



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Poynton u3a Update

Return to the Civic Hall

As we are aware the Civic Hall has been going through extensive renovations over many months which, not surprisingly, have brought with them challenges for those engaged in completing the physical changes in line with new requirements for a public building, for those who work in the building and for those who use its services. All this has taken place beneath the shadow of the most restricting requirements on normal communications which have ever existed in the UK, and have been placed on us variously for some three years and from which we are only now being released. Nobody should be surprised that timetables have fallen behind, changes in plans have had to be met, staff have changed, and misunderstandings have become almost commonplace.

We are hoping in the autumn to pick up and return to the one common experience offered by all u3as, namely General Meetings with external speakers, in the Civic Hall again. There is a planned floor refurbishment for the large hall which we have used for over a decade and, all being well, we hope finally to return to our long-established cycle of General Meetings. We will keep you informed on the date of our return.

Vera Williams

Forthcoming General Meetings

On Tuesday 18th July, *John Taylor* will be talking to us about *Herbs for Health, including the treatment of colds/flu/osteoarthritis*

In August, we have a replacement for the originally announced speaker. On Tuesday 15th August *Chris O'Grady* will be describing *Travelling Around Japan on a Couch*.

Leaving Covid behind

Poynton u3a is by no means the largest of the 1,000 or so u3as in the UK. Some, in much more densely populated areas, have reached up to 2000 members. The UNESCO definition of "older people" is 60+ and the last Poynton census figure (in 2021) showed a total of 5,438 people over the age of 60 which is almost 36% of the total population of Poynton. In September 2019 Poynton u3a had a total of 520 members. That's about 10% of the 5,438

people over the age of 60 in Poynton. The u3a Trust had produced pre Covid figures which show that the average membership for a local u3a was 3.6% of the older people in their geographical area. Before Covid we were way ahead of that!

The whole u3a movement in the UK has suffered greatly from the COVID pandemic as have many similar organisations. It is difficult to imagine any restraints which could have been such a threat to the very existence of an organisation like the u3a. But your u3a has weathered the storm by regular contact with members through Poynton u3a News and a range of adaptations from amongst our groups. We are also pleased to report that more connections have been made with local u3as meaning we can offer more and new joint interest groups with those in our locality. Details are on our website.

Our Membership Secretary reports that our present membership is 376 and is growing again. It may be some time before we reach again a membership which is some 10% of older people in Poynton. But even now our membership is almost 7%, far greater than the 3.6 figure which the u3a Trust had seen as an average. By the end of this year, we hope to have returned to our former location and former practices and look forward to a celebratory Christmas Party.

Poynton u3a Committee

Poynton Town Council Community Support Team

At the May General Meeting we had a very informative talk from two of our Council Community Support Officers, Louise and Paul. First, we must thank them for stepping in at short notice and, second, they provided a significant amount of local information which we thought would be useful to members who were not at the meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities of Council Community Support Officers,

- Carry out reassuring, high visual patrols in the area
- Provide an 'eyes and ears' service aimed at reducing the fear of crime for residents and improving their quality of life
- Deal with environmental crime issues, such as littering, fly tipping and dog fouling
- Reduce incidents of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour, making referrals where necessary
- Attend local schools and give educational advice to them on various topics
- Support the community by encouraging diversionary activities for young people
- Support older members of the community by signposting them to activities and community groups, preventing social isolation
- Offer advice on crime prevention in the home
- Work in partnership with other agencies to improve the area and community, making Poynton a safe place to live, work and visit
- Act as professional witnesses

They are not:

- A replacement for the Police
- An emergency service. Crime should be reported to the Police immediately on 101, if in an emergency 999

Local Parking

Park Lane is a restricted parking area between 8.00am–10.00am in the morning and 4.00pm–6.00pm in the evening. During these periods vehicles cannot stop at any time as an instant parking charge notice can be issued (£70 fine). Disabled badge holders are included in this and cannot stop during this time. All other times are for loading or unloading only and disabled drivers can park their vehicles for up to three hours displaying their blue badges and their clock cards.

Parking on the areas in front of the shops in Park Lane is allowed at the appropriate times so long as the footpath is not impeded. More generally, parking on the pavement side of double yellow lines is still illegal.

It is also possible to stop briefly on the double yellow lines on Queensway. “Briefly” in this context means for a very few minutes.

