



Poynton u3a News

poyntonu3a.org.uk

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Poynton u3a Update

General Meetings

The next General Meeting is on Tuesday 19th May when *Julia Marwood* will be giving a talk entitled *Painting Manchester* in which she explores the history of the city as seen through the eyes of artists.

After that, on Tuesday 16th June, Martin Lloyd will be telling us about *Passports, Traitors, Assassins and Spies*.

Anyone for Mahjong?

I have had some enquiries about setting up a group to play mahjong. Are you interested? If so, I think an initial meeting would be a good idea, to gauge whether beginners and people who already play would need separate groups, and also whether anyone would be prepared to teach or organise. These tasks could be shared. If you are interested, please contact me via groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Cecilia Storr-Best – Board Games Group Organiser

Spam Emails

Elaine Roe (Organiser of the High School PTA Theatre Trips, Minibreaks and Day trips) recently sent out an email to people on her mailing list about spam emails. I thought it was worthwhile passing on the message (with permission) to all of our members - Ed.

“Hello Everyone,

I have had a message from someone on the mailing list who has been receiving emails using my name but a different email address. The emails contain a link to images. I don't think this is specifically connected to the mailing list as I and other friends have received similar emails from time to time, I even got one supposedly from a friend who died 3 years ago.

I just wanted to say: NEVER click on links to images even if you recognise the sender's name. Always doublecheck that the email address is correct if the message seems unusual or if you weren't expecting it. If anyone tells you they are ill and asks you to send

money or buy something for them it is almost certainly a scam. You can usually tell by the message's tone that it is not from the person it purports to be.

My messages are just about theatre trips, mini breaks, day trips or occasionally East Cheshire Hospice events. I might attach a poster about an event but I won't send links to images. If you get messages from me (or anyone else) saying that I have a cold/flu/lost my voice etc and need you to do something, or if the message says something like 'here are the pictures I promised to send,' don't respond or click on any links, just delete the messages immediately.

Please be cautious and remember: if something looks a bit dodgy, it probably is!
Elaine.”

Members' Contributions

Walking Group

In March, about fourteen of us gathered for a walk of 4-5 miles starting near the Airport Inn. Generally flat, we had worried whether it would be up to ears in mud but, luckily, we only saw one, admittedly huge, puddle. We managed to skirt it and walked alongside the airport security fence. Coincidentally, there was a film crew on the same path creating a “podcast of departing planes” but, sadly, we didn't make it into the video.

We were deafened by planes taking off every few minutes apart from one very lonely Emirates jet, which may have been grounded by recent events in the Middle East.

After leaving the airport boundary, we headed to Styal village, built by the Greg family for their millworkers. The cottages there are reminiscent of Poynton's Almshouses.

We walked down to Styal Quarry Bank Mill on public footpaths and then back through the woods to the Honey Bee where we had a well-earned lunch (pictured). Many thanks to Marilyn and Mike for organising!

Tony Penny



Here are a couple of useful points of contact also from Tony.

Potholes – There appears to be an increasing number of potholes and many more are being reported to the Cheshire East Council (including my own reports). It is not too difficult and it may save your tyres or an accident - [Report a pothole or other road issue](#).

Post – For many Poynton residents, the postal service appears to be very patchy. Often people are only receiving post once a week, and then 3 or 4 letters at the same time. This is leading to missed hospital appointments, delayed financial transactions and (sorry for the irony) but delayed speeding fines! Complaints have been submitted, hopefully the service will improve? Feel free to add your complaint here [Complaints](#).

The Gift of Friendship

Friendships can fade, while others can last a lifetime,
sharing their joys and sorrows, laughter and tears.
Someone to share life's ups and downs, a
companion who offers their support down the years.

Friends might not speak for days or weeks,
then pick up the conversation again with ease.
Chatting about everything and nothing,
happy to talk and sometimes to tease.

Some friends have faced great challenges,
those who survived remember their friends.
Comrades fighting in a theatre of war,
brothers in arms until the very end.

Mates can be sports buddies,
always there for every match.
Supporting their team through thick and thin,
celebrating every good catch.

