



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 39-4

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Poynton u3a Update

General Meetings

The next meeting is the Christmas meeting on Tuesday 20th December. Entry is by ticket only. If you have been unable to attend either the October or November General Meeting to obtain a ticket, you may be able to get a ticket if you contact the Membership Secretary (membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk) before 1st December.

The first meeting of 2023 is on Tuesday 17th January when Frank Pleszak will be talking about the High Peak Dambusters. The full list of speakers for 2023 will be in the December issue.

Membership Renewal

Applications for renewal of your Poynton u3a membership for 2023 will be accepted (by post only) throughout January. Details of how to renew will be published in December's newsletter. The cost of renewal is returning to the normal £10.

Remember, if you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, send your contribution to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk

Photography Group

At our meeting today we looked at members' photographs taken of walls. This followed on from the group visit to the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth in Derbyshire where there were many examples of types of stone walls from around the British Isles. It was also an interesting area geologically with fossilised sea plants embedded in the rocky outcrops. The area had been a tropical lagoon!

We went on to experiment taking photographs of shiny objects using a light source, that is, a torch. This proved quite challenging but interesting.

Kate gave a presentation on the new Castlefield Viaduct Garden in Manchester which was opened in early September by the National Trust. It uses a disused railway line 130ft above the street. They hope to create a green corridor through the city for birds and insects.

(For more about the Castlefield Viaduct see pages 3-5 - Ed)

Walls....



*Left – Field Wall
Upper Middle– Mossy Wall
Lower Middle – Fishy Wall
Above – Mixed Stone Wall*



*Left – Cat and Fiddle
Above – Living Wall, Brookside*

Our group visit this month will be to the Quinta Arboretum at Swettenham to photograph Autumn colours which is our topic for this month.

Kate Marsham

A Walk round Chelford

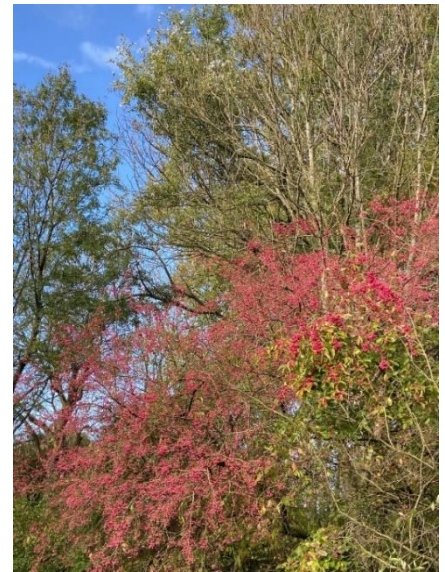
Peter Marsham led this month's walk which was varied even though flat! The day was bright and dry. We passed old gravel pits on which could be seen several species of geese and ducks. The route took us down farm tracks, leafy lanes and through a residential area where we spotted lots of different fungi on the grass verges. En route we had a rest for refreshment in St John's Church yard. The church gates were draped with knitted poppies. We enjoyed a well-earned lunch at the Egerton Arms in Chelford at the end of our walk.



St. John's Church Gates



Blue Skies



European Spindle Tree



The Nature Reserve



The Group

Kate Marsham

Members' Contributions

Castlefield Viaduct

The Castlefield Viaduct was opened in 1892 as part of a plan to increase the rail capacity for passenger and freight travel in and out of Manchester. The viaduct was built over the existing infrastructure so it goes over another railway line and a canal. The freight traffic went to the Great Northern Warehouse and passenger trains ran into Manchester Central station.



A side view with a railway running underneath and a road beneath that.



Looking down from the viaduct on to the railway and the canal

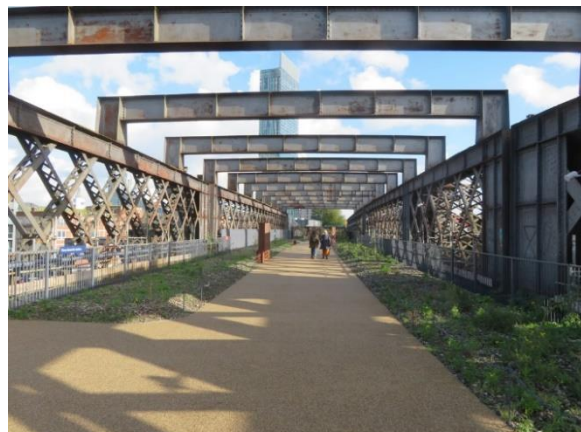
The Manchester Ship Canal began construction in 1887 and opened at the beginning of 1894 (as all those members who attended the September general meeting will no doubt remember). The viaduct was built in 1892 in 6 months. Were these two events related?

