



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Poynton u3a Update

Return to the Civic Hall

On Tuesday 17th October, we are back to the **Civic Hall** with a talk by Graham Short entitled *The Life of a Micro Artist*. Meetings will now be in the Civic Hall for the foreseeable future.

On Tuesday 21st November, we have *Jayne Stubbs* telling us about *Learning to Fly at 58*.

On Tuesday 19th December, we have the Christmas Meeting when the entertainment will be provided by the *Fingerless Magician*.

Christmas Meeting Tickets

As always at the Christmas Meeting numbers are limited and entry will be by ticket only. Tickets will be on sale at the October and November General Meetings and cost £3 which includes a raffle ticket.

Civic Service Awards

Each year the Town Council seeks nominations for the Mayor's Civic Service Awards. These awards recognise those who gave their time to benefit our community and are presented by the Mayor at a Civic Sunday reception. As far as we are aware we have never put anyone forward for this occasion and it was suggested that we do so. It would also give us an opportunity to promote the success of our u3a to the wider local community.

Poynton u3a was created by a few kindred spirits who got together in 2010 and created an outline which can now be seen to have stood the test of time as well as surviving the pandemic. As membership numbers grow back again, the present committee thought it might focus on those who made an idea into reality and ask two of our members specifically involved some 13 years ago, Joan Stepto and Jo Leach, to allow it to put their names forward for this year's gathering. We were delighted that both accepted.

Joan was first introduced to the u3a through a friend who was a member in Marple. She presented the idea of forming a Poynton u3a in a meeting held in her home. As more people became interested Jo volunteered to be the first Chair. The roles they took on were challenging and many hurdles had to be overcome, but eventually an initial guidance was formed which is still used today.

This year's event was hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bailey, at a civic reception held on Sunday 17th September. The nominees were presented with their awards in front of the Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire, councillors from Poynton and the surrounding areas, family, friends and representatives of the nominees' organisations.

Well done to both Joan and Jo.

Vera Williams

Joan is on the left and Jo on the right in the picture which was kindly provided by Jo's son Chris.



Potential new interest group: Board Games

With the aim of keeping my brain ticking over in a sociable gathering, I'm considering starting a regular board games group.

My initial thought was Rummikub, a version of the card game Rummy, but using numbered tiles in four colours instead of suits. Easy to learn but with interesting strategies. That's just one option - there are lots of possibilities - anyone could suggest other games.

I haven't fixed a day or time yet, so if you are interested in playing a favourite game or learning a new one, in a relaxed way, please ask for me on the door at the monthly general meeting or contact me at membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk. No obligation, I just need to gauge interest level.

Cecilia Storr-Best

Members' Contributions

Pickleball

Poynton u3a Pickleball continues to grow with 4 players, Austin Rawcliffe, Keith Purdom, Debra Rowarth and myself competing in the English Open Championships in Telford. It was played over three days with over 1,000 players from 34 different countries. No medals this time but we are keen to improve and have had our first coaching session.



We were awarded a grant by Sports England and have used some of the money to purchase our own portable nets.

The group in their home at Poynton Leisure Centre and a view of the Open Championships



If you are looking to take part in an enjoyable sport and keep fit, then get in touch through groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Peter McWhirter

A Dental Fantasy

Who'd have thought that love could burgeon
'Twixt patient and one's dental surgeon?
But mine is feminine - more beside
She's very highly qualified
My feelings yet are undeclared
That tip-up chair still has me scared
And there is never much to say
When gurgling jets get in the way
And tongue's beyond a merry quip
Perchance the probe should make a slip.
Even in that welcome pause
When one may rinse and ease the jaws
I'm at a loss, for respite's fled
And back once more, disguising dread.
I open wide, as is required
And wonder if my pluck's admired
By she who gives me such a thrill
As she leans over with that drill.

"In six months please see me again
Unless before you have some pain"
Stiff upper-lipped I bid goodbye
Rather sadly, ever shy.
It might be said I'd had my 'fill'-
Borne the treatment, paid the bill.
Yet half a year's too long to wait-
Might there be an earlier date?
Meanwhile, I shall hope and ponder -
Would 'abscess' make the heart grow
fonder?

