



Poynton News

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 26

Summer 2018

Poynton U3A and GDPR

Unless you have just returned from the Antarctic or emerged from hibernation, you could not fail to notice there has been an awful lot of fuss concerning the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). You will also notice that there are a variety of contradictory ways in which similar organisations have been implementing the new regulation. The regulation does apply to U3As and your committee is in the process of finding a sensible and workable route through the confusion while staying in compliance with the law. More details later in the year!

Meanwhile you will continue to receive, as the core parts of your membership, email messages such as our Newsletter and reminders of General Meetings.

David Sewart

After the Flowers

As indicated in the last issue, the Heritage Garden was officially opened on Saturday April 14th by Mr Theo Eaves, one of Poynton's distinguished Second World War veterans alongside the Mayor, Cllr. Sarah-Jane Gilmore.



The Heritage Garden committee have asked that we mention that volunteers are always welcome to help with maintenance of the Heritage Garden. Names and contact details of those willing to assist can be left with Civic Hall or Library staff.

Also, the Heritage Garden is taking part in the Poynton Garden Safari which is taking place on Saturday 14th July to raise funds for Poynton in Bloom.

New Group Co-ordinator

As described in the last issue Joan Stepto has stepped down from the committee after being the Group Co-ordinator (alongside her late husband Bob) from the start of Poynton U3A. Joan's role of Group Co-ordinator has been taken on by Sandra Batchelor. So, when you want to start your new group, Sandra is the person to contact.



At the recent AGM Joan received some mementos from the chairman, David Sewart.

U3A Member is Mastermind Champion

Brian Chesney from Malvern U3A won the 2018 BBC Mastermind competition. *(Keep the old grey cells ticking and you never know! – Ed)*

Committee News

Growth and change

Those of you who were at our recent General Meeting will be aware that I announced that Poynton U3A's total membership had now moved beyond the 500 mark. Poynton has a total population of approximately 15,000 people of whom perhaps a third belong to the age group with which we are concerned. So we have as members a very significantly larger percentage of local people than do most other U3A's in the country.

In general it would not be too unfair to infer that this represents an approval of what is offered by us in Poynton in terms of Interest Groups, General Meetings, trips etc. All of this is organised through the dedication of a significant and growing percentage of the members, volunteering their time unstintingly in a variety of roles and without whom the wheels would surely fall off. The increase in membership numbers has meant that we have been able to keep membership subscription to £10 per annum which most people would see as good value for money, not least because this also covers insurance when members are engaged in U3A activities.

We have also been very fortunate in having support from Poynton Town Council and the staff of the Civic Hall where we have enjoyed very favourable rates for what is now quite extensive use of the facilities of the Civic Hall. So we have become, in just a few years, a major well-known and respected part of the general provision offered by the very wide range of organisations in Poynton to the local Poynton community.

David Sewart

Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings held at Wetherspoons, on a regular basis over the last six years, have been enjoyed by new and existing members. During the last year, however, the popularity of these has declined with the attendance falling. In view of this I have decided to end these mornings, the final one having been held in June. I thank the members, who have attended regularly, for their continued support.

Anne Wynn

Diary Dates Monthly General Meetings 3rd Tuesday in month at 2.00pm - Poynton Civic Hall (Doors Open at 1.30pm)	
August 21 st	John Houghton – The Creation of a Modern Public Waterworks in Manchester from 1848
September 18 th	Dr Diana Leitch – The Story of Pyrex
October 16 th	Geoff Scargill – Edward Elgar - the real Enigma
November 20 th	Dr Judith Palmer – Should we re-evaluate Richard III since the discovery of his skeleton

Your Committee	
David Sewart	Chairman
Carol Gatenby	Vice-Chair & Speaker Organiser
Kay Dacey	Treasurer
Beryl Simpson	Secretary
Kate Marsham	Membership Secretary
Sandra Batchelor	Group Co-ordinator and Publicity Co-ordinator
Liz Markham	Asst Group Co-ordinator
Lynda Green	Events Co-ordinator
Anne Wynn	Welcome Co-ordinator
Dorothy Scale	Refreshment Organiser
Joyce Streets	Co-Opted

Anyone for Tennis

We are looking for U3A members who would be interested in joining a tennis group. It would take place at Green Lane Tennis Club in Higher Poynton, one morning or afternoon a week, either Monday, Wednesday or Friday, day and time to be arranged according to the group's availability. No need to join the tennis club, you just pay £4 per visit. There is a clubhouse with toilets, changing and coffee making facilities. Spare racquets and balls are also available. We also need someone who would be prepared to lead the group, as it cannot function without an organiser. Please ask if you would like further details or send an email to groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk with tennis as the subject.

