



Poynton News

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

poyntonu3a.org.uk

Issue 16

Spring 2015



Table Magician Peter Turner mystifies at the Christmas meeting whilst others ponder the quizzes.

Chairman's Remarks

One of the U3A founders, Peter Laslett, was a widely recognised expert on the history of population and social structure. His work had shown him that, in the UK in the second half of the 20th century, people were beginning to live longer normal lives after they retired. There would be increasing numbers of people who would enjoy a lengthy period of healthy independence, free (formally at least!) from the burdens of employment and care of a family. This had never happened before. He saw these people as being interested in the continuing fulfilment of their lives - meeting, learning and socialising. From this, after rather wobbly beginnings, came the idea of the U3A movement which now has over a third of a million members in almost 1000 local U3As in the UK.

The interest of so many people in the U3A movement was demonstrated at our January meeting as new and continuing members registered for 2015 in increasing numbers for a fee of £10, which remains the same as

at our Inaugural Meeting in January 2011. And one of our largest audiences was drawn on this occasion to hear Professor Linge talk on "From Man on the Moon to Life in Cyberspace". The developments in computing and communications since Neil Armstrong first stepped onto the moon in July 1969 might be described as a series of revolutionary waves that have flowed over and around us transforming by their "magic" so much of our every-day lives. I am writing this note on a somewhat dated lap-top. But it has greater processing power than the computer in Neil Armstrong's Landing Module. And I have a less than state-of-the art mobile telephone. But it fits neatly in a pocket or handbag, unlike the one I was issued with at work in the 1980s which was the size and weight of a brick! Professor Linge reminded us how much new technologies have changed our world since we began our working lives - a fitting way to start the splendid 2015 programme which our Speakers' Secretary has arranged for us.

David Sewart

Details of forthcoming General Meetings are on Page 5.

News from the Groups

New Groups

We are pleased to announce the launching of three new groups, Acoustic Folk/Rock Band, Bus Pass Explorer Group and Men's Reading Group.

The Acoustic Folk/Rock Band is organised by Geoff Brindle. Please contact Geoff for further details via the website. He already has a few potential members.

The Bus Pass Explorer Group will be organised by Lynda Green. A planning meeting has been held at Weatherspoons on 4th March involving those interested. It is hoped that members of the group will find helpful information from which they can enjoy trips with other members or friends.

The Men's Reading Group will be organised by Les Simpson. Please contact Les for further details via the website.

Joan & Bob Stepto (Group Co-ordinators)

Wendy Vigurs' Groups: Hallé Concerts, Spanish and Piano for Beginners

We were very sorry to record the sudden death of Wendy in December. Her enthusiasm and joie de vivre will be sorely missed, especially by all the groups she organised.

The Hallé Concert trips were Wendy's baby. She began organising them in 1990 and they proved to be very popular; quickly needing a 53-seater coach, rather than a minibus. When Wendy joined the U3A, she included our members as well. Wendy will be sadly missed, but she has inspired others to carry on. Judith Ridgway (a member of High Lane U3A) has agreed to continue with the Hallé organisation but she needs a representative attending Poynton U3A to be the contact. Luckily for us, Yvonne Sharma has agreed to do this. She will be at our General Meetings to take names for those who wish to attend the next series of concerts. Thank you Yvonne.

The Spanish Group is now being organised by Paul Freeborn. Thank you Paul.

We now need to find a new Organiser for Piano for Beginners. If you feel you are able to help, please write to groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk.

Joan & Bob Stepto

[There is an article describing Wendy's life in the February-March issue of Inside Poynton – Ed]

Art Appreciation

On Thursday January 8th we had a typical U3A day - educational and free (well almost!)

We drove to Parrs Wood, parked and caught the Number 50 bus to Salford Quays, all using our bus passes.

At the Lowry Gallery, we visited 'Behind the Mask', an exhibition featuring portraits of over 100 international stars who have either won or been nominated for a BAFTA since 1954. They were all photographed by Andy Gotts and displayed in black and white. These photographs of well-known faces, warts and all, are fascinating and beautiful.

The bus ride also provided an opportunity for one member, new to the area, to have a guided tour of the city centre, courtesy of the rest of the group!

Thursday 26th February provided an opportunity to visit the Gallery of Costume at Platt Hall. The current exhibition was 'Something Blue' - wedding fashions 1914-2014.

Thursday 26th March will find us visiting the Whitworth Art Gallery, which re-opened in February 2015 after undergoing a total refurbishment. Each time the mode of transport is the same as before - car to Parrs Wood and bus from there.

We augment our visits to galleries with films of exhibitions shown at the cinema. These have included 'The Girl with the Pearl Earring' and other treasures from the Mauritshuis in The Hague. This was screened in January. 'Vincent van Gogh - a New Way of Seeing', with exclusive access to the Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam will be screened in April. The Impressionists from the Musée du Luxembourg Paris, the National Gallery London and the Philadelphia Museum of Art will be screened in May.

Carol Gatenby

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10.30 at Weatherspoons, Poynton. All members are welcome to come and have a chat over a cup of coffee in a convivial atmosphere. Prospective and new members are always made to feel welcome, giving them an opportunity to find out more about the U3A and its activities in informal surroundings.

The January coffee morning was attended by thirteen members and there was quite a buzz of chatter and laughter. Altogether a pleasant way to spend an hour or two on a winter morning.

