



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)

A Nation in Mourning

In an attempt to understand what has been happening in the UK over the last few days I turned to George Orwell's *England your England*. Amongst many other traits he describes in us he says "*in moments of supreme crisis the whole nation can suddenly draw together and act upon a species of instinct, really a code of conduct which is understood by almost everyone, though never formulated*".

We have all got experience of mourning for members of family, friends and acquaintances. We do so because we are aware that we have benefited from some of the traits these people had. For most of us the death of Queen Elizabeth II is the loss of someone who has been there as a constant for a longer time than anyone else in our lives. And throughout all that time she has always been admired and respected – far beyond others who, through election or birth, might be seen from time to time as models. Even more unusual is the fact that the traits which she embodies and the person herself are equally valued throughout so much of the rest of the world.

Orwell was correct – we are drawn together by instinct. What the nation is doing in its mourning it is doing by instinct. And it is, in fact, well beyond words we can put here.

David Sewart

Poynton u3a Update

General Meetings

The following describes the situation at the time of writing. There may be more changes to come in the future!

After the recent cancelled meetings, the good news is that the next meeting is going ahead on Tuesday 20th September. There will be a talk about *The Building of the Manchester Ship Canal*.

The next month on Tuesday 18th October, *Frank Vigon* is talking about *The Sixties Decade or Decadence*.

And then in November more disruption. The hall is not available on Tuesday 15th November because of the refurbishment but it is available on Tuesday 8th November. The planned speaker for the 15th, Dr Michael Leach is unfortunately not able to come on the 8th but the speakers from August that were cancelled, Lynn Moores and her colleague, are available. To summarise, the November meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th November when *Lynn Moores and her colleague* will talk about *The Life of a Magistrate*.

Photography Group

On Thursday 30th June several of us set off for a 3 day stay at a hotel on the north shore of Bridlington on the Yorkshire coast. After a leisurely breakfast the following morning we set off for Bempton cliffs, a famous RSPB reserve. We had an exhilarating walk along the cliff tops where there were marvellous views of gannets, guillemots and razorbills nesting on the cliff faces. After a well-earned coffee, some of us paid a visit to Sewerby Hall and gardens, where we were greeted by enthusiasts dressed in period costumes in most of the rooms. Each of the volunteers was very well informed and helped us gain some insight into life in a 19th century stately home. Inside the hall there was a very interesting and informative overview of the life of the pilot Amy Johnson during the first half of the 20th century. The other half of the 1st floor was devoted to a display of impressive “wildlife photographer of the year” photographs. There is a small zoo within the grounds so later in the afternoon we watched the penguins being fed.

Saturday morning and time for another bracing walk, this time along the cliff tops at Flamborough Head. Once again there were lots of birds to look at including some puffins nestling into the hillside. A stop for refreshments before making our return trip to the hotel. Many in the group then prepared themselves for a late afternoon RSPB cruise with the chance to view the cliffside birds from the sea. Part way across the bay the boat unexpectedly came across a pod of dolphins who proceeded to entertain the passengers/sailors with their energetic antics.

I should also mention Burton St Agnes, an Elizabethan stately home just outside Bridlington. It is a very picturesque place that is still used as a residence and feels lived in. A walk around the grounds and garden was certainly worthwhile and some of the art works that adorned the walls were rather different from what I would normally expect including quite a bit of impressionist art.

A very enjoyable few days, despite the fairly strong wind which is all too typical on the North Sea coast.



Walking Group - September

When I heard that Pam and Ken were leading a walk taking in the Manchester Ship Canal and the Thelwall Viaduct I was expecting a very different walk from our usual countryside excursions! However, I was pleasantly surprised by what I saw. The footpath alongside the Manchester Ship Canal was awash with blackberries, rose hips and HOPS! Sadly, there was also balsam and Japanese Knotweed. We passed horses in fields, a golf course and fishing ponds. After passing under the Thelwall Viaduct a short detour took us to the Thelwall Ferry where we had a brief rest. A notice gave the times of the ferries and the cost - 11p!