Sandra Batchelor

Members' Corner

Charniaists

Do you know what these are? Go on, have a guess. O.K., I'll tell you. They are a group of U3A Geologists who venture out in pouring rain, up muddy paths to peer through dripping glasses at some rocks.



But these are special rocks. They erupted out of the ground 600 million years ago

It was in this group of rocks, now decorating a small hill, that **Charnia** was found.



It looks like a leaf but it isn't. It lived in deep water during the Precambrian period. Not really a plant or an animal, the fossil belongs to an extinct species whose "position in the tree of life is unclear". It is beautifully displayed in a Leicester Museum.

Charnwood Forest has many interesting rock formations and the group ignored the unpleasant weather to explore.



These are Altar stones, shining black with the rain upon them.



St Michael's Church in Markfield was built from local stone. Pieces of diorite, like this, are part of the walls

Although we were busy during the day, we relaxed at night with dinner and drinks in our hotel. It was a successful and informative few days, thanks to Peter and Hilary.

Veronica O'Connor and friends

Walking Group at Styal



Members' Corner

Opera House Tour - 12th March 2018

We met our guide Carole at the stage door and started our tour in the backstage area. We passed a rather shabby room with some basic furniture which turned out to be the 'star' dressing room. Having seen this it makes you wonder what the poor members of the supporting cast have to put up with! We walked down a corridor into a large space that looked like an empty industrial unit and were surprised to realise that we were on the stage; it is certainly a very different view from this perspective. We were lucky that the chief electrician, Paul Binks, was on hand to explain the technical side of things. He told us that the theatre is a 'receiving house'; it doesn't mount its own productions but stages touring shows. Each show brings all its own equipment, scenery, lighting, costumes, props etc and this all has to be unloaded and set up on a stage which is below ground level. Until the fairly recent installation of a lift everything had to be man-handled into place through doors which are about 10 feet above the stage. A technically complex show, such as Miss Saigon with its helicopter and many scene changes might be given about 6 days to be installed but a show like Blood Brothers would be allowed just 9 hours! The production company has to pay for the use of the theatre and time is money so they try to manage with as little time as possible. Paul was very knowledgeable and was able to answer all sorts of technical questions before raising the safety curtain so that we could get the performers view. The auditorium looks unexpectedly compact from this angle despite the fact that there are over 1900 seats!



View of the Stage from the Gallery

After this Carole took us on a tour of the Front of House areas and we learned about the history of the building. The theatre was ingeniously planned to take maximum advantage of the site, with the stalls below street level. It opened in 1912 as the New Theatre and was renamed the New Queen's Theatre in 1915. The hollow walls made the acoustics especially good

for operas and as a result of Sir Thomas Beecham bringing his opera productions to the theatre on many occasions it was renamed The Opera House in 1920. It has had a rather chequered career, managing to survive the Manchester bombings during WWII but in later years it was first a cinema and then a bingo hall. It became a theatre again in 1984, opening with Michael Crawford in Barnum, and has continued to show large scale musicals, operas, ballets and plays until the present day. The theatre was redecorated in March 2011 keeping the green and gold colour scheme of the auditorium unchanged. When you look at it the building has beautiful features but I do think that the colours are a bit dull and the red and gold of the Palace Theatre makes that theatre look more impressive.

We finished our tour right at the top of the building in the Gallery, not the place to sit if you are afraid of heights as it's so steep it appears almost vertical! In the bar area Carole had set out some old artefacts; ledger books, posters and programmes. We visited just after Ken Dodd had died and she had looked out some programmes from his shows, which was a nice touch.

Carole was an excellent guide very knowledgeable and entertaining and with an infectious enthusiasm for the theatre and its history. It was especially interesting to see behind the scenes and gain some insight as to how it all comes about and when subsequently watching a show to remember the contrast between the glamour of the production in front of you and the distinct lack of it backstage!

Elaine Roe

An Everyday Science and Technology Visit

You will remember the Beast from the East week. (*A silly name for some very cold weather – Ed.*) On the Tuesday of that week we had a Science and Technology visit to the Robotics Exhibition at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI).

