



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 48-4

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Poynton u3a Update

Poynton u3a Membership Renewal

The Basics

The fee for Poynton u3a renewals for 2026 remains at **£10 per annum**.

Your current membership expires on December 31, 2025. You should renew your membership before taking part in any activities in 2026. However, to allow for any delays during the renewal process, your 2025 membership card will be accepted as proof of membership during the month of January.

Once you receive your new membership card, you need to have it available to show it at General Meetings or if requested by a Group Organiser.

The Options

You can make your payment by cash, cheque or bank transfer. You can select a physical membership card or an electronic membership card.

Bank Transfers

If you choose to pay by bank transfer, **DO NOT MAKE YOUR PAYMENT BEFORE 1ST JANUARY**.

The necessary bank details are

Account:	For these details you need to contact the Membership Secretary using membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk
Sort code:	
Account number:	

Electronic Membership Cards

If you choose to receive an electronic membership card, this will be sent to you as a 'jpg' file attached to an email. You will need to store this file where it can be easily found so that you can display the card when required.

The renewal instructions are the same as for last year. For the sake of completeness, I have included them in full again. The instructions are presented in two different formats – first in the traditional way and then as a flowchart.

Make a payment by BACS bank transfer, cheque or cash

BACS bank transfer

The bank details are as above. Alternatively, the Membership Secretary will email you the relevant bank details on request.

Use your **membership number(s)** as the payment reference.

If you have any changes to your contact details, email them to the Membership Secretary.

Cheque or Cash

Enclose a cheque (made payable to Poynton u3a) or cash with a paper form application. This may be a printed version of the form below or, if you have no printer, a hand-written version,

1	Hand to the Membership Secretary at a General Meeting.
or 2	Send or deliver to Poynton u3a, 72 Clifford Road, Poynton, SK12 1JA

Receive your electronic or paper membership card

Electronic Membership Card

This is the default. If you do not indicate otherwise, an electronic membership card will be sent to the email address on our database.

Paper Membership Card

1	Collect it from the Membership Secretary at a General Meeting
or 2	Enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your paper application. If you are paying by BACS, add 85p to your membership fee.

POYNTON u3a MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM - £10 for 2026

Title _____ First Name _____ Family Name _____

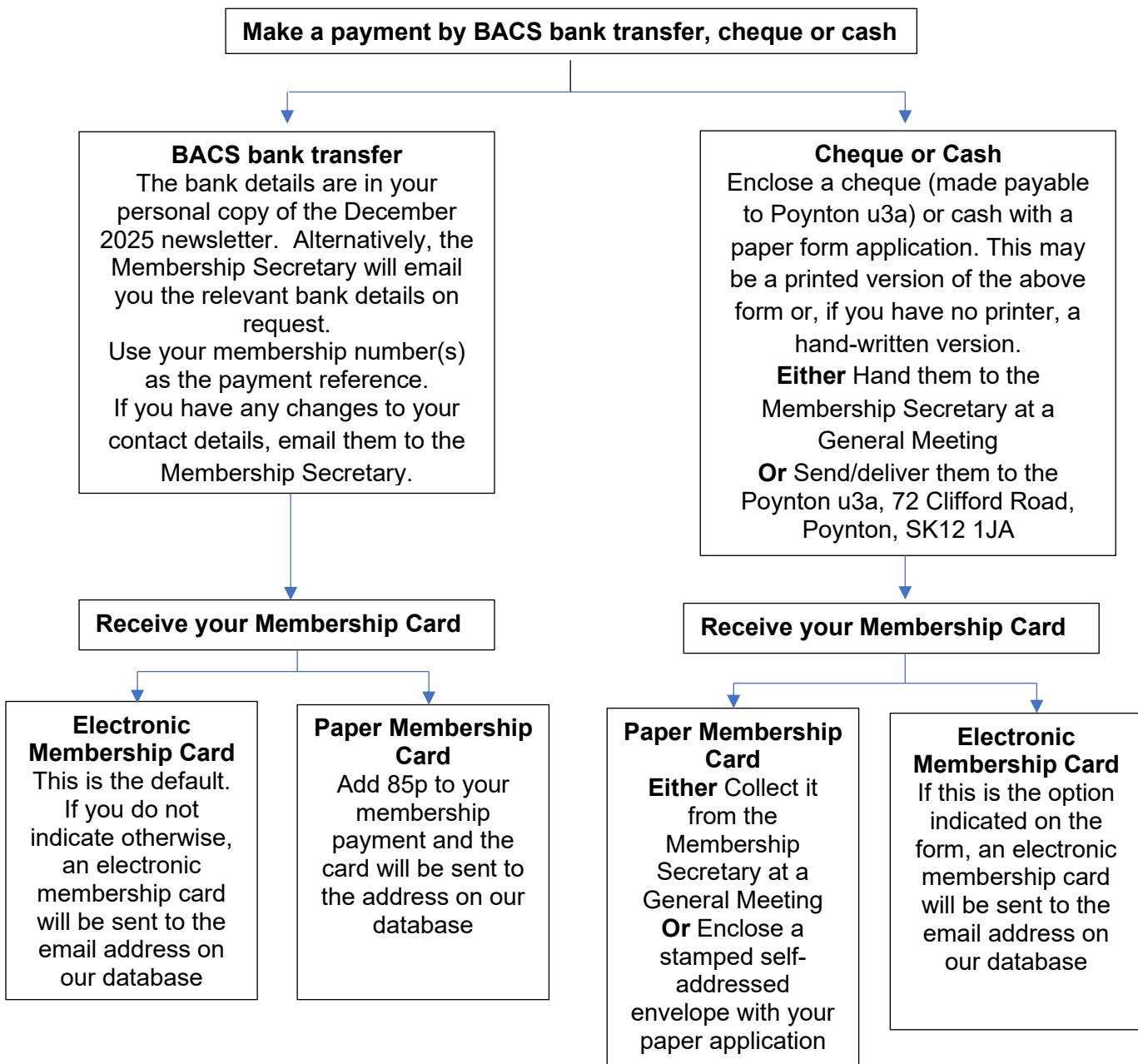
Membership Number _____ Paper or Electronic Card _____

