



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 38-3

29th Jun 2022

Editorial

Welcome to the thirty fourth edition of these electronic newsletters.

As always, if you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, send them to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Poynton u3a Update

Dining Group

The next meeting of the dining group will be on Thursday 28th of July at the Legh Arms Adlington. The set menu will be 2 courses for £11.50 (which includes a gratuity) and choices may be made on the day. I look forward to meeting you all again then.

Norma Shreeve

PTA Day Trips

Elaine Roe has started running a limited number of PTA Day Trips as well as the Minibreaks and Theatre Trips. We will be putting information about these Day Trips on our website but, as the trips can often sell out quickly, it is advisable to be on Elaine's mailing list. You can request this by emailing daytrips@poyntonu3a.org.uk. Alternatively, check out the website www.poyntontheatretrips.org where you will find details of the trips and contact details for Elaine.

Local History Group

There has been an inaugural meeting of the Local History Group. Alan Hulme is to be the group organiser. Alan has lived and worked in Poynton all his life. Meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month with the next meeting on Tuesday 5th July at 11.00am. The aim is to meet at a certain point and have a slow walk around a certain small area of the village to find out about the history. If the weather is poor, the group will meet at Wetherspools and talk, reminisce, tell anecdotes, look at photos or whatever.

Nigel Burin – Interest Groups' Coordinator

General Meetings

The next meeting is on Tuesday 19th July when Lynn Moores and a colleague will be describing The Life of a Magistrate.

At present it is still not clear if the August meeting will be able to take place because of the Civic Centre refurbishments. Please check the meeting is going ahead nearer the time.

Pickleball

The new racquet sport of Pickleball is gaining great popularity in Britain. The game lends itself very well to people of our age, and we already have some keen players amongst our membership.

We have had a request to form a u3a Pickleball group. If you are interested, then please email groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk. Poynton Leisure Centre already run several sessions a week, of one or two hours. They have all the necessary equipment. The idea would be to arrange for our group to meet there at a suitable time. If you are new to the game, then it is perfectly possible to come along for a taster session.

Nigel Burin

Southport Flower Show

Southport Flower Show runs from 18th-21st August 2022. There is a special discount for u3a members, who will be able to get tickets for £18, compared to the gate price of £27, using the promotional code, 'u3a', when buying tickets on the website - [Southport Flower Show](#).

Photography Group

A few members went on the outing to Shrewsbury in May by train, and found it a very interesting town with many old buildings. Some examples are shown below.

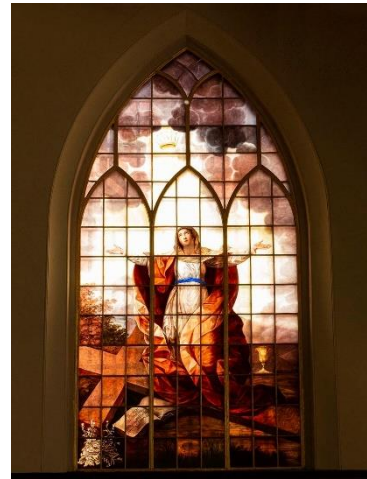
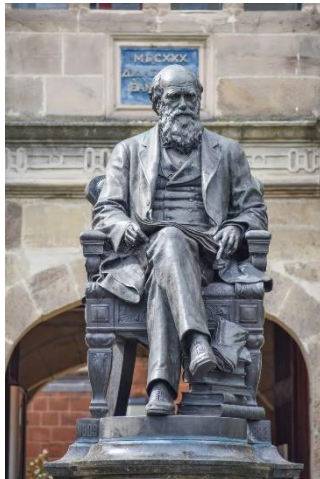
At our June indoor meeting we started by looking at the photos we had taken on the subject of "Narrow". As you can see from some of the photos below, we had quite a range of ideas for portraying the theme.

Peter then gave a short presentation on the Idea of Three, where he showed us photographs from a Third Age Trust website for photography, where we saw the different interpretations of the subject. For those of you interested, the link is <https://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/u3a-eye>.