We went into Manchester on the train which seemed the most sensible way. However, Carol persuaded some friends of ours to try going on the tram after parking at Sale Water Park because the car park at East Didsbury is always full. The plan worked well. There was plenty of room to park. The only problem was that there was a shortage of trams because of difficulties with frozen points. Eventually a tram appeared and they arrived in good time. (*Tip - This is still a good plan when it isn't frosty – Ed.*)

(Continued on next page)

Members' Corner

We decided that we would lunch at a pub called the Ox noble across the road from MOSI. The strange name derives from the fact that the pub is near the site of the Potato Wharf from the days of canals and the Ox noble is an obscure type of potato. *(The obscure potato is also annoying me by failing the spell check – Ed.)*

The menu looked interesting. The only difficulty was that most of the items were “off” and apparently it wasn't the weather's fault. In the end, we found something palatable and did enjoy being inside when there was a blizzard raging outside – see picture below. *(The picture loses little by being in black and white – Ed.)* Incidentally the restaurant at MOSI was rated “poor” by other members of our group which meant that the MOSI café won the eateries competition with its “All Right” rating.



To the Exhibition. To obtain the discount on the entrance fee, all the money had to be collected and paid in one lump sum. The intrepid members of the group had all made their way to the appointed place and collecting the money was the easy part. Paying the money was more difficult. The lady who was supposed to be taking the money couldn't get her till to work partly because she was distracted by trying to catch a glimpse of an imminent (and eminent) visitor and not standing near the till.

Who was the important visitor? There was a lot of security, closed staircases and a police presence. The staff had obviously been sworn to secrecy but the rumour was that the visitor was Princess Anne who was attending a conference. There was however no sighting so this cannot be confirmed. In spite of the restrictions, the tickets were finally obtained from another till on another floor and the tour of the exhibition proceeded.

After we had finished with the exhibition we emerged from MOSI wondering what the elements would throw at us on the way home. That turned out to be a cameraman and an interviewer asking us somewhat incoherent questions about something called the Great Exhibition of the North in Gateshead. We answered the questions as best we could and went on our way, presuming that they were there to film the esteemed visitor and didn't get any footage.

Later that evening we discovered ourselves on BBC North West News. A couple of other group members were also in the broadcast and they sounded much more sensible. Most of our interview had been discarded and edited with other video to try and provide something entertaining for the viewing public. However, that wasn't really how we answered the questions. It wasn't quite fake news but it was unreal!

What did we see in the Robotics Exhibition? That's another story.

Derek Gatenby

Are robots and computers going to take over our lives?

After a visit to the Science and Technology Museum with the Science group, I came away feeling slightly fearful. In the beginning they were amusing bringing awe and respect but they have become so advanced that scientific fiction is becoming a reality.

Talking with my Czech friend, she told me that a Czech writer Karel Capek in the early 20th century wrote R.U.R (Rossum's Universal Robots) in which the word 'robot' was introduced derived from 'robota' meaning worker or slave. R.U.R was one of the first examples of artificial human-like beings written about in literature. I wonder if he ever thought it might happen.

Now that driverless cars and other transport is one of the latest things being experimented with, you begin to wonder how are people going to be employed.

Not only robots but computers are taking over. Once you were able to communicate with people now you answer pre-selected questions, which often leave you feeling frustrated.

On the other hand, the technology, engineering and scientific brilliance which has gone into developing them has to be admired. What do you think?

Joan Stepto

(Pictures from the Robotics Exhibition are on the next page – Ed.)

Science & Technology – Robotics Exhibition

Robotics Exhibition at MOSI

As you will already have discovered, the Science and Technology Group visited the Robotics Exhibition at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI). Here is a selection of the participants.

There were young ones



Familiar ones



Very accurate ones



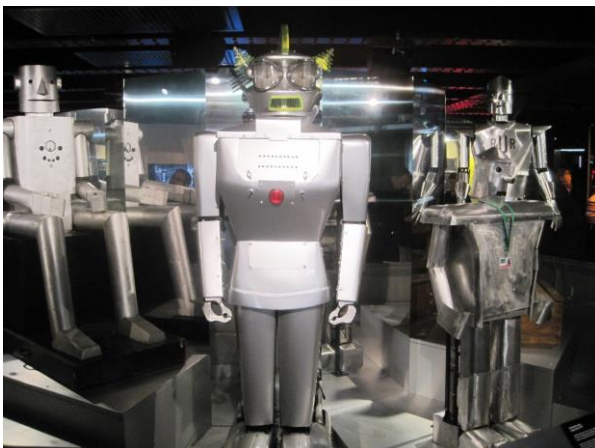
Old and productive ones



And friendly ones



Quaint concepts



Plus lots more - planning our future!