Please list any changes to your contact details (including changes to your email address)

(These details will not be passed on or used in any other context apart from u3a activities/information of interest to members)

Note: It is the responsibility of members to notify the u3a of any changes in the personal details which they have provided (Constitution 5.v).

Alternatively, you may wish to follow the flowchart below.



If none of the above makes any sense, do what you have always done

Send: (if possible, by January 31st)

1. Your name and membership number if known
2. Stamped addressed envelope (SAE) and
3. Cheque for £10 made payable to "Poynton u3a" (Recommended) or cash to Poynton u3a, 72 Clifford Road, Poynton SK12 1JA (or alternatively hand your renewal to the Membership Secretary at a General Meeting).

If there are any changes to your membership details, please ensure these are included as well. Members with a printer can use the form at the bottom of page 2. If you have no access to a printer, the details requested may be written by hand and enclosed with the fee and SAE.

Without a SAE, you will not receive a paper membership card.

If you cannot use the above system for whatever reason and you want to renew, please contact the Membership Secretary by email (membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk).

General Meetings – Programme for 2026

Below are the events planned for 2026. We will have a speaker unless stated otherwise.

January 20 th	Karen Woodhead	Medical Detection Dogs
February 17 th	Roger Browne	Cole Porter
March 17 th	AGM	
April 21 st	Paul Atherton	The Battle of Brunnanburgh, Wirral
May 19 th	Julia Marwood	Painting Manchester
June 16 th	Martin Lloyd	Passports, Traitors, Assassins and Spies
July 21 st	Fran Sandham	A solo walk across Africa
August 18 th	Mike Palmer	Lies, damned lies and the uses and abuses of statistics
September 15 th	Steve Barrett	The beginning of everything
October 20 th	Neil Hanson	The Inn and out at the top
November 17 th	Chris Dunkerley - Lead Ranger, Lyme Park	Looking after Lyme
December 15 th	Christmas Meeting	

Reading Group 3.

We have started a third reading group which will meet monthly at 10 am on the third Thursday of the month at The Kingfisher (Wetherspoons). If you are interested in becoming a member of the group, please email groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Recorder group

We would like to start a Recorder Group. If you would like to join the group, please register your interest by emailing groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Members' Contributions

Believe It or Not

The following was handed to the editor as a humorous song (which it is) with some attendant text describing its origins.

'To commemorate her birthday, actress/vocalist Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for a benefit. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favourite Things" from the legendary movie "The Sound of Music". Here are the lyrics she used. If you sing it, it is especially hysterical!

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

(Ms Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores. Please share Ms Andrews' clever wit and humour with others who would appreciate it.)'