The viaduct closed in 1969. It has basically remained untouched since that time although it did become a favourite haunt of graffiti artists. This year it has been taken on by the National Trust as part of a project to produce an urban park in the heart of Manchester.

The viaduct is 330 metres long and only a small part of that length is included in the National Trust (NT) pilot scheme. The rest remains as shown in the picture to the right.



The part which has been adopted by the NT has been divided into two parts. The first part, which is just inside the entrance, has had a path laid down the middle with the existing soil and track bed material pushed to the sides. The plan is to discover which plants arrive as seeds and establish themselves. There are already a couple of non-native species.



The second part has a continuation of the central path but with plants and trees in large metal containers.

The plants are benefitting from the warmer temperatures in the city centre.



Visiting: At present the only way to visit the viaduct is by booking a timed visit through the National Trust website. There is no charge for members or non-members but there is a limit of 50 people on the viaduct at any one time. Until recently, bookings proved difficult to obtain. The best time to try and book is on Thursday morning when new dates are released.

The easiest way to access the viaduct is from Castlefield-Deansgate Metro station along a level path.

Derek Gatenby

Season Reason

Scarlet berries on holly bush
Profuse and early, why is this?
Does it mean a harder Winter
Or global warming cause a miss?

Past Winters have been short of snow
White Christmas an absent scene,
Foggy mornings - distant memory,
Icy days now the new has-been.

Maybe we will turn off the heating
Snuggle up in blanket's fold,
But maybe we will need the comfort
Of extra warmth if ice takes hold.

Let's hope our Christmas will be jolly,
Forget the warnings of the Spring-
Allow ourselves a little joy,
Relax and hear the church bells ring.

Requiem for Summer

Summer now a distant joy,
Garden chairs put back in store,
Time to check the guttering
Lest storms destroy it even more.

It's time for cloudy mornings
Or early touch of frost-
Time for porridge, crumpets,
Diets soon are lost.

Traffic hisses down the road,
Drizzle slides down window pane,
Shoppers scurry past in droves
Glad to be heading home again.

Come the evening, screens aglow,
Some comfort in the fare
Of soaps and scary dramas
Switch channels if you dare!

Ian Beverley

Bucket list

"Mum," said my daughter, "you ought to make a bucket list."

"What for?" I replied. "we've only got two; the one your dad uses to wash the car, and the white one with the wonky handle."

"No, a list of things you want to do before you, you know, go.. ."

"I always go before I leave the house; honestly public toilets can be..."

"Mother, a list of things you ought to do before you die."

"Oh, we've done that, your dad and me. Like power of attorney and a will, so don't worry, there are a few bequests, but it's mainly left to you, and ..."

"Not that sort of thing, this is things you've never tried before like...bungee jumping or something."

"If you think that at my age and with my state of health that I'm going to jump off bridges, you can think again, young lady."

"No, it doesn't have to be anything like wing-walking, or hang-gliding, it can be something quite simple...I can't think of anything just at this moment, but something you've always wanted to do, like have tea at the Ritz, or something."

"Well, that sounds nice. I'll save up my pension for a year or two, then."

End of conversation, but I did think about it...riding? I'm petrified of horses, won't even go on the roundabout ones at the fair.....boldly going like Captain Kirk? No, because no one can hear you scream in space, because you'd be dead as there's no air....Going to a posh red-carpet event in a tiara? Not got either a red carpet or a tiara. Anyway, it would probably be me that tripped up on the carpet and revealed my well-washed underwear and the headgear would likely fall over my ear. End of my bucket of ideas.

Surprisingly, an opportunity occurred this summer. Daughter booked the holiday cottage for the family... overlooking the railway, to please dad, who likes steam trains. And in the garden, a Hot Tub.

A hot tub of what? I asked. She insisted I purchased a bathing suit, swim wear, or whatever it is called these days. I chose one with a modest, so I thought, short skirt and respectable neckline. A Hot Tub turns out to be a large bucket-like structure that you sit in, all four of us at once. It is full of warm water, and you can press a switch and make the water whirl round and bubble. And your bathing skirt floats up, and the whirling water fills up the top of your costume and it sags.