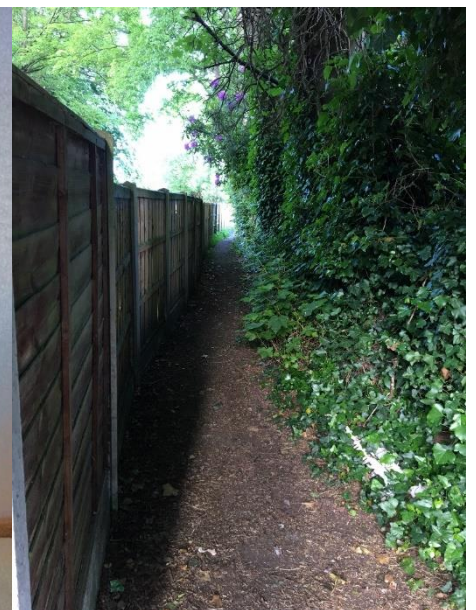
The member topic was also given by Peter, entitled History in a Muddy Field – The Battle of Flodden 1513. The photos showed the layout of the land, on the Scottish borders, and how the outnumbered English were able to defeat the Scots.

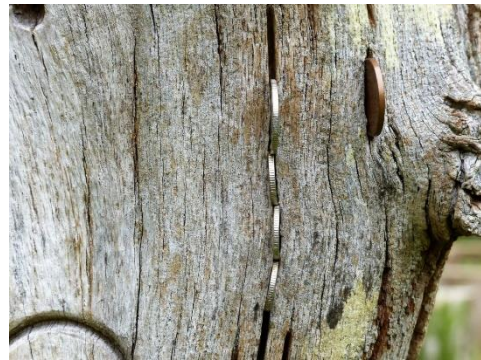
The mid-June outing was to a very beautiful area in the Peak District to try out landscape photography, and more details and photos will be shown in the next newsletter. Watch this space!

Shrewsbury.....



Narrow.....





Sandra Batchelor

Members' Contributions

Scotland Minibreak - 21st-24th April 2022

It was third time lucky with this short holiday which was originally due to take place in 2020, re- scheduled to 2021 and then again to this year. We couldn't believe that, after all this time, we were finally setting off and in beautiful sunny weather which fortunately was to hold for the whole of the trip.

Our first stop was New Lanark World Heritage Site, an 18th century cotton mill village built by mill manager and social pioneer Robert Owen. Here there are recreated millworkers' houses, historic working machinery, Robert Owen's house, the school and the village store illustrating how people lived and worked in Owen's time. Unfortunately, due to staffing problems most of the buildings were closed which was very disappointing. However, we could still look around the village, there was a lovely walk along the river to a waterfall and the cafe and shop were open. We had a lunch break and having spent less time than planned here we managed to fit in a visit to Linlithgow. This is an attractive small town with something of a surprise. On raised ground behind the Town Hall is a medieval church with a striking and somewhat controversial modern spire and beyond that is an area of parkland where overlooking a small loch can be found the magnificent ruin of Linlithgow Palace, birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots. Late afternoon we headed off to our hotel, the King Robert in Stirling. Not much of a looker from the outside, but warm and comfortable inside, with good food and excellent staff.



New Lanark World Heritage Site



Linlithgow Church



Linlithgow Palace

On Friday morning we made our way to Culross. This charming little place, considered one of Scotland's most picturesque towns, with its Town House, ochre coloured 'Palace', cobbled streets and ancient Abbey remains, has been preserved by the National Trust. It is like a 16th century time capsule and has been used in the filming of many historical dramas. The 'Palace', a rich merchant's house, had ancient painted ceilings and a beautiful terraced garden.