The provenance seemed interesting. However further exploration provided the following surprising results derived from the website *snopes.com* where Barbara and David Mikkelson investigated the claim that 'Julie Andrews sang an old folks' parody of "My Favourite Things" to celebrate her 69th birthday.'

Since the 1965 film *The Sound of Music* acquainted the movie-going public with the Rodgers and Hammerstein tune "My Favourite Things", innumerable parodies of the song have been coined by lots of aspiring humourists. The authors found an example of this claim on the internet from 2005:

'To commemorate her 69th birthday on October 1, actress/vocalist Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favourite Things".' The lyrics provided are almost word-for-word the same as the ones presented above.

'While Julie Andrews' 69th birthday was on 1 October 2004, she did not on that day sing a take-off of "My Favourite Things" at a benefit in New York City. This version appears to have begun as a USENET newsgroup post in April 2001 where it was offered as a humorous send-up of a well-known song, with no accompanying avowal that anyone in particular had performed it.

By July 2001, newsgroup posts of the pastiche were prefaced "Reportedly, Julie Andrews recently performed at a concert for AARP members." This marked a turning point in the history of the piece: what had previously been offered solely as a spoof of a popular song was now being presented as an anecdote about its celebrated singer.

In March 2002, the item was repeated in Dear Abby's column, with a proviso waving off the Mary Poppins connection with, "The rewritten lyrics are a hoot, but I doubt that Julie Andrews ever warbled them." Abby was right about that. Not only was this anecdote false, but sadly so.

Julie Andrews lost the ability to sing in 1997. That year she was admitted to Mount Sinai Hospital for the removal of a non-cancerous polyp on her vocal cords, and what should have been a simple surgical procedure went dreadfully wrong. Her multi-octave singing voice was virtually destroyed.

Andrews sued the two doctors and the hospital for what had been done to her. In 2000, she settled her malpractice suit out of court, and though the terms of that settlement were not publicly disclosed, the amount she recouped is believed to be in the neighbourhood of £20 million (about \$30 million US).

Not only didn't Julie Andrews sing the 'blue hair' parody of "My Favourite Things" for a Radio City Music Hall audience on her 69th birthday, she couldn't have.'

Thanks to **David Sewart** for setting the investigative ball rolling - *Ed.*

Royal Institution – Part 5

To complete the series of articles on the Royal Institution let us take a brief look at another couple of eminent scientists who worked at the Royal Institution.

James Dewar

James Dewar was a Scottish physicist and chemist best known for his pioneering work in cryogenics. He was the Director of the Laboratory of the Ri and the DFRL (Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory) until 1923. He made significant contributions to the study of low-temperature physics, particularly in the liquefaction of gases.

For his work on cryogenics, the science of extreme cold, he needed to find a way to stop very cold liquids evaporating while he worked with them. He tried boxes insulated with cork, hay or crumpled newspapers, but none kept the liquids cold enough.

Eventually, in 1892 he designed the double-walled flask shown here. He removed the air between the two walls, creating a vacuum through which heat could not transfer. He later realised that, if the flask was also coated silver, it worked even better. Dewar used the flask when he first liquefied hydrogen, which at the time was the coldest substance ever produced.

Pictured is the first Dewar flask from 1892.



George Porter

George Porter held several prestigious positions at the Royal Institution between 1963 and 1986.

He was an active researcher here. In 1967 he won the Nobel Prize for his work on chemical reactions triggered by light and for photographing the behaviour of molecules during fast reactions. After leaving the Royal Institution in 1986 he moved his research group to Imperial College.

He was also very active in promoting science through various media, including the Ri Christmas Lectures, which he gave in 1969 and 1976. It was through Porter's efforts that the Christmas Lectures began to be shown regularly on television.

Ruby Laser used by George Porter in the 1960s.



And finally, a reminder that the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures will be broadcast at the end of December. (You might think that the timing of this was all planned.). This year's lectures will be given by Dame Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock on the subject *Is There Life Beyond Earth?*

Derek Gatenby

An Alternative Way To Complete A Saying.

A bird in the hand, is a way to invest in storks and bonds.

Too many cooks, makes such a mess in the kitchen.

Where there's smoke there's fire or someone is smoking behind the school bike shed.

Many hands make light work or everyone knows the answer.

A stitch in time, saves you from running in the next race.

Rome was not built in a day, because the builders went on strike for more pay.

Still waters run deep, is a good temptation to swim, but not if the water is brown.

Look before you leap or you could find yourself in a very deep hole.

A fool and his money is easily parted but most fools don't have any money.

Let sleeping dogs lie, because I forgot to buy the dog food.