The Community Support Officers are not responsible for parking in the Waitrose/Civic Centre car park.

Initiatives

There are also two initiatives running at the moment, primarily to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour. There is a football initiative for girls and boys aged 10–16years that is held at Barnaby Park on a Wednesday evening and a dance initiative that is held on Friday evenings at the Civic Hall for girls and boys aged between 8–15years. Funding has been secured for both events well into 2024 and there have been between 15 and 20 attendees on a regular basis. It is hoped that we can see a reduction in anti-social behaviour going forward and assist in the wellbeing of young people in our society.

Poynton Police Station

Poynton Police Station is designated as being unmanned. It is situated in the Services hub next to the Fire Station. If you need to hand something in at a police station, you may find somebody available at Poynton or you may not. The nearest permanently manned police station appears to be in Macclesfield.

Theatre Trips and Mini Breaks

Theatre Trips, Mini Breaks and occasional Day Trips are organized on behalf of Poynton High School PTA but are open to u3a members. Recent trips have included theatre visits to *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *My Fair Lady*, a Spring Break to Wells, Longleat and Bristol and a day trip to Grassington and Harrogate.

Information is usually available at General Meetings, but I cannot always be there, and I know that applies to some of you as well. If you think that you might be interested in any of the trips the best thing to do is to join the mailing list and then you will get regular updates as new trips are booked. You can contact me via groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk. If you want to see what is currently on offer check out the website www.poyntontheatretrips.org

Elaine Roe

Bird Watching

Recently Peter Owen informed us that it was not possible for himself and Peter Kirk to carry on with the Bird Watching Group and it would have to be closed. Peter Owen has repeatedly attempted to find a replacement organiser for the group but without success. Here is what the closure of the group means to one of our members.

On the third Tuesday of January 2011, when members were joining our u3a, I was pleasantly surprised to see Peter Owen sitting at a table with a Bird Watching sign in front of him. As I knew nothing about bird watching, I put my name on his list. So began a new phase of my education.

Peter Owen organised us all expertly, very ably assisted by Catherine. Our first outing and every subsequent January was a walk along Poynton Pool looking at all the various water birds, both resident and migratory. Over the next few years, we ventured further afield to Leighton Moss, Martin Mere and Carsington Water to name a few and the group was enhanced by the introduction of Peter Kirk, a school friend of Peter Owen.

Together they patiently imparted more knowledge of birds than I could imagine.

Although the birds were the stars, I value the friendships made during these outings, and that, if I ask Peter Kirk to identify a bird or explain its behaviour, he will know the answer.

So, thank you Peters for overcoming your own struggles and enriching my life over the past 10+ years.

Carol Gatenby

Members' Contributions

Short Walks Group

We start our walks at **10.30** (not 11.00am as indicated in the previous Newsletter). Twelve members joined the May walk which was circa 3 miles starting at South Park Drive, walking up Prince's Incline with stunning views then around the woods where we found carpets of bluebells which looked spectacular in the dappled light and many a photo was taken. The walk continued down the farmers field where the sheep and lambs frolicked. We ended the walk around Poynton Pool. All in all, a wonderful morning.



Bluebell Walk, Poynton



Coronation Tea. May



Group members by the canal, crossing fields and following footpaths

We meet every month
At half past ten
And go on a walk
Some people are quiet
Others like to talk
Joyce is the leader of the pack
But gives everyone a choice of choosing a track

Walking steady while admiring the view
And feeling good with the fresh air
Thoughts and opinions we can share
Wear your boots and a waterproof bring
And when the ramble comes to an end
Homeward bound we will send

Joyce Streets – poem by **Mary Kelly**

Diners' Club

The Deanwater in Woodford has provisionally been booked for the next social lunch on Thursday 20th July at 12.00pm for 12.30pm. The venue has requested that we pre-order from the Tudor Bar and Dining Room menu. The menu can be accessed via their website.

If you wish to attend, please contact me with your menu choices. Also, if you require a lift on the day, please let me know and we can make the necessary arrangements.

Barbara Tankard

Where They Went Wrong

They built a brand-new hotel
Deep in the Cotswolds plain,
Long tree-lined driveway
Led the way to a narrow lane.

Signs appeared 'to car parks'
Which lay some quarter mile
From hotel in the distance,
This did not make us smile.