Ian Beverley

The Stockport Loyalist/Radical Trail – History Group 2

For our August meeting group member Margaret Myerscough led us on a fascinating guided tour of some of the key sites associated with the history of Stockport's Radicals & Loyalists.

We discussed the 1790s which marked the start of an active, organised and national movement for a radical reform of parliament, and extension of the right to vote. In Stockport, the Friends of Universal Peace and the Rights of Man was established to discuss ideas of political reform, based on Thomas Paine's recently published *Rights of Man*.

They were quickly followed by the formation of Loyalist associations such as the Stockport Loyal Volunteers, and the Stockport Reeves Association, who assisted the authorities in cracking down on the activities of the Friends of Universal Peace, and other radical associations.

The unrest was exacerbated by the dire financial climate during the Napoleonic Wars. Problems really started coming to a head in the years before and after Waterloo in 1815, when soldiers were returning home to find there were no jobs for them. This was a particular problem in the large manufacturing towns of the north-west such as Stockport.

From 1816 onwards the discontent grew more prominent, petitions were submitted to parliament and the king. Radical meetings were held without permission of the local magistrates, and reform clubs formed all over the region. Stockport became a hotbed of extreme radicalism, and a number of protest rallies, marches, and riots took place. In July 1818 there was violence from both sides when dressers and power loom weavers went on strike, and cavalry were brought from Manchester to quell the rioters. These events culminated in the Sandy Brow Riot in February 1819, and the meeting at St Peter's Field in Manchester on August 16th, that became known as Peterloo.

On the Loyalist (the authorities) side: the Magistrate Rev. Prescott, the ambitious Magistrates' Clerk John Lloyd, the zealous yeoman Benjamin Brownhill and the unfortunate Constable William Birch who was shot – in a case of attempted murder more of him later! On the Radical side there was the reformist Reverend Joseph Harrison nicknamed 'the Parson', the famous orator Henry Hunt, and the angry young radical leaders John Bagguley, Samuel Drummond and John Johnston. You will hear more about them on the walk.



We started our tour at **the Lancashire Bridge**. On the 10th March 1817 there was a meeting in Manchester of around 1,200 people and they planned to walk to London and deliver a petition to the King calling for reform. This event would become known as the **March of the Blanketeers**. The marchers planned a route through Stockport. When they reached the bridge, they found Stockport magistrate Holland Watson had rushed to stop them.

With the help of Yeomanry, he arrested 48 marchers while they were trying to cross the Mersey here. Others avoided Watson by wading through the river nearby. A further 170 were arrested.

We then walked along **Great Underbank** which was intended to be the beginning of the **March of the Blanketeers** to what remains of the **Warren Bulkeley Hotel** which was the main meeting place of the loyalists.

On the corner was **The White Lion** where a cannon would be fired when stage coaches arrived with the latest news and post from London. This was then taken to the Post Office in the Market Place. Reliable information from London was important for both the Loyalists and the Radicals.

William Turner who was a prominent loyalist, was a distiller and wine merchant who ran **The Queen's Head** public house from 1809.

Turning up **Mealhouse Brow** we visited the **Bull's Head** which dates back to 1867. It was always connected with political history; the original had a balcony and was the site of the election hustings. The orator, Henry Hunt, the main speaker at Peterloo, gave speeches here against the Corn Laws and for parliamentary reform. He would have spoken from the upstairs balcony here to thousands of people who filled the open Market Square. Speaking about him, John Lloyd said that "*Hunt entertained all the ragamuffins of the town*".



In **The Market Place** was Henry Hodgkinson's chemist's shop. He was another prominent loyalist and a member of the Stockport Volunteers, and the Wellington Club. His name appears on several loyalist documents. He became Mayor of Stockport in 1826. The market

place was a general meeting place that hosted demonstrations of both Loyalist might, and Radical unrest throughout the period.



At the end of the street is **St Mary's Church**: the final resting place of Constable William Birch.