Science & Technology – World of Wedgwood

The World of Wedgwood

On a rainy Tuesday in April 20 members of the Science group visited the Wedgwood museum in Staffordshire. We were allowed to tour the huge factory stopping to speak to the makers of Jasperware plant pots destined for the Chelsea Flower Show all hand finished. Among others we also saw how gold lines are painted on plates before firing. Much of this would go to the Emirates at a cost of £1000 per plate!



Following lunch we had a guided tour of the museum. This contains much of the Wedgwood family history as well as records of Josiah Wedgwood's experiments with the compounds used for different glazes and their colours after firing.



Josiah, together with Thomas Brindley, was responsible for building the canal which passes the factory. This benefitted him twofold, firstly a more efficient way of transporting the china clay he used from Cornwall via Liverpool and secondly a safer method of transporting finished pottery without the breakages incurred during road transport.



Wedgwood pottery was transported all over the world. One of the most famous is the Frog tea service (example above) made for Catherine the Great of Russia. This can be seen in the Hermitage museum in St Petersburg.

Carol Gatenby



Picture of Josiah Wedgwood constructed out of plates



Wedgwood's famed Portland Vase

Groups List

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Acoustic Folk/Rock Band	Geoff Brindle	Contact Organiser
Art	David Williams	1.45-3.45pm Mondays at the Civic Hall
Art Appreciation		Organiser Required
Ballet Appreciation	Meg Humphries	1 st Thursday or 4 th Wednesday each month
Bird Watching	Peter Owen	Monthly. Contact Organiser (Programme on web site)
Bridge	Dorothy Rowland	2.00pm alternate Mondays at the Civic Hall
Bus Pass Explorer	Vivienne Arnold	Restarted in March. Contact Organiser
Cake Decorating	Ann Tofield	Contact Organiser
Creative Writing	Ann Walker Veronica O'Connor	2.00pm 2 nd & 4 th Mondays in month Davenport Golf Club
Crosswords	Ed Milius	By arrangement with the organiser
Day Trips	Iris & Gerry Neale	Information at General Meetings & on website
Diners' Club	Norma Shreeve	Next Lunch - Thursday 19th July at the Deanwater Hotel, 12 for 12.30.
Discussion	Les Simpson	
D.I.Y.	Sue Badger	4 th Thursday in month
Family History	Moyna Barrott	2.00pm 1 st Wednesday in month at the Civic Hall
Film Discussion Group	Maggie Eagland	2.00pm 3 rd Wednesday in month at Wetherspoons
French Conversation	Sandra & Keith Batchelor	Monthly. Contact Organiser
Geology	Peter Bennett	Monthly. Contact Organiser
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly
History	Wendy Fermor Dorothy Bayman	2.00pm 4 th Tuesday in month
Music Appreciation	Liz Markham	2.00pm 1 st Thursday in month
Needlecrafts	Beryl Simpson	1.45-3.45pm 4 th Thursday in month at the Civic Hall
Newsletter	Clive Hill	Contact Organiser
Photography	Peter Bennett & Hilary Tivey John Jurics	Monthly. Contact Organisers
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 at Wetherspoons
Science & Technology	Carol & Derek Gatenby	Contact Organisers
Scrabble	Dorothy Bayman	2.00pm 2 nd Monday in month
Short Walks	Joan Stepto	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays in month
Spanish	Paul Freeborn	Mondays 10.15-11.45
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	Every Tuesday 10.00-12.00, every Wednesday 2.00-4.30pm and every Thursday 1.30-4.30pm at Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 st Thursday in month

Groups List

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 Theatre Trips	Elaine Roe	Information at General Meetings & on web site
PHS-PTA Minibreaks	Elaine Roe	Information at General Meetings & on web site
Walking Netball	Liz Arrowsmith	Every Tuesday 11.00am-12.00 at Poynton Leisure Centre