When the cats away the mice can play, but beware of the traps.

A new broom sweeps clean, it can also mean a lot of redundancies.

Reaching a certain age, is when you have been told by your doctor to slow down, instead of the police. *Joan Rivers*.

Doing a good turn, is dancing on the table when not asked to do so.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas. But if the white runs out, I'll drink the red. *Anonymous*.

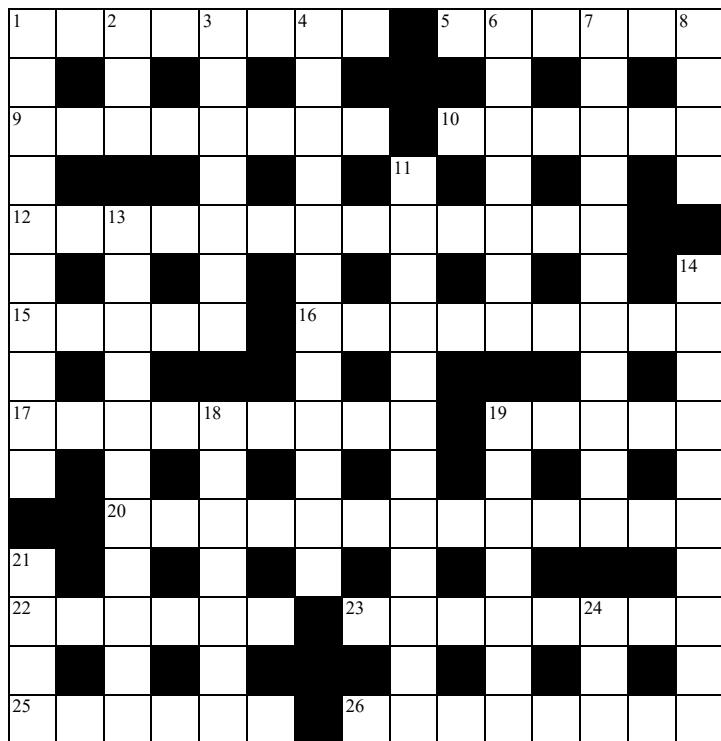
There are four stages of life. 1) You believe in Father Christmas. 2) You don't believe in Father Christmas. 3) You are Father Christmas. 4) You look a lot like Father Christmas.
Unknown.

Susan J Pyett

The next part of **Travels in Southern Ireland** will appear in the January edition of the newsletter.

Things to Do

Crossword No. 60



ACROSS

- Person who looks after kids with nannies (8)
- Groups of criminals crossing English river (6)
- Give voice to Beethoven's fifth (8)
- No holding Coe in battle (6)
- The latest worry for museum curator? (5,2,3,3)
- Open series of deliveries arriving on time (5)
- A moment after top army officer shows evidence of wound (9)
- Butcher starting to sell best medicine? (9)
- Flapper in raincoat that's adorable (5)
- Pattern of cloth vet put on canine perhaps after canine (3-5,5)
- Framework in Greek and English houses ailing (6)
- Doctor lost knee bones (8)
- Fast agent crossing river to the west (6)
- Release boy carrying round sponge (8)

DOWN

- You won't find the flower of the army in it! (10)
- Something put in Christmas pudding is poisonous (3)
- Farmland animals eating five tons in gathered crops (7)
- Confirmation pleasure's no good (12)
- First male worker, stubbornly resolute (7)
- Wonderful group of friends that takes the earth's belt (5,6)
- Good person with chromosomes returned for mythical river (4)
- Theatre backer, not bold, abandoned play (3,9)
- In refurbished inn, a relaxed six-footer (11)
- We are naked, writhing, aroused again (10)
- Ryan briefly ahead laughed (7)
- Spots parent with a clue for resolving (7)
- Heads of European governments with outsize conceits (4)
- As well it's where a countdown is heading (3)

Sudoku No 65

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

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

Below is the solution to No 64

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

Following our Appreciation of the contributions of Helen Hill in the last newsletter, very sadly, we have to report that Helen passed away in late November.

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

1. How many squares are there on a scrabble board?
225
2. Who wrote the music for the song Rule Britannia?
Thomas Arne
3. What is Great Britain's smallest rodent?
The Harvest mouse
4. Of which rock group was Ozzy Osbourne a member?
Black Sabbath
5. Where did most of the outdoor filming of the Sound of Music take place?
Salzburg, Austria

Finally, the Poynton u3a committee would like to wish you all

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**