Staircase House houses the breastbone of Constable William Birch who was shot in the chest on July 23rd 1819 after returning to Stockport, having arrested Sir Charles Wolseley and Rev. Joseph Harrison for sedition. Birch secured the men in his own house but word got out and a crowd of radical supporters gathered. He was approached by Jacob McGhinness who shot him in the chest. Birch managed to run, screaming, through the gardens of **Loyalty Place**, causing much alarm to the inhabitants. The surgeon Mr. Killer could not find the bullet and concluded that it must be lodged in Birch's breastbone. McGhinness escaped and fled to Ireland. He was discovered in his aunt's bed wearing a woman's nightgown and cap. He was arrested and taken to Chester for trial, where a Judge sentenced him to death, to which he replied "It is a fine cure for a pain in the head", claiming that he never intended to shoot Constable Birch because he was aiming for John Lloyd!

Loyalty Place was the home of magistrate's clerk John Lloyd, Stockport's most ardent Loyalist and a formidable enemy of local Radicals. He became the head enforcer of the laws designed to repress the reform movement and was extremely effective in this role. Lloyd was gifted in 'extracting information' from prisoners and engaged a wide network of informers that let him know what Stockport Radicals were up to. He wrote many detailed and frequently alarming reports to the Home Office, warning them of the "Traitors & Revolutionists" who he claimed were "now organising for a Revolution".

The Rectory was the home of the Stockport Magistrate Rev. Charles Prescott, who was rector of St. Mary's from 1786 until his death in 1820, aged 75. Prescott was Stockport's longest serving Magistrate during the age of reform. He was part of a national trend that saw the percentage of Magistrates who were Clergymen double between 1761 and 1831. Radicals often objected to this incompatibility between Christian leadership, and civil authority. However, Rev. Prescott was relatively well respected by the Stockport Reformers and he was seen as being genuinely concerned by the starvation and hardships endured by the workers; at one point he insisted that a farmer bring his produce to the Market and there retail it to the poor at a reasonable profit.

Finally, we stood at **Sandy Brow**, the site of one of the most important and celebrated radical reform meetings of 1819. A meeting was called here to be held on the 15th February. Its purpose was to consider whether or not to send a remonstrance to the Prince Regent, as well as to protest against the arrests of Bagguley, Drummond and Johnston.

There was so much more information from Margaret. Thank you!

Geoff Reason

Our Changing View of History

My great great grandfather was born into a world in which the majority of people could neither read nor write. He had no particular use for either. He went to church and heard there the stories from the Old and New Testaments. Had he enquired he could have learnt that most of what the New Testament says about the beginnings of Christianity is also supported by other historical writings of what we now call the first century AD. It is and always has been accepted history. That's not the case for the Old Testament and the beginning of civilisation. But that didn't stop speculations and the calculation accepted by the church a couple of centuries ago was still that the creation of the world and all life in it had been at nightfall on the 22nd October 4004 BC, a calculation derived from the list in the Old Testament of the generations following Adam and Eve.

This was to change completely as scientific analysis began to proliferate.

In 1803 Luke Howard published a document in which he categorised clouds according to their visible characteristics. He gave them names (cirrus, cumulus, stratus, nimbus etc) and suggested that there was a relationship between clouds and types of weather. Prior to that people had regarded clouds as random shapes without any relationship to weather. In 1815 William Smith produced a geological map of England which showed that rocks did not occur randomly and had enormous implications for the extraction of minerals, not least coal. Prior to that both rocks and minerals had been seen as merely haphazard occurrences which had been there since the beginning of time (some 6,000 years ago) as part of God's creation. In 1817 Thomas Rickman began to publish his findings on the architecture of England. He had observed that most ancient buildings were in fact composite structures over time and he advanced notions of how to date these developments and thus a history and classification of architecture. Prior to that, nobody knew how old major buildings were and how they had developed over time unless there was related documentary evidence. And as there were not a lot of people who could read and write, there was not a lot of documentary evidence.