NEC Network U3A Open Groups

Group	Organiser	Telephone	Meeting
Bridge (Wilmslow)	Mavis Merryman	Contact Wilmslow U3A	7.30-10.00pm Monday
Computers (Cheadle Hulme)	Kelvin Vann	Contact Cheadle Hulme U3A	10am 4th Tuesday of month
Creative Writing (Bramhall)	Pat George	Contact Bramhall U3A	2.00pm 2 nd Wednesday in month
Cycling (Wilmslow)	Kate Bryant	Contact Wilmslow U3A	Weekly
Embroidery (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	Contact Bramhall U3A	10.00-12.00 2 nd Thursday in month
English Country Dancing (Wilmslow)	Shan Bristow	Contact Wilmslow U3A	1.30-3.30pm 2 nd and 4 th Mondays in month
Line Dancing (Bramhall)	Chris Chapman	Contact Bramhall U3A	1.30 -3.30 Wednesdays New starters 1.00-1.30
Photography (Cheadle Hulme)	Neil Rackham	Contact Cheadle Hulme U3A	10am 2nd Tuesday of month
Scottish Country Dancing (Bramhall)	Sheila Bruce-Smith	Contact Bramhall U3A	1.45-3.45pm Every Friday
Tai Chi (Cheadle Hulme)	Gaynor Johnson	Contact Cheadle Hulme U3A	10.30am every Thursday

Please be sure to let us have any news items and photographs from your group's activities for our Website and Notice Board, via your Group Organiser.

If you are interested in joining any groups, contact the group organiser, or if you are interested in forming a new group, speak to Sandra at General Meetings or email groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk .

Thanks to everybody who has contributed to the current newsletter. If you would like to submit articles or photographs for a future newsletter, please email your contribution to newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk or give it to a member of the Newsletter Group. The next copy date for the Poynton U3A Newsletter is October 8th 2018.

Message to all Group Organisers: When you email your group members about arrangements, please send a copy to webmaster@poyntonu3a.org.uk so that we can keep the website up to date. Thank you.

Minibreak

Cotswold and Winchester Mini Break - 13th-15th April

Our spring mini break this year took us to the Cotswolds and Winchester. On Friday our first stop was Snowhill Manor and Garden. Snowhill is a sixteenth century Cotswold manor house best known for its twentieth century owner, Charles Wade, an eccentric man who amassed an enormous collection of objects that interested him. From tiny toys to Samurai armour, musical instruments to fine clocks, the house is packed with thousands of objects bought not because they were rare or valuable but because they were examples of fine craftsmanship. It was fascinating to look around and you could visit many times and still see something new.



In the afternoon we continued on to Cirencester, the second largest town in Roman Britain, which has an excellent museum with an extensive collection of Roman artefacts, an impressive church and many interesting buildings. Unfortunately, it didn't look at its best as the weather was dull and overcast.

On Saturday we awoke to better weather and it stayed sunny all day. In the morning we went to Winchester, capital of England in Alfred the Great's time. Firstly, we visited the 13th Century Great Hall where we had an excellent guided tour and saw the Round Table. Carbon dating has revealed this could not have belonged to King Arthur, even if he had existed, but it is over 700 years old which is still very impressive. On then to the magnificent Cathedral, this dates from the time of the Norman Conquest and has the longest nave in England. There we discovered the shrine of St Swithun, the beautiful illuminated handwritten Winchester Bible, 12th-century wall paintings, medieval carvings and the tomb of Jane Austen.



After time for lunch and a visit to the City Mill, a working 18th-century corn mill, we boarded the coach mid-afternoon and made a short stop at Avebury en route to the hotel. At Avebury, the world's largest prehistoric stone circle partially encompasses a pretty village. We had time to walk around part of the site and see the remaining stones which incredibly were originally placed here over 4000 years ago.

On Sunday unfortunately we had rain, heavy at times throughout the day. It cleared a little and remained mostly dry but dull in the morning when we were in Lacock, a picturesque village with quaint cottages and historic buildings making it a favourite spot for TV and film locations including Downton Abbey, Pride and Prejudice, Cranford, and the Harry Potter films. Folk appear to be very trusting in Lacock as they leave produce outside their houses and if you buy something they ask you to just post your money through their letter box! Lacock Abbey, a quirky country house built upon the foundations of a former nunnery, was the home of William Fox Talbot who took the first photographic negative there contributing to the invention of photography.

Early afternoon we headed off to our final destination, Stow-on-the-Wold. In between the showers we managed to have a walk around the town and took a look at the North door of the church where two ancient yew trees flank the porch. This fairy-tale like doorway is believed to have inspired Tolkien to create The Doors of Durin. A particularly heavy shower caused us to take shelter in a craft fair in St Edwards Hall, where we made some lovely purchases and had the most delicious cream tea, proving the old adage 'every cloud.....'

