



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 49-1

16th Jan 2026

Poynton u3a Update

Annual General Meeting – 17th March 2026

This year's AGM is on Tuesday 17th March. As in recent years, this will be a face-to-face meeting, with an opportunity for electronic input as far as possible for those not able to attend.

Therefore, we are inviting members to submit:

1. resolutions which members would like to be put to the AGM
2. the names of those agreeing to stand for election as committee members

Resolutions and nominations for the election of new committee members, together with names of a proposer and seconder, should be sent to our Secretary, Kate Clarkson (using enquiries@poyntonu3a.org.uk or post to Poynton u3a, 72 Clifford Road, SK12 1JA). The Nominations and Resolutions Forms are accompanying this newsletter and are also on our website. **New committee members are required in order to keep Poynton u3a going!**

The Constitution requires that we should give 21 days-notice of the date of the AGM and its agenda. Proposed resolutions and proposals for committee membership should be received by the Secretary no later than **Friday 13th February 2026**.

The agenda for the AGM will follow the normal pattern, that is :-

- Minutes of the last AGM (2025)
- Matters arising
- Proposed resolutions
- Election of committee members
- Trustees' report
- Group coordinators report
- Annual accounts.

There will be a further mailing which will contain the relevant papers for the AGM.

The formal business of the AGM will be followed by a presentation from Jenny Lippmann, who works at the Civic Centre. Haf Barlow, the Clerk to the Council, will also be available to answer questions.

Poynton u3a Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are progressing well. **Remember** you need to renew your membership **immediately** if you are involved in any Interest Group activities or want to continue to receive our Newsletter. Details were in the previous newsletter and are on the Membership page on our website.

Third Age Trust Magazine

The Third Age Trust produces a magazine called u3a Matters (previously) Third Age Matters) with five editions a year (April, June, September, November and February). We have not yet been informed of the cost for the coming year. If you would like to order your copies, email membership@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

General Meetings

As indicated in the previous newsletter, the next General Meeting is on Tuesday 20th January when *Karen Woodhead* will be informing us about *Medical Detection Dogs*. After that on Tuesday 17th February, *Roger Browne* will be telling us about *Cole Porter*.

Members' Contributions

Walking Group in January

A dozen members of the walking group braved the icy conditions around Lyme Park on 8th January for a bracing walk past the reservoirs. Our reward was a close encounter with a weasel which two other walkers pointed out to us. It kept running in and out of the log pile and posing for us. Very cute.



Marilyn and Mike Westbrook

Travels in Southern Ireland – Part 2

We move on from the east coast of Ireland to the southern coast and the city of Waterford.

Waterford History

Viking raiders first established a settlement near Waterford in 853. They also established a number of other coastal bases in eastern Ireland including Dublin. The Vikings were driven out of Waterford by the native Irish around 902. The Vikings re-established themselves at Waterford in 914 and built what would be Ireland's first city.

After the arrival of the Vikings, the endless series of conflicts between Irish warlords utilising Viking mercenaries continued with no one group gaining supremacy. There was to be no strong political centre in Gaelic Ireland.

This all changed in 1169. In the rest of Britain, the Normans after their invasion of 1066, had conquered England and were gradually extending their supremacy over most of Britain. Remember, the Normans were also descendants of Viking marauders who had settled in Normandy. The English king at this time was Henry II who was not really interested in the squabbling Irish sub-kings but the internal chaos of Ireland made it promising territory for further Norman expansion.

In 1167, Diarmuid MacMurrough who had been deposed as the King of Leinster turned for help to Henry II in an attempt to recover his kingdom. Henry gave Diarmuid permission to drum up support among the restless and aggressive Norman lords of the Welsh marches. Diarmuid's principal recruit was Richard de Clare, better known as Strongbow, under whose leadership the Norman invasion took place. Waterford was captured in 1170 and, shortly after, Strongbow married Diarmuid's daughter Aoife as had been promised. The marriage is celebrated in a pair of iconic and much talked-about (especially by our local guide) statues.



The vastly superior military skills of the Normans swept aside initial opposition and soon had possession of the east coast towns, most significantly Dublin. In furtherance of the Norman invasion of Ireland, Henry II landed at Waterford in 1171 and received the submission not only of the new Norman colonists but of most Gaelic kings as well. Waterford and then Dublin were declared royal cities, with Dublin also declared the capital of Ireland. *Thus began the long and fateful involvement of the English crown in Ireland.*



Reginald's Tower is the only monument in Ireland named in honour of a Viking – possibly Ragnall or Reginald, the founder of Waterford in 914. The tower was rebuilt after the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1185 on the site of an earlier fortification. It was one of the first buildings in Ireland to use mortar in its construction.

The replica Viking ship takes its name from the original Norwegian Viking name for Waterford - Vadrarfjodr. Its design was based on ship timbers discovered during archaeological excavations in the city and dated to 1050.



The Normans brought European feudalism, a legal system based on the alien concept of primogeniture, highly sophisticated construction techniques and an irresistible military expertise. The Gaels were swept aside. By 1250, they had effectively accomplished that which the Vikings had never even attempted: the conquest and ownership of more than three-quarters of the island of Ireland- including most of the best land.

Throughout the medieval period, Waterford was Ireland's second city after Dublin. In the 15th century, Waterford repelled sieges by two pretenders to the English throne: Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck. As a result, King Henry VII gave the city its motto: *Urbs Intacta Manet Waterfordia* ("Waterford remains an untouched city").

After the Protestant Reformation, Waterford remained a Catholic city and participated in the confederation of Kilkenny – an independent Catholic government from 1642 to 1649. This was ended abruptly by Oliver Cromwell, who brought the country back under English rule; his son-in-law Henry Ireton finally took Waterford in 1650 after a two major sieges.

The 18th century was a period of huge prosperity for Waterford. Many of the city's architecturally notable buildings appeared during this time. During the 19th century, industries such as glass making and ship building thrived in the city.

Waterford Crystal

Waterford Crystal is an Irish manufacturer of crystal glassware, especially cut-glass products. The origins of crystal production in Waterford date back to 1783, when George Penrose and his nephew William Penrose started their business, the Waterford Glassworks. It produced extremely fine flint glass that became world-renowned. Since then, the company has gone through several iterations of ownership and production sites.

In January 2009, the main Waterford Crystal manufacturing base on the edge of Waterford was closed due to the insolvency of Waterford Wedgwood plc, and in June 2010, Waterford Crystal relocated almost back to the roots of glass-making in the city centre. The Mall location holds both a manufacturing facility that melts over 750 tonnes of crystal a year – although most Waterford Crystal is now produced outside Ireland – and a visitor centre with the world's largest collection of Waterford Crystal. Since 2015, the brand has been owned by Fiskars Corporation.





Waterford Street Art



Or, alternatively



Derek Gatenby

Contributions to the Newsletter

You will see that this edition of the newsletter is light on Members' Contributions. If the newsletter is to continue in its current form, more contributions are required. If you would like to write an article or provide some pictures, please send your contribution to news@poyntonu3a.org.uk

Things to Do

Sudoku No 66

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

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

Below is the solution to No 65

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

No new Crossword this month. Here is the solution to No 60.

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

And finally, a picture from warmer times – A composite of the Bird Watching group at Redesmere in July.



Thanks to Janet Hughes