There was also another significant finding in the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1831 James Ross discovered the location of the magnetic North Pole. As a scout I had a compass and was told that its needle pointed North. What I wasn't told, perhaps not least because most people did not know it then, was that compass needles are attracted by

magnetic force but this force is different in different parts of the world and at different times. When I was a boy, compass needles pointed slightly to the west of what maps show as north. But things have changed and, for the first time in over 200 years, compasses in the far west of Cornwall are now pointing slightly to the east of what maps show as north. Magnetic North wanders around and in the last century it has moved around 1,100km from northern Canada into the Arctic Ocean. Presently moving at 55/60 kilometres per year it is possible that in the next 50 years it will have moved to Siberia. All of this arises because the magnetic field is driven by the earth's core of molten iron which swirls around inside it. The world is not a completely solid ball! The inside moves about. In fact, our planet's magnetic field could flip over completely. It did so about 780,000 years ago and there is no reason why it should not do so again with "north" becoming "south", as it were, and vice versa. In fact, some 40,000 years ago, in the last great ice age, there was a brief complete reversal which lasted for a couple of hundred years before it began to revert again to what it is now. Fortunately, such a change would be fairly gradual.

Then in 1859 Charles Darwin produced the most radical perspectives of all *On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. Prior to that mankind had been seen as either above or outside nature (the human race created and chosen by God). Now mankind, so he suggested, was simply a part of the long evolution of life on planet earth as forms of life crawled out of the sea and became the various types of life we now have on land. We had evolved over many millions of years – not just the few thousand years of the generations listed in the Old Testament.

Within a period of 50 years in the 19th century the observable world had gone through a process of scientific analysis through classification, an understanding of sequence, the scale of time and the concept of evolution. But this had not been disseminated widely. (After all, most people couldn't read or write.) Fewer than a hundred years before I was born it was still widely believed that the books of the Old Testament provided a history of the world which was created in 4004 BC.

Genealogists today sometimes use a rough and ready calculation for humans - 4 generations in a century. (You, your mother, your grandmother and your great grandmother are repeated every 100 years). 10 of these hundred-year repetitions for your family takes you back through 40 generations and 1,000 years to the time of the Battle of Hastings and perhaps to a relative who fought against William the Conqueror! Without Darwin and these various 19th century analyses the world would still be seen as just approximately 6,000 years old. 6,000 years would cover 240 of your (and my) relatives. So, I would have known, had I been interested in such things, that you and I were related to Adam and Eve as our father and mother at the end of our lines of 240 relatives.

But we should not imagine that these novel ideas/scientific analyses of time and evolution were instantly known to and accepted by everybody at large as soon as they were

published. I had, in my early years, a copy of Arthur Mee's *The Children's Encyclopedia*. My edition was published in the 1920s (in blue covers with gold lettering) and had belonged to my mother. In it, Christianity was clearly seen as the only true religion. The white race was superior. Other races might be inferior but should, nevertheless, be treated with respect – the Christian approach. However - and most importantly in this context since this was a time when the relationship between science and the accepted Christian orthodoxy was becoming controversial - there was support for the new "evolution" in the Encyclopedia but never a mention that there might be any contradiction between evolution and the prevailing religion in the book of Genesis. Even in an Encyclopedia published in the 1920s it was not possible to state that the reason there were no dinosaurs in the Garden of Eden was not because there were no dinosaurs but rather because there never had been such a thing as the Garden of Eden.

Searching through this apparently learned book's 10 volumes some 40 years or so after its publication there was a young boy who was troubled by these apparent contradictions. However, there were in the same volumes new explanations of chemistry which offered more real and attractive possibilities for him. In one of its volumes, it listed 3 major ingredients for gunpowder which was far more interesting, not least because these "ingredients" were in those days available in Chemist shops. But that's another story!