Chums can be moody and a bit grumpy,
until they tell you the reason why.
A disagreement or a bad day at work?
Whatever, a good friend is a good ally.

A friend can be a cat or dog,
who wags their tail when you walk in the room.
A faithful companion always around,
loving you unconditionally, you always assume.

You never forget the gift of friendship,
no matter how short or long it lasts.
Having a confidante in your life,
someone who is loyal, honest and steadfast.

Susan J Pyett

Travels in Southern Ireland - Part 5

We now move further north up the west coast along the Wild Atlantic Coast.

Cliffs of Moher

The Cliffs of Moher were one of Ireland's first tourist attractions and subsequently have become one of the most popular. In 2022, approximately 1.1 million people visited the cliffs with 41% arriving from the United States.

These are sea cliffs located at the southwestern edge of the Burren region in County Clare, Ireland. They run for about 14 kilometres (9 miles). At their southern end, they rise 120 metres (390 ft) above the Atlantic Ocean at Hag's Head, and, 8 kilometres (5 miles) to the north, they reach their maximum height of 214 metres (702 ft).



When we visited, the wind and the rain meant that the famed 'natural beauty' of the cliffs was a little lacking but then this is the Wild Atlantic Coast.



Looking south toward Hag's Head



At the highest point, looking north towards Galway Bay and the Aran Isles

In 1835 Sir Cornelius O'Brien, the local landlord and an MP, built a round stone tower as an observation point for the English tourists who frequented the area at the time. It is said to have initially served as a teahouse as well as a viewpoint.

In the 1990s the local authority, Clare County Council, initiated development plans to enable visitors to experience the cliffs without significant intrusive man-made amenities. In keeping with this approach, a modern visitor centre, the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience,



was built into a hillside approaching the cliffs. The centre was planned to be environmentally sensitive in its use of renewable energy systems including geothermal heating and cooling, solar panels, and grey water recycling. The €32 million facility was planned and built over a 17-year period and officially opened in February 2007.

The area has been designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) for Birds and the cliffs form a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Supposedly the best way to see the cliffs is from the sea and the plan for the next stage in the journey was a trip on the local ferry from Doolin which is a small port situated at the northern end of the cliffs. However, the prevailing wind and rain led to 'discretion' and 'valour' decision and we opted to stay ashore. The reports from the intrepid souls who ventured out on the ferry indicated you either got soaking wet and a bit of a view or you remained relatively dry but got no view because the windows were covered in water!



It is difficult to convey the up-and-down motion of the ferry in still pictures but the two pictures at the top give some idea. To the left, the small waterfalls which should be dropping into the sea are being blown back onto the land.

Derek Gatenby

Contributions to the Newsletter

The timing and length of the newsletter is dependent to a large extent on the contributions submitted by our members. 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 69

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

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

Below is the solution to No 68

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

Twinning Association

The Twinning Association of Poynton (TAP) has asked if we can mention the forthcoming events to celebrate tenth anniversary of the twinning with Haybes.

TAP enables the citizens of different towns in different countries to gain a better understanding of each other's society and culture through personal contacts organised by officially recognised organisations in the respective partner towns. The Association was originally formed in 2003 with the aim of creating links with Érd, a town in Hungary, near Budapest. This was chosen because there are several Hungarians living in Poynton, and Érd is also the home town of a former Mayor of Poynton.

Poynton Town Council subsequently signed a twinning agreement with the French town of Haybes in 2016. Haybes is situated in the Ardennes region of northern France

The aims of twinning are to build and strengthen friendships between individuals, local groups and the Councils; to promote the areas of culture, education, sports and tourism in both communities; and to respect each other's cultures and traditions. The Twinning with Haybes has a particular emphasis on a schools' exchange programme and will also actively promote cultural and other links between societies and organisations in both our communities where there are common interests.

Saturday 4th July

Concert 7.00 p.m. St. George's Church Poynton

Music by Epiphany, Poynton Royal British Legion Concert Band and a short organ recital

Tickets: £10, £8 TAP members and students; children under 12 free

Available from Eventbrite (with booking fee), Mates, Civic Hall

Monday 6th July

Reception 7.00 p.m. Civic Hall

Reception for visitors from Haybes and invited guests.