Culross



Culross Palace



Culross Palace Gardens

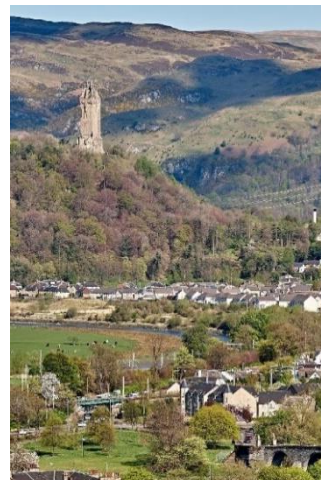


Culross Palace Interior

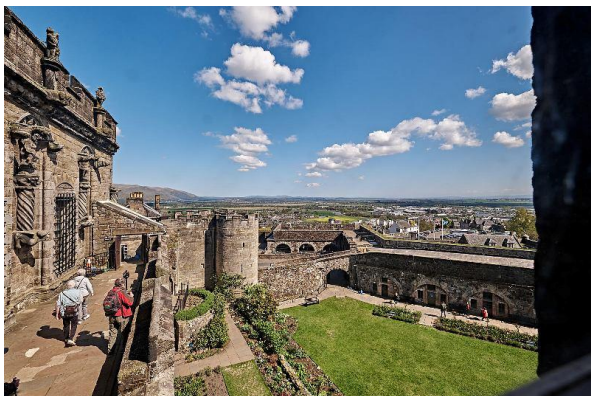
In the afternoon we visited Stirling Castle, one of the largest and most strategically important castles in Scotland. Here there was a lot to see, the highlight for me was the Royal Palace, built for James V, which has been refurbished to look as it would have done in the 1540s. The décor is bright, gaudy even, but this was meant to impress at a time when colour was expensive. From the walkways on the Outer Defences there are spectacular views of the surrounding area. Some of us ventured a little way down into the town where there are other interesting and historic buildings but we didn't go too far as the coach was parked at the castle and it was a steep climb back!



Stirling Castle

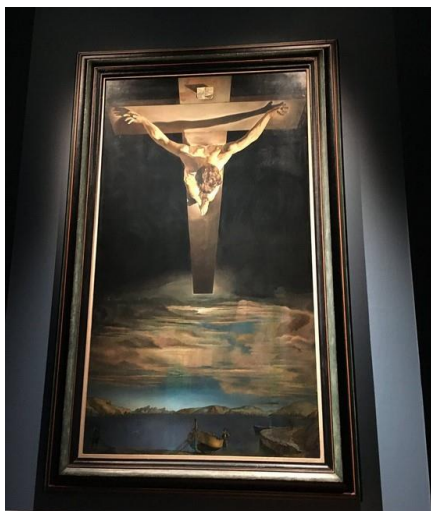


Wallace Monument from the castle



Stirling Castle – ramparts and interior

On Saturday we spent the day in Glasgow. Many people opted to take the open top bus tour as it is a sprawling city and the attractions are quite spaced out. My friends and I went first to the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Art Gallery to see the Mackintosh House. Here the principal interiors of the home that Charles Rennie Mackintosh shared with his wife have been meticulously preserved in an amazing reconstruction of his house. From there we walked to the Kelvingrove Museum, housed in a magnificent red sandstone building and chock full of a world-class collection of art and artefacts. As we arrived there was an organ recital taking place which was a lovely bonus. You could spend days here and not see everything so we had to prioritise the things we really wanted to see, one of which was the amazing Salvador Dali masterpiece 'Christ of St John of the Cross'. We took the bus back to the centre of town where we had a walk around, finishing up on Sauchiehall Street at the Willow Tea Rooms, which have been beautifully restored to the original 1903 Macintosh designs. Here, knowing that we had a three-course dinner scheduled back at the hotel we resisted the Afternoon Tea but it looked fabulous! There is much more to see in Glasgow, (for example, the Cathedral, the Burrell Collection, the Science Centre and the Botanic Gardens) than we could fit into one day - definitely a place to go back to.



Christ of St John of the Cross



Spitfire at Kelvingrove



Willow Tea Rooms



Kelvingrove



Glasgow Street Art

On Sunday we had to make our way home but not before calling in at two amazing structures. Firstly, the Kelpies, 30-metre-high horse-head sculptures, the largest equine sculptures in the world, built as a monument to horse powered heritage across Scotland. Each is made from hundreds of hand-cut steel plates welded onto a skeleton of steel bars and the detail in how they have been crafted is wonderful to see close up.