David Sewart

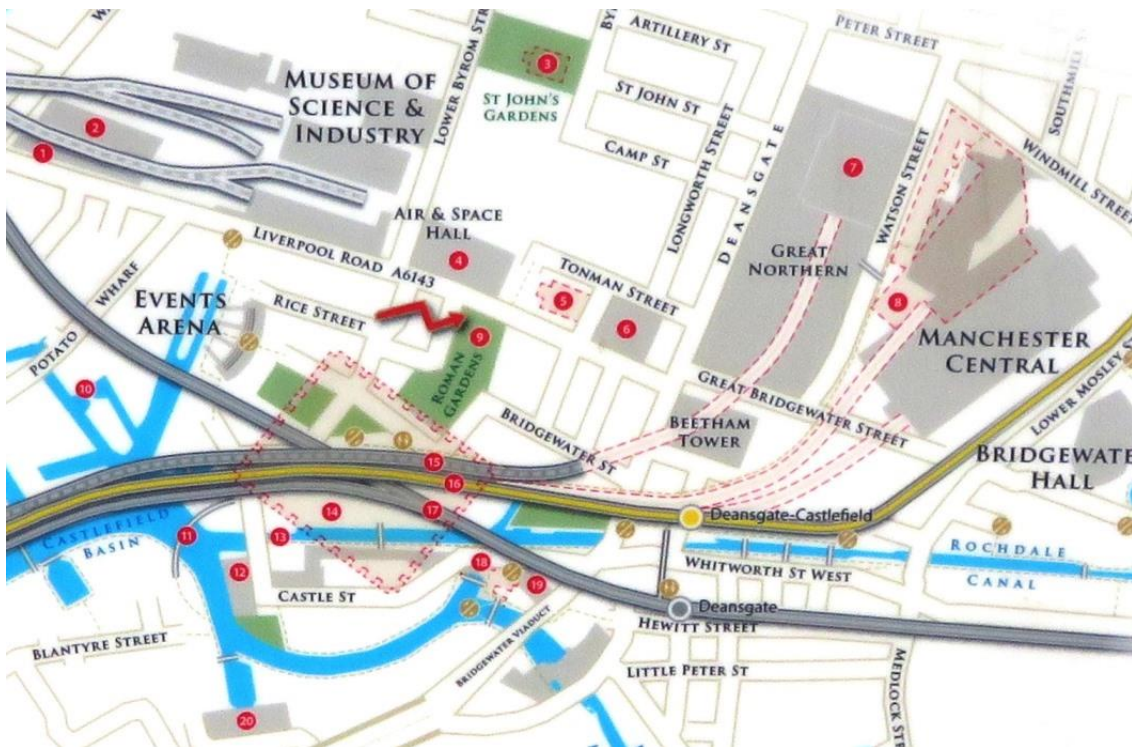
(The views expressed in this article are those of the author – Ed)

Castlefield Basin

In last November's edition of the newsletter, I wrote about the Castlefield Viaduct and how it had been adopted by the National Trust as a "garden in the sky". Little did I realise that what was down at ground level was much more interesting. We came across an annotated walk around the area under the viaduct and the following is based on that walk.

In 1761 the Bridgewater Canal was opened at the behest of the Duke of Bridgewater to improve the transport of coal from the Duke's mines in Worsley into the major industrial market of Manchester. In 1764 the canal reached the Castlefield area in the heart of Manchester. It was built by James Brindley and is the world's first true industrial canal and Britain's first arterial canal. (Supporters of the Sankey Canal may have different thoughts.) Subsequently the canal was extended to Leigh to the north and Runcorn to the south, and was used to transport many other commodities as well as coal. All the warehouses and bridges described below are to be found in the Castlefield Basin, the terminus of the Bridgewater Canal in Manchester.

The Rochdale Canal was linked to the Bridgewater Canal in 1802.



- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Former</i> Liverpool Road Station | 12. Merchants' Warehouse |
| 2. 1830 Warehouse | 13. Duke's Lock (92) |
| 3. <i>Footprint of</i> St. John's Church | 14. <i>Footprint of</i> Roman Fort |
| 4. Lower Campfield Market | 15. <i>Redundant</i> Great Northern Railway 1894 |
| 5. <i>Footprint of</i> St Mathew's Church | 16. Cheshire Lines Committee 1873-77 (<i>now Metrolink</i>) |
| 6. Upper Campfield Market | 17. Manchester South Junction & Altrincham Railway 1849 |
| 7. Great Northern Warehouse | 18. Grocers' Warehouse |
| 8. <i>Footprint of</i> Cheshire Lines Committee Goods Station | 19. <i>Former</i> Knott Mill Chapel |
| 9. Roman Settlement | 20. Middle Warehouse |
| 10. Giant's Basin | |
| 11. Merchants' Bridge | |

This is an extract from a map that is displayed in the Castlefield area.