Anne Wynn

News from the Groups

Day Trips

Wednesday, 22nd April - Boundary Mill & Townley Hall

We will visit Boundary Mill for coffee and some retail therapy and then go on to Townley Hall Park and Gardens, recently featured on the Antiques Road Show. This is a historic house, Art Gallery & Museum set in beautiful grounds with a café.

£14.00 per person.

Thursday, 14th May - National Trust Chirk Castle

We will be calling for morning coffee, tea and cake at the Rossett Hall Hotel and then going on to beautiful Chirk Castle which is near Wrexham. Features from its 700 year history include 18th Century State rooms, 17th Century Long Gallery, servants' hall, laundry and award winning gardens.

£15.00 per person. Extra charge of £8.80 for non-NT Members – payable on the day.

Tuesday, 30th June - Yorkshire Sculpture Park & Canon Hall

On arrival at the Sculpture Park we will have morning tea, coffee and cake and after a short introductory talk, the rest of the morning is free to explore the beautiful grounds and galleries at the Park. This year, there is a major Henry Moore exhibition. We then go to Canon Hall Museum and garden for the rest of the day.

£12.00 per person.

Departures for all trips – Bulkeley Road, Poynton. Return departures 3.30 -4.00 pm.

Bookings for the above trips are being taken now. There are further trips in September, October and November. Bookings for these trips are being taken from July.

Iris and Gerry Neale

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.

Short Walks

Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. All the walks are gentle, about two miles in length and take one hour to one hour and a half. Meet at the Civic Centre at 10.30am, or at the start of the walk at 10.45am. The programme for the rest of the year is:

Date	Walk
24 th March	Jackson's Brickworks Nature Reserve, start at Nelson Pit Visitor Centre
14 th April	Happy Valley, start at the lay-by opposite the Brookdale Theatre on Bridge Lane, Bramhall
28 th April	Lyme Park, start at lay-by near West Park Gate
12 th May	Lyme View walk, start at Nelson Pit Visitor Centre
26 th May	Bluebell Walk & Styperson Pool, start at the public car park just past the Windmill Pub near the canal, on Holehouse Lane
9 th June	Four Winds and Lyme Park, to include a 45mins stop in Lyme Park. Start at Nelson Pit Visitor Centre
23 rd June	Whiteley Green to Bollington, start at the public car park just past the Windmill Pub near the canal on Holehouse Lane
14 th July	Wood Lane wild-flowers walk, start at lay-by on Wood Lane West near the Miners' Arms pub
28 th July	Lyme Park Picnic Walk, start at the lay-by by West Park Gate.

Bob Stepto

North West Region U3A News

The following two items are taken from the latest North West newsletter

North West Region Annual Conference (incorporating the AGM) – Crewe Arms Hotel
4th June 2015

North West Region Summer School 2015
Newton Rigg College, Penrith
1st - 4th September 2015

See the NW website for further details - www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west.

Groups List

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Acoustic Folk/Rock Band	Geoff Brindle	Contact Organiser
Antiques	Judith Davis	Contact Organiser
Art	David Williams Tony Worthington	Mondays 1.45-3.45 Civic Hall
Art Appreciation	Kath Bell Carol Gatenby	Monthly. Contact Organiser. (Next meeting - Thursday 26th March at the Whitworth Art Gallery)
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	2.00 alternate Mondays Civic Hall
Bus Pass Explorer	Lynda Green	Contact Organiser
Cake Decorating	Ann Tofield	Contact Organiser
Creative Writing	Veronica O'Connor Ann Walker	2.00 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 (Overall Organiser: Gerard Miller 878150)	Les & Beryl Simpson	Lunch, 12.15, Tuesday, 24 th March, Butley Ash
D.I.Y.	Sue Badger	Contact Organiser.
Embroidery	Barbara Davies	2.30 4 th Thursday in month
Exercise Class	Irene Johnson	St Martin's Church Hall 10.45 - 11.45 1 st Wednesday in month (Additional classes see next page.)
Family History	Moyna Barrott	Twice monthly. Contact Organiser.
Film Discussion Group	Maggie Eagland	2.00 3 rd Wednesday in month
French Conversation	David Wallis	Monthly. Contact Organiser.
Geology	Peter Bennett	Monthly. Contact Organiser.
German Beginners	Catherine Owen	Monthly. Contact Organiser.
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly
History	Wendy Fermor Dorothy Bayman	2.00 4 th Tuesday in month
Laptop & Internet Basics	Jack Taylor	Information at General Meetings & on web site
Men's Reading Group	Les Simpson	Contact Organiser
Photography	Jan Slinn John Jurics	Monthly
Piano for Beginners	Organiser needed	
Play Reading	Catherine Owen	2.15 1 st Tuesday in month
Reading	Iris Neale	2 nd Tuesday in month
Science & Technology	Jo Leach	Contact Organiser.
Scrabble	Dorothy Bayman	2.00 2 nd Monday in month
Short Walks	Bob Stepto	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays in month
Spanish	Paul Freeborn	Mondays 10-11.30
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	2.00-4.00 1 st four Thursdays in month, Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 st Thurs in month

Groups List

Other Poynton Groups open to our U3A Members

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Exercise Class	Irene Johnson	St Martin's Church Hall 10.45am-11.45am 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Wednesdays in month
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

NEC Network U3A Open Groups

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Art (Bramhall)	Peter Richardson	1.00-3.00 alternate Mondays
Church History (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	