We then made our way across fields to Thelwall village where we found several ancient properties including Thelwall Old Hall and The Pickering Arms, dating from the 16th century, a black and white painted building with the inscription 'in the year 923 Edward the Elder founded a city here and called it Thelwall'. Our return route took us back under the M6. Shortly after this we joined the Bridgewater Canal and then eventually the Trans Pennine Trail, a shady old railway track. The site of Lymm station is now a ranger headquarters with a nearby coffee and snack van. Altogether a very varied walk, followed by a pub lunch outside in the sunshine!

Thanks to Pam and Ken.



The group at the Thelwall Ferry



The Pickering Arms at Thelwall



Two views of the Trans Pennine Trail

Kate Marsham

Photography Group – Part 2

After a pause for the summer an enthusiastic group of us got together in Poynton Civic Centre for our September meeting.

A rearranged schedule resulted in Keith starting off with a summary of his Spring cycling adventure in the US supported by a range of photos, naturally.



Bike shop in Chicago



Bike transportation to Oklahoma City



Sunset in Texas



When a trailer became necessary



Country Road in California



Solvang in southern California



Church in Ventura, southern California

Following Keith's brief American excursion, Lyn gave some useful advice on different mechanisms for balancing lighting when taking pictures of a bright external scene from a dark interior, through a window or archway, perhaps.

We all then enjoyed a short coffee/tea break before taking the opportunity to look at photos offered by members of the group principally on the topic of “Closeups”. Beautiful, colourful summer flowers represented very popular subjects for “Closeups”.



On 14th September many members of the group will make their way to Port Sunlight where they will gather a selection of photos that we will view at the October meeting which will take place at 2:00pm on Friday 7th October in the Civic Centre.

Keith Batchelor

Members' Contributions

A Windfall Wheeze

We're saving up at our house,
But not enough I fear.
We'll be caught out at some stage
When gas becomes too dear.
We've got a plan - it may not work
But we'll give it soon a try,
We've got a list of nearby friends
That we can call on by.
We'll time it right at mealtimes
They'll have to ask us in
We might just stay till bedtime
And partake of one more gin.
Just think of all that saving
If we can get it right,
We'll turn off fires and boiler,
We won't be home till night.
A downside may be lurking -
Our friends might smell a rat
They'll know just what we're up to
And that will then be that!

Ian Beverley

The Creative Writing Group were given the challenge of writing about an inanimate object. This is an example.