Middle Warehouse built between 1823 and 1831. The two shipping holes are now covered in with semi-circular glass panels. The building later became the Manchester Ship Canal Company's warehouse for storing goods. The building has housed a radio studio for some years and is currently the home of Greatest Hits Radio.



The Merchants' Warehouse is the oldest surviving warehouse on the Bridgewater Canal and is a Grade II listed building. Built in 1825 it takes its name from the main tenants, the Merchants Company. Destroyed by fire in 1829, it was rebuilt in 1830 with three storeys at street level rather than the original five. At water level, there are four storeys with two arched entrances for boats.



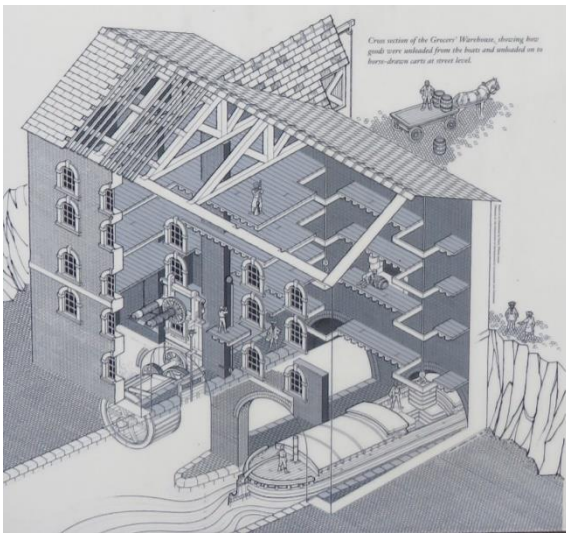
The Merchants' Warehouse was derelict for a long period during the latter half of the 20th century. Following another fire, it was purchased by Jim Ramsbottom through his company Castlefield Estates, in 1983. In 1997 it was converted into studios and offices. Inside most of the original structure has been maintained and some of the original hoists have been preserved.



Opposite the Merchants' Warehouse is the Slate Wharf initially left as open space to stack goods beside the canal.



The white footbridge, the award-winning Merchants' Bridge, was designed by Whitby & Bird and opened in 1995.



The Grocers' Warehouse was built in 1771. It was built by James Brindley in conjunction with his brother-in-law Hugh Henshall. In 1811, Henshall sold the building to the Manchester Grocers Company and it has been known as the Grocers' Warehouse ever since. This was a five-storey warehouse with one then two shipping holes. It was cut back into the Collyhurst sandstone river cliff face which can be seen to the left in the above picture. Originally coal was taken up the hill from the wharf to street level by carts. Brindley incorporated a waterwheel driven hoist system in the building.

The original building was demolished in 1960 and has been partially rebuilt as a two-storey building in 1987. This is thought to be the first building in which canal arms were included inside a building. The canal arms are spanned by two Dutch style lifting bridges.



