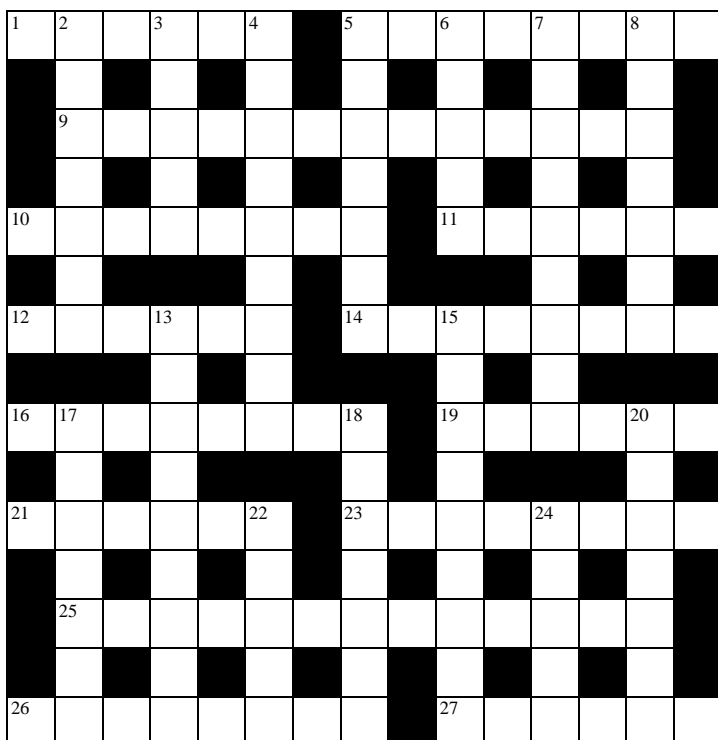
	7				5		2	
				3	1			
8		2				3	4	
			4					
3		7			8			
1	5			7				
5		8			7	6	3	
	3						1	
4			5					

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

Below is the solution to No 26

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

Crossword No.37



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 36

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

ACROSS

1. Handsome young man's mission that was out of this world (6)
5. French composer with unusual tameness (8)
9. Check flower is being brought back to life (13)
10. Notice after greedy person, that woman, produces large cask of beer (8)
11. Fight after diamonds for cooler (6)
12. Narrow window for medical journal (6)
14. Continuing work with gum resin (8)
16. Snake swallows start of trouble, aquatic bird in African country (8)
19. Walk ostentatiously for instance, around tree (6)
21. One's inclined to be emphatic (6)
23. Forward returned lazily and in a timid manner (8)
25. One getting on in education (6,7)
26. Bury and United almost mixing (8)
27. Looking serious, like a Member of Parliament (6)

DOWN

2. Garden framework for each goal converted (7)
3. Queues reported in Birmingham for butcher's most tender cuts (5)
4. Big band has rector dancing (9)
5. Viewpoint gained from edge rising over winding road (7)
6. Guru's morning in Westminster (5)
7. Naturally it covers every one of us (9)
8. One rink used to make type of wheat (7)
13. Shed the French weight in Peak District village (9)
15. Rolling Stones out of musical style (9)
17. Seat of exaggerated Arab state (7)
18. I'll be engaged in performing treats (7)
20. Sailor working evenings removes tissue surgically (7)
22. U. S. Spies keeping Vatican around (5)
24. Perfect bride almost hides (5)

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. How many English Monarchs from William the Conqueror have been crowned in Westminster Abbey?
2. In 2020 was the population of London 7 million, 9 million or 11 million people?
3. The father of actress Zoe Wanamaker was instrumental in the building of what famous building on the South Bank of the Thames?
4. Where does the annual London to Brighton veteran car race begin?
5. Who is the current Lord Mayor of London?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. "Someday my Prince will come" is a song from which musical?
Disney's Snow White
2. Who was the Queen of England who was the mother of two kings, following the death of her husband the Danish-born king Canute?
Emma of Normandy who had first been married to Aethelred, then to Canute and her sons Hardicanute and Edward the Confessor subsequently ruled England.
3. Birth name of the singer Prince
Prince Rogers Nelson
4. Who was Queen Salote and which country did she rule?
She was the Queen of Tonga, 6' 3" tall who rode through the rain in an open carriage, smiling and waving to the crowds at the Coronation of our Queen in June 1953.
5. What "may look at a King"?
A cat first noted in the late 1500s and used by Lewis Carroll in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Interest Groups

The next page shows a list of the current Poynton u3a Interest Groups plus the groups which are not part of the u3a but are open to u3a members.

There are a few minor changes from last month's list. Remember that Groups' information is changing continually at the moment but the list is thought to be correct at time of writing.

Interest Group information is also available on our website – poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Page 11 has been removed in line with our data protection policy.