Out from the boot, the cases -
Thankfully, on wheels,
My walking stick was lifted
And we set off on our heels.

Arriving at the foyer
Breathless and annoyed,
Collapsing on a sofa
Our ire was soon deployed.

The placing of the car park
(Designers, take the blame)
When target groups of clients use sticks and
walking frame.

Inside, we found the bedrooms
Were far from restaurant/bar
Lifts took lots of finding,
Ease was well from par.

Why invest all that money
On luxury bricks and mortar
Ignoring basic common sense
And concept that they 'oughter'.

A City – United

No Spurs in white, no Arsenal red,
No West Ham claret, Chelsea blue.
Just Mancunians THEIR blue and red,
Gracing Wembley as they're due.

After-shocks at early scoring
Spill across United backs.
Further threat of added digit
Spur determined, serried packs.

The ground bisected, United, City,
Flags waving on a special day,
Roars resounding at each progress -
Groans in unison - 'they blocked the
way'.

Then ref's decision, (Heaven Sent),
Disputed penalty awarded,
Misery from City fans,
Well-placed kick, a goal rewarded.

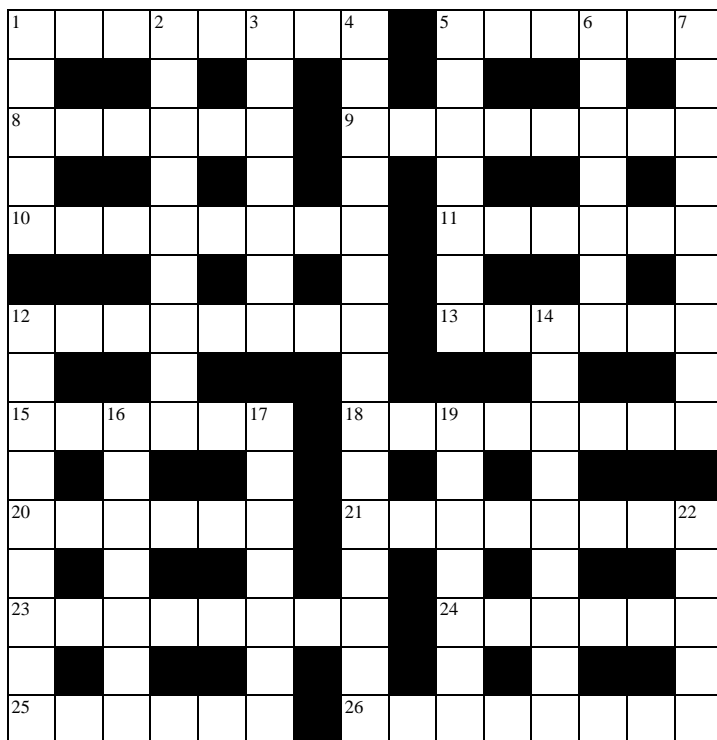
A second half with City rising
To the challenge at each end,
Then, decisive bulging net
And City feel they're on the mend.

Subs arrive to do their job -
Attacking Reds, defensive Blues.
In stoppage time, the match decided,
Triumphant City make the news.

Ian Beverley

Things to Do

Crossword No. 54



ACROSS

1. Soothsayer protects a distant mariner (8)
5. Found and carted off (6)
8. Weighing up sailor (6)
9. Holds sails and backs cart onto weapons (8)
10. Very grand friend has a tail unfurled (8)
11. Recoups a large amount from which one can find a place in Sweden (6)
12. Renounce wars for Eastern worries (8)
13. Intimidate a so-called hero of Trojan wars (6)
15. Financial containers remove hundred savings (6)
18. Contrasted and hosted by the sound of it (8)
20. Had been diverted to unload vegetable (6)
21. Backs us with marks and keeps going (8)
23. Bolt or it must be undone to be consumed (8)
24. First class jewel is seen when opening up (6)
25. Replacing a hundred by five hundred in shade gives distress (6)
26. Irritates the south but is not necessary (8)

Submitted by **Eileen Shore** and **Nigel Burin**. 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 53