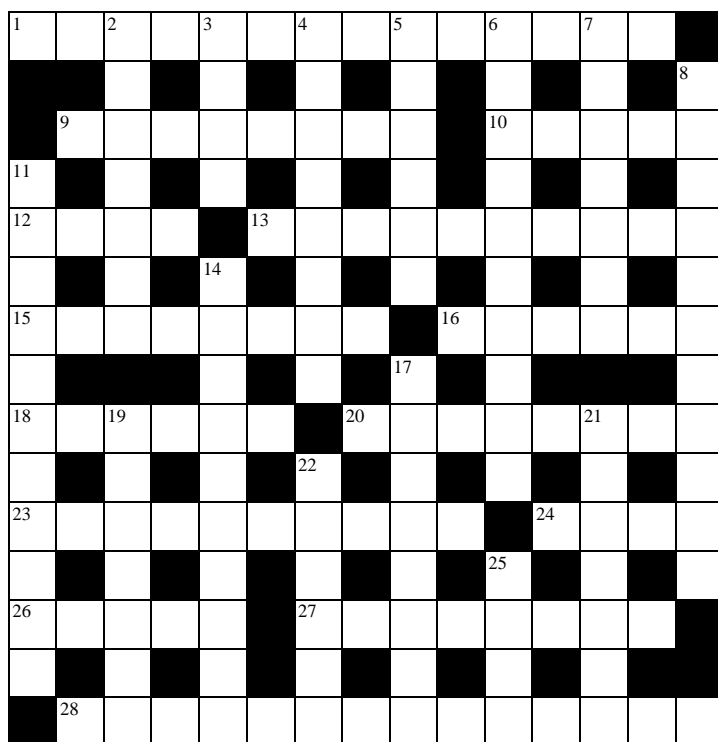
At the part of the Bridgewater Canal nearest the former Liverpool Road station are two unloading bays. (They look like a tuning fork on the map.) These bays used to be covered by a very large warehouse, known as the Staffordshire Warehouse, where cotton was unloaded. The Castlefield Viaduct can be seen in the background.

In the next edition we will take a look at the many interesting bridges which span the canal.

Derek Gatenby

Things to Do

Crossword No. 56



ACROSS

1. Fine Italian bake with item is useless (4-3-7)
9. Hold back to stop precipitation (8)
10. Dance with degrees backwards and forwards (5)
12. Chance at being out of step (4)
13. Reportedly you are dampening the sounds of the grinders (10)
15. Complaining as you take in showy jewellery (8)
16. Relay brook (6)
18. Nothing in thrust as you lie back (6)
20. Public building to draw northern hotel to everyone (4,4)
23. Temptations from South replacing leader of stoppages (10)
24. Construction block for the French turn (4)
26. Animal in whose call a massive wail is heard (5)
27. Nails berry for Michael's aid (8)
28. Kneading dough in heading for angry outburst (2,1,4,7)

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 55

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

DOWN

2. Maiden, perhaps, expected but late (7)
3. Coming up devoured loudly dairy product (4)
4. Arriving not quietly holding forth (8)
5. In being so forlorn a tense elaborate outcome is produced (6)
6. Man leading parliamentary session included a dithering result (10)
7. No colliery to the east was the one suggested (7)
8. Bar His Majesty let to produce a type of confectionery (11)
11. Undeniably included time in duplicates with devious attachment (11)
14. Old transport for actor's trainer (10)
17. Democrat has personal area of rolling countryside (8)
19. Not attracted by a French attraction to the north (7)
21. Plastic first class gallery (7)
22. Young grab military holdall (6)
25. Combined without loud cast off (4)

Sudoku No 46

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

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

Below is the solution to No 45

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

More quiz questions from Hooha.

1. Which of the Scilly Isles is famous for its wonderful gardens with exotic plants and trees?
2. What is Piggly Wiggly, founded in 1916?
3. What was the name of the Salford boot maker in the play Hobson's Choice?
4. What age was Eleanor of Aquitaine when she married her second husband, the 18-year old King Henry II?
5. What is a Belted Galloway?

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

1. Which was the first national park in the UK?
The Peak District park, established in 1951
2. What is a jack rabbit?
A hare found in Western North America, with long ears and long back legs
3. What is the actual meaning of the word Dinosaur?
From its Greek origin, terrible lizard
4. What was name of the cinema in the middle of Bramhall?
The Tudor, open 1929-1965
5. Where is the smallest house in Great Britain?
On the quay side in Conwy, North Wales

And finally, we have been asked by **Sarah Pugh** of Cheadle Hulme u3a to publicise the following event. She jointly runs their Art Appreciation group. This is an open group and therefore can be attended by Poynton u3a members.

Below is a flyer inviting our members to their next Art Appreciation presentation.