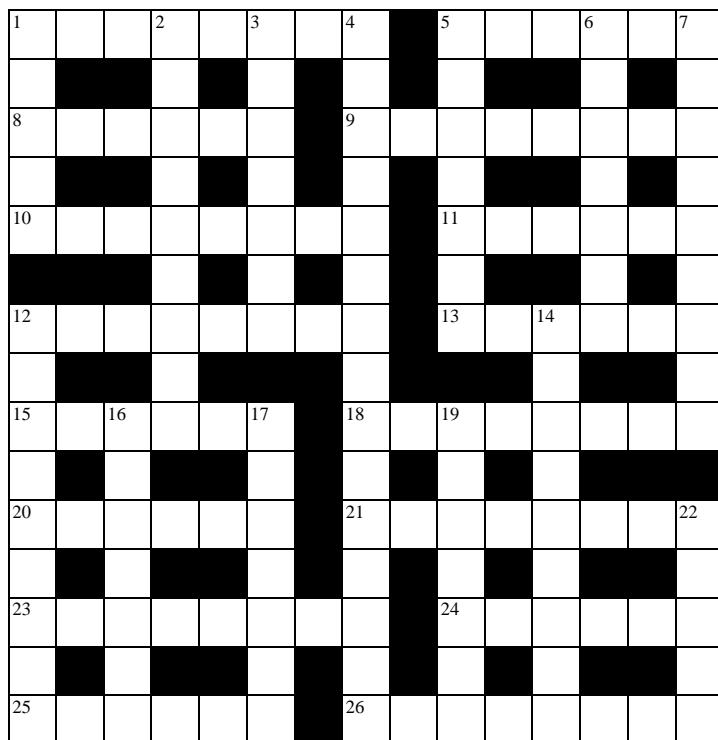
A day in the life of Mr. Iron

I feel very useful,
when wash-day comes around.
You plug me into the socket
and I hardly make a sound.
If you give me water,
I produce continuous amounts of steam.
Like a Dragon snorting fire,
in a constant projective stream.
I have a ceramic soleplate
used for gliding across clothes,
so you can iron delicate fabric,
without making a hole.
Thanks to a powerful shot of steam,
I remove the most stubborn creases.
Both horizontally and vertically
from large and small pieces.
But I can't do this alone,
I need help and support.
He stands in the kitchen cupboard,
my best friend Mr. Board.
He prevents all the clothes
and me, from falling on the floor.
He's very quiet, apart from the odd creak
and not afraid of a chore.
When I'm unplugged, I'm still very hot,
so, remove the unused water and stand.
Where, in a safe place I will cool down,
Ready for your next command.

Susan J Pyett.

Things to Do

Crossword No. 46



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 45

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

ACROSS

1. Genuine terrible leader deposed (8)
5. As if company reinvented itself but was a disaster (6)
8. At the end one hundred and ten hold South American city (6)
9. Goes berserk for long time in the slopes (8)
10. Ric holds her to deliver speech (8).
11. Feeble fruits (6)
12. True, a fit mixture for drink (5,3)
13. Border in Italy is on its coast (6)
15. Shoot to obtain accounts (6)
18. Report of gunshot wound (8)
20. Less quiet pumping bananas is questionable (6)
21. Territorial particle in splendid surroundings (8)
23. Something to soothe the skin by apparently hailing girl (4,4)
24. Present in large curves (6)
25. River member tango not included (6)
26. Make sane and reveal McIlroy and Stewart, say (8)

DOWN

1. Competitor from arts organisation backs playground (5)
2. Actors at Hertfordshire town may have muscle (9)
3. Bewilder and move around a dance (7)
4. Court official reportedly gives praise to former Prime Minister (4,11)
5. He is all fingers and thumbs from loud rumble (7)
6. They are found at 13 (7)
7. From one's boss I reveal his hobby horse (9)
12. Material devoured to make up story (9)
14. Help to remember crooked men on mics (9)
16. Take a dim view that quietly behold Romeo in the river (7)
17. It is touching to see Stan gently opening up (7)
19. The French spruce up and make space (7)
22. Stocking material is let out (5)

Sudoku No 36

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

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

Below is the solution to No 35

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. In which sport did someone called Delicious win a gold medal in the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham?
2. What is the name of the polar bear which was exhibited at Regents Park Zoo in the 1950s.
3. Where did nasturtiums originate?
4. Where are The Flying Proms held?
5. Which of the songs written and performed by Neil Diamond first became a hit in 1969 and is now probably his most famous?

Answers to the quiz in the previous edition

1. Why are Motorways numbered as they are?
Motorways are numbered after the A road routes which they roughly follow.
2. What was the name of the group in which Brian Cox played?
He was the keyboard player with Dare from 1980s and joined D Ream in 1991
3. What is a Grayling?
A Grayling is a cold-water fish.
4. Name the British tribe of which Boadicea was queen.
Boadicea was queen of the Iceni tribe, based in East Anglia.
5. How many episodes were made of Downton Abbey was it 52, 62 or 72?
52 episodes were made of Downton Abbey.

Message from **Sharon Duke** - Communities Co-ordinator - Poynton Town Council

People Helping People - Volunteers needed

You may have seen a recent Communities Partnership Update which highlights the need for Cheshire East Council's People Helping People scheme requiring more volunteers.

Support is needed in our area and they are hoping to recruit more volunteers who can help other people in our community by providing companionship (face to face and telephone), getting out and about, shopping and accessing services. They are looking for volunteers who can spare an hour a week (or more) and they will be supported every step of the way.

If you are interested, please email the PHP team on volunteersupport@cheshireeast.gov.uk or visit www.cheshireeastvolunteers.co.uk or scan the QR code on the poster below.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you spare an hour a week?

We are looking for Volunteers who would like to connect with other people in their local community. As a volunteer, you will be supported every step of the way.



companionship



shopping



getting out & about



accessing services

To find out more about volunteering opportunities, email the PHP team on: volunteersupport@cheshireeast.gov.uk or visit: www.cheshireeastvolunteers.co.uk or scan the QR code within the poster.



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