Wednesday 15th July

Soirée Française 6.30 p.m. Poynton High School

An evening of French-themed music and performance with students from the High School.

Tickets £5 on the door

Friday 17th July

French-themed quiz 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. Just-Ice, Park Lane

Tickets £7.50 on the door

Thursday 23rd July

A "Guided Tour" of French wine tasting including cheese and charcuterie 7.00 p.m. St. George's Hall

Tickets £15 Mates, Civic Hall

Available from beginning of June

Throughout July

Poynton civic centre: Exhibition highlighting the history of Haybes and the twinning between our two towns

In addition, the following restaurants, cafes and bars will be putting on "French-themed specials" during the whole of July.

The Social Trattoria

Café Azul

The Snap Tin

Flute and Firkin

Fire and Ice

The Acoustic Lounge

Just-Ice

The Cask

Vinehop

Groups List

We have had quite a few new members joining Poynton u3a at the start of this year, so this seems like a good time for an updated Groups List – see next page.

Poynton u3a Groups List

Group	Organiser	Telephone	Meeting
Acoustic Folk/Rock Band	Geoff Brindle	261073	Contact Organiser
Art	Linda Thompson	872141	2.00 - 4pm Mondays at the Civic Centre
Bird Watching	Carol Gatenby & Anne Wynn	877508	Contact Organiser
Board Games	Cecilia Storr-Best	0161 285 8582	Twice monthly. 2 nd Tuesday and 4 th Friday. 2-4pm. Brookside Garden Centre
Bridge	Dorothy Rowland Brian Johnson	874841	2.00pm alternate Mondays at Davenport Golf Club
Creative Writing	Ruth Howard	878046	1.30pm 2 nd & 4 th Mondays in month Davenport Golf Club
Crossword Compiling	Nigel Burin	07783 203763	By arrangement with the organiser
Diners' Club	Barbara Tankard Barbara Heyes	07813 705471	Information at General Meetings and on website
Discussion	Keith Batchelor	877702	Monthly Wednesday mornings
Family History	Moyna Barrott	873491	2.00pm 1 st Wednesday in month. At The Centre.
French	Sandra & Keith Batchelor	877702	Monthly. Usually Friday afternoon. Contact Organiser
Geology	Peter Bennett	873386	Monthly. Usually, 4th Thursday in month
German Conversation	Peter Owen	871574	Monthly
History	Catherine Owen	871574	2.00pm 4 th Thursday in month
History 2	Geoff Reason	07767 430358	4th Wed in month 2pm Brookside Garden Centre
Music Appreciation	Liz Markham	876226	2.00pm 1st Thursday in month
Photography	Peter Bennett & Hilary Tivey	873386	Usually 1st Friday of month 2pm Poynton Civic Centre Contact Organisers
Pickleball	Peter McWhirter	651094	Every Tuesday. 4.30-6.00pm. Poynton Leisure Centre.
Reading Group 1	Iris Neale	873368	2 nd Tuesday in month
Reading Group 2	Glenys Parry-Jones	859214	Last Monday of the month 10.30am Contact organiser
Reading Group 3	Margaret Myerscough	07980 201897	3 rd Thursday of the month. 10.00am. The Kingfisher
Science & Technology	Keith Heppenstall Ken Hillier	871273 07922 545224	Usually, 4th Tuesday of month at The Centre. Contact Organisers
Short Walks	Anna Marsden	07747 496461	2 nd Tuesday in month at 10.30am
Spanish	Paul Freeborn	872021	Mondays 10.30-11.30. Brookside Garden Centre
Table Tennis	Janet & Peter Gill	877347	Tuesday 9.45-12.15, Wednesday 2.00-4.30pm and Thursday 2.00-4.30pm at Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	872442	1 st Thursday in month

Other Poynton Groups Open to Poynton u3a

Group	Organiser	Telephone	Meeting
Hallé Concert Visits	Yvonne Sharma	877825	Information at General Meetings & on web site
PHS-PTA Theatre Trips, Minibreaks & Day Trips	Elaine Roe	573965	Information at General Meetings & on web site