Then next the Falkirk Wheel, the world's only rotating boat lift, a marvellous feat of engineering which connects the Forth and Clyde canal to the Union canal 35m above it. It takes about 10 minutes to lift a boat and replaces 11 locks which took a day to navigate. The design allows the wheel to consume very little electricity per turn (the same amount as it would take to boil 8 household kettles) despite the enormous weight involved. We took a boat trip and had a 'ride' on the Wheel. It is incredibly smooth and you only realise that you are moving when you look out at your surroundings.



Sadly, this was the end of the trip but there was a small bonus as we stopped at the famous Tebay services on the way back where many purchases were made in the brilliant farm shop!

Elaine Roe

Photos courtesy of **John Jurics**, **Mike Longden** and **Mandy Boshell**

A Perfect Summer's Day....

Turning over in bed, I hear a solitary blackbird heralding the start of a new day. A chorus which cannot be ignored - it prompts some reluctant activity from yours truly.

A bleary-eyed inspection follows, making sure the back garden hasn't disappeared overnight.

Baby sparrows zoom in and out of the hawthorn hedge - nesting is well underway.

Someone's black and white cat crouches patiently under a bunch of hanging fat balls, placed too high for any hope of it catching a bird. But still, it tries and will surely return later rather in hope than expectation I feel.

A perfect English Summer day for me is a temperature in the lower seventies with a slight cooling breeze - that takes some beating.

Now the conundrum, do I mow the lawns or softly clip the hedges (careful of any nesting birds). These days I have to choose - it's either one or the other within a short time-scale - aching joints decree this decision unfortunately.

The trouble with a good summer's day is that you have no excuse to remain idle indoors. When rain or strong winds occur, you find justification to indulge yourself with regular cups of coffee, a newspaper or an iPad.

Years ago, as an alternative to the two above scenarios, we would have, perhaps, jumped into the car and taken off to the Lake District or Anglesey for the day. However, with the pernicious cost of fuel one is reluctant to be that prodigal unless there is present some justification, that is, meeting up with relatives or friends for example.

So, back to the chore of choice, then a lounger, a gin and tonic and maybe a little drowse in the sunshine.

Later in the day, it's time to plan for tomorrow. A check on the calendar to see if there is some medical appointment imminent.

If not, then the obvious move is to perform the task not undertaken the previous day. A look outside however indicates a flurry of light rain and an ever-increasingly darkening sky.

Oh dear, well it's back to the coffee, newspaper and iPad....

What a shame!

Ian Beverley

That's Not Funny

Our garden boasts a plastic gnome
Complete with rod and line;
He fishes patiently all day
Whenever, wet or fine.
He has a little private pond
And wears a fixed, smug smile;
I know his constant cheerfulness
Should buck me up, not rile.
Yet I'd prefer my simple home
Without that piscatorial gnome.
Returning from my dreary work
He greets me with a grin -
Ill-tempered, I would like to pull
The whiskers on his chin.

Playing cricket on the green,
I try to help my side
But my batting is erratic
And my bowling's often wide.
When positioned in the slips
My fielding's even worse
The captain's language, you might guess
Is colourful and terse.

Dispirited and in disgrace
I reach my garden gate
And watch that happy, gormless gnome
A-fishin' - minus bait.
Still laughing, unabashed is he
Though catching nothing, same as me!

Ian Beverley

Poynton Platinum Jubilee Trail – follow-up

From Poynton Update and News dated Friday 17th June:

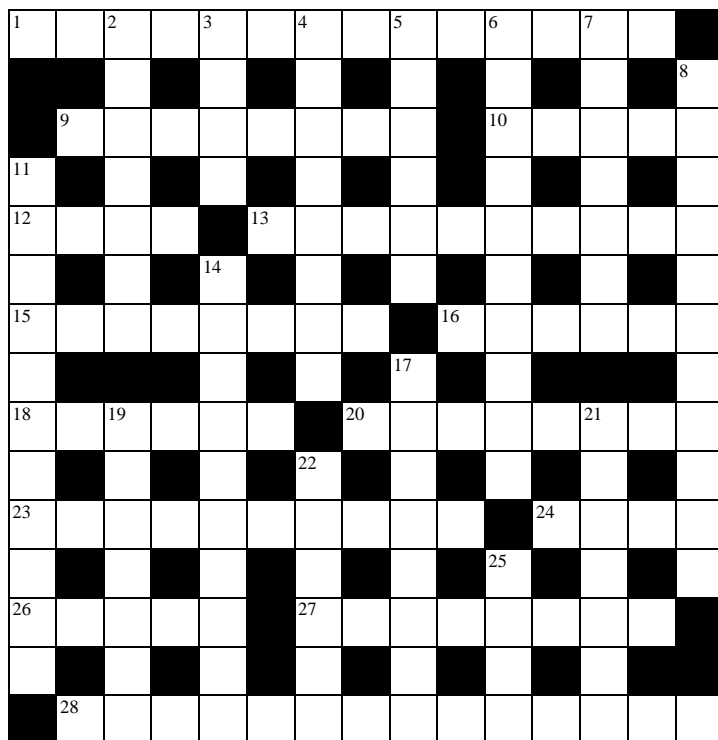
Many people asked if the information on the purple crowns could be available after the trail finished. Here it is for you to enjoy! -

[https://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/Queens Platinum Jubilee Trail further information_42122.aspx](https://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/Queens_Platinum_Jubilee_Trail_further_information_42122.aspx).

[It is worth looking not only at the posters that were on the crowns but also the collections of photographs contained in the additional information- Ed.]

Things to Do

Crossword No. 44



ACROSS

1. Enormous confusion in bandaging Robin (14)
9. Fruit with a metal core produces rare metal (8)
10. Elliptical barrel kept inside by old European (5)
12. From the East raglan sleeves cover rootless plant (4)
13. Cloned salesman told stories about moggie (10)
15. Rescue boat trapped between delta and cape in night-time (8)
16. Of songbirds frolicking – so nice! (6)
18. New York member has no heart for these maidens (6)
20. New opera introduced German soldier with broken chord (8)
23. Fuel cattle disease lacking unknown quote (10)
24. Ancient city is turned over in state of destruction (4)
26. Card for sailor to turn over (5)
27. Crazy thugs hot for ideas (8)
28. Angry marker makes double check (5,9)

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

Solution to Crossword No 43



DOWN

2. Deceptively big role for one who satisfies (7)
3. Function for levy (4)
4. No duplicating of North, South and East is gibberish (8)
5. Medic in river is very agile (6)
6. English city courts transported with glee (10)
7. Fancy a chat in shrubs (7)
8. Annoy reason for creating embroider (11)
11. Summer event in terrible danger with Tories? (6,5)
14. In lives of solitude they are the cornerstone of disturbed site (10)
17. Droll aristocrat reported a total loss (5-3)
19. More mellow when correcting erratum (7)
21. Over production of weight for hog (7)
22. Duck as Mac meets the Queen (6)
25. A bag arrived containing jelly (4)

Sudoku No 34

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

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

Below is the solution to No 33

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. What is the only food that remains edible for thousands of years?
2. What is pharology?
3. What is an Oryx?
4. Who in April this year has been appointed as the latest manager of Manchester United football team?
5. Where in Poynton is Phillips Bridge?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. Which is the only planet in the solar system which spins clockwise on its axis?
Venus
2. In which year did the first golf Masters tournament, held in Augusta Georgia, take place?
1934
3. Who or what is Bluemantle Pursuivant?
Bluemantle Pursuivant is a member of the College of Arms reputed to have been founded by Henry V. The post is currently held by Mark John Rosborough Scott.
4. Of which country is the Bay Cat a native?
The upland and lowland forests of Borneo and it is an endangered species.
5. Where is Winchelsea?
Winchelsea is a small town in East Sussex which was once a main mediaeval port for wine importing. Its church is the burial place of Spike Milligan.