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

DOWN

1. The odds including wrecked vehicle will lead to this (5)
2. I caress mixture in iron dish (9)
3. Music to greet the arrival of the bin lorry? (7)
4. Timeless ancient city with a beast holding action seen on Coronation Day (5,10)
5. Sounds projected from one side to the other (7)
6. Fruit ran in short supply (7)
7. Some French were doubled up and became dejected (9)
12. Freddy sits on bottom bunk in the garden (6,3)
14. Fellow on arrival loses four to the shrubland (9)
16. Red leaf blown away by USA government for example (7)
17. Cover found initially from small houses, easy lets transforming each residence (7)
19. Dining room takes time to provide notice (7)
22. Sounds weary but heard measurement (5)

Sudoku No 44

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

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

Below is the solution to No 43

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. In Dad's Army, what is the Christian name of Captain Mainwaring?
2. Which bird has the largest wingspan in the world?
3. Which Queen of England was born in Bradgate House, Leicestershire.
4. What colour are letter boxes in Guernsey?
5. If a pomelo is the largest citrus fruit, what is the smallest?

Below are the answers to the questions in the previous edition.

1. Who sang the theme tune from the Bond film "From Russia with Love"?
Matt Munro
2. Who is the Earl Marshall of the United Kingdom?
The Duke of Norfolk
3. Which country produces the greatest quantity of lemons?
India
4. Approximately how many postcodes are there in the United Kingdom?
1.7 million
5. Who directed the 2014 film "The Jersey Boys"?
Clint Eastwood

A few errors crept into the Groups List in the previous edition. Below is a corrected version.

Poynton u3a Groups List

| Group | Organiser | Meeting |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Acoustic Folk/Rock Band | Geoff Brindle | Contact Organiser |
| Art | Linda Thompson | 2.00-4.00pm Mondays at the Civic Centre |
| Bridge | Dorothy Rowland | 2.00pm alternate Mondays at Davenport Golf Club |
| Creative Writing | Ruth Howard | 1.30pm 2 nd & 4 th Mondays Davenport Golf Club |
| Crossword Compiling | Nigel Burin | By arrangement with organiser |
| Diners' Club | Barbara Tankard | Information at General Meetings and on website |
| Discussion | Keith Batchelor | Monthly Thursday mornings |
| D.I.Y. (Basics) | Jim McCann | Monthly |
| Family History | Moyna Barrott | 2.00pm 1 st Wednesday in month at the Civic Hall |
| French Conversation | Sandra & Keith Batchelor | Monthly. Usually Friday afternoon. Contact Organisers |
| Geology | Peter Bennett | Monthly. Usually 4 th Thursday in month. |
| German Conversation | Peter Owen | Monthly |
| History | Catherine Owen | 2.00pm 4 th Tuesday in month |
| History 2 | Geoff Reason | 4 th Wednesday in month 2.00pm at Brookside Garden Centre |
| Local History | Alan Hulme | Contact Organiser |
| Music Appreciation | Liz Markham | 2.00pm 1 st Thursday in month |
| Photography | Peter Bennett & Hilary Tivey | Usually 1 st Friday in month 2.00pm Poynton Civic Centre. Contact Organisers |
| Pickleball | Peter McWhirter | Every Wednesday 4.30pm Poynton Leisure Centre |
| Play Reading | Catherine Owen | 2.15pm 1 st Tuesday in month |
| Reading Group 1 | Iris Neale | 2 nd Tuesday in month |
| Reading Group 2 | Glenys Parry-Jones | Last Monday of the month 10.30am Contact Organiser |
| Science & Technology | Carol & Derek Gatenby | Usually 4 th Tuesday in month. Contact Organisers |
| Short Walks | Joyce Streets | 2 nd Tuesdays in month at 10.30am |
| Spanish | Paul Freeborn | Mondays (except Bank Holidays) 10.30-11.30 at Brookside Garden Centre |
| Table Tennis | Janet & Peter Gill | Tuesday 9.45-12.15, Wednesday 2.00-4.30pm and Thursday 1.30-4.30pm at Poynton Sports Club |
| Walking | Marilyn Westbrook | 1 st Thursday in month |

Other Poynton Groups open to our U3A Members

| Group | Organiser | Meeting |
|---|----------------|--|
| Hallé Concert Visits | Yvonne Sharma | Information at General Meetings & on web site |
| PHS-PTA Day Trips, Minibreaks and Theatre Trips | Elaine Roe | Information at General Meetings & on web site |
| Walking Netball | Liz Arrowsmith | Tuesdays 11.20am-12.20 at Poynton Leisure Centre |