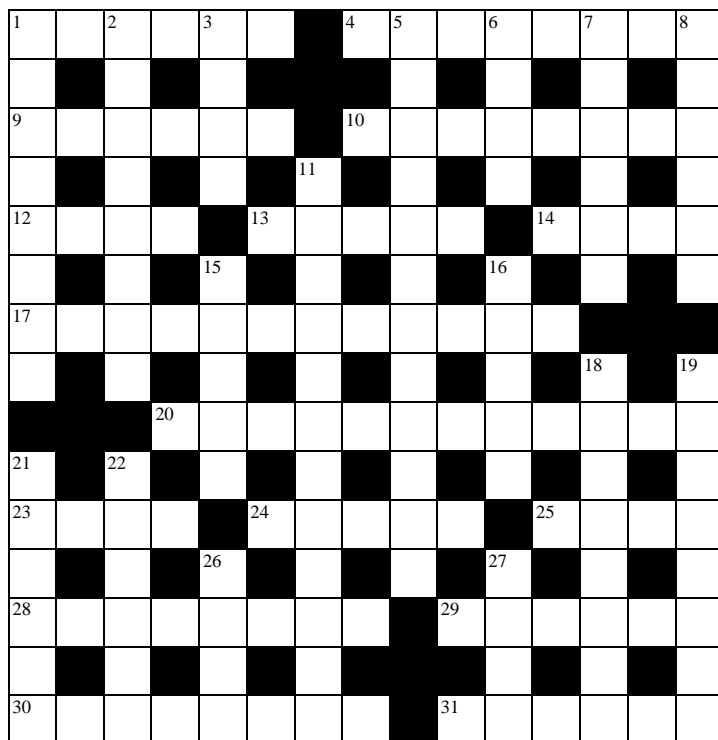
What you *can't* do is hide when the trains come past the garden and the driver alerts all the passengers, who hang out of the windows calling a variety of comments from the crude to the unkind.

But...Bucket List completed. Except that I've always wanted to

Ruth Howard

Things to Do

Crossword No. 48



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 47

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

ACROSS

1. Hope to see a church steeple (6)
4. Unfettered release for Ms Sturgeon's hopes? (4,4)
9. Idol manufactured to contain protective sleeve (6)
10. Fracas reported having cuppa by ditch (8)
12. That lady with nothing for Bond, say? (4)
13. Dusty green eggs carried by officer (5)
14. Last year I had an eye complaint (4)
17. Miserable record playing into the small hours (12)
20. Barque outing cooked up casserole ingredient (7,5)
23. Some delay going back to university (4)
24. Confusing their first governor on air (5)
25. Sulphur cover went away smoothly (4)
28. Graduate takes sandstone to religious building (8)
29. Programme with finale in the stove (6)
30. Work on set until musician appears (8)
31. Friends go to Kent, say to obtain flower parts (6)

DOWN

1. Chemical reported in Tameside supermarket (8)
2. Split back slash with a jump (8)
3. Managed to catch old horse (4)
5. Limitations of short illnesses (12)
6. Yank about right for gardening basket (4)
7. Property from fact when I am not involved (6)
8. Joyful when connected leader deposed (6)
11. Trick progressions bring reactions (12)
15. Clown with a drink (5)
16. A pair of ducks swallow label in the Antipodes (5)
18. Rank sail blown out in SE Asia (3,5)
19. Turn on wench providing winch (8)
21. Clangs at the sound of an emblem (6)
22. Intimate time in this small room (6)
26. Tart left in cooler (4)
27. Monster appears, therefore back (4)

Sudoku No 38

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

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

Below is the solution to No 37

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

Quiz questions from Hooha make a welcome return. The answers will be in the next edition.

1. The Queen's favourite dogs were Corgis; what breed of dog do King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla favour?
2. How many wives did Jerry Lee Lewis have?
3. Where is Rishi Sunak's constituency as an MP?
4. What is the proper name of the star known as The Dog Star?
5. What was the name of the mountaineer from Mobberley who died on the North Face of Everest in 1924?

And finally, a message from Neil Stevenson, the North West Region Trustee.

Manchester Metropolitan University would like to work with u3a members on a joint research and design project. The research looks at what remote control devices we use and how and when we use them. This research will lead to new designed devices that better meet our needs. The designs will be developed by the students in conjunction with our members who volunteer to participate in this programme. The best designs will be entered into a global competition. If you are interested in taking part in this research, please reply to me (through enquiries@poynton.org.uk). Your email details will be forwarded to Sarah Moriarty, Senior Lecturer in Product Design at the university. She will then contact you with further details.

A late addition to Newsletter 39-4

A message from the Middlewood Partnership

From 1st December 2022, there will be a new way of contacting us online. We will be replacing askmyGP with an online consultation system called PATCHS which has lots of extra features that will benefit you and us. You can find out more about PATCHS on our new [PATCHS information page](#). Once we go live on Thursday 1st December, when you request an

appointment through our website, you'll be directed to PATCHS instead of askmyGP (askmyGP will no longer be available from this date). The first time you are directed to PATCHS, you will need to register for an account (a very simple process needing your email address and a self-selected password – you can use the one you use for askmyGP if you like).

If you think you might need help to register, we're running drop-in sessions as follows:
Poynton Library Tuesday 22nd November, 4-6pm & Friday 25th November, 10am-12pm.