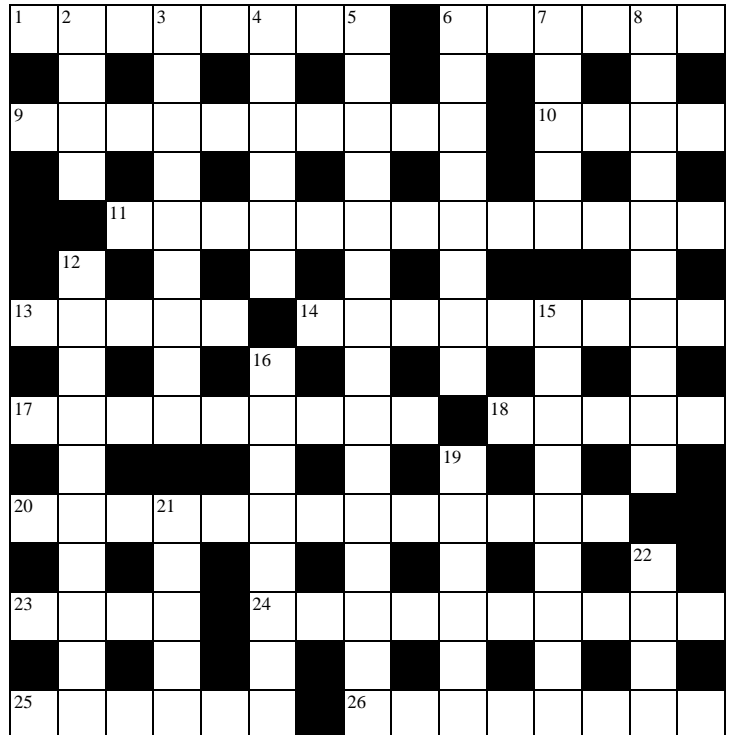
Elaine Roe

Members' Corner

POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.23

ACROSS

- 1 Sound formed from a sarcastic remark and nothing more (8)
- 6 Composer arising from riots in Harlem (6)
- 9 Non U return from a safe journey from the region of China or Japan maybe (3,7)
- 10 Party was held by editor yesterday (4)
- 11 Completely inconsiderate way of acting – with a crafty finish (13)
- 13 Blended cheap fruit (5)
- 14 Set out twice and take to the air looking for an African hazard (6,3)
- 17 Head cover worn by grown- ups when reaching maturity? (9)
- 18 Fifth proposal is certainly a flier! (5)
- 20 Famous explorer involved in a troubled trawler, arriving at a Lancashire Town (6,7)
- 23 Nasty eye inflammation found internally (4)
- 24 Strange how a piglet is to get involved in the human digestive system (10)
- 25 Brother Kenneth is exhausted (6)
- 26 "Steal" a title for an epithet (8)



DOWN

- 2 I vacate a seat for the cleaner (4)
- 3 The headless lunatic shows no principles (9)
- 4 Thin cover for a girl to sit back on (6)
- 5 From Central Europe we hear of restraint of Norwegian capital over a scattering of a thousand birds (15)
- 6 Old type of disc with broken hilt is an ancient monument (8)
- 7 He sat around mulling - over pet ones maybe (5)
- 8 Right-Ronny fell awkwardly but became a swashbuckling actor (5,5)
- 12 Upper end of meandering stream found in school (10)
- 15 Make aware within gentle humour (9)
- 16 Considered lucky to be thin and almost there (8)
- 19 Second grade cello played by famous poet (6)
- 21 Sounds like very fine adjustment to the Yorkshire 7-day period (5)
- 22 Stable business (4)

Crossword Puzzle No.22 Solution

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

Compiled by Ed Milius and Ian Berresford of
the Poynton U3A Crossword Group.
If you would like to join us, contact Ed

Liverpool Day Trip

The first Day Trip of the year saw us transported to the Chinese Terracotta Warriors Exhibition at the World Museum in Liverpool. We were delighted to find a stunning exhibition and also some excellent Spring weather. Below are a few reminders of the day. Thanks, Iris and Gerry.



Terracotta Warrior and Horse



The Golden Horse of Maoling – gilded bronze



A model showing how they made the Terracotta Warriors



.....and the sun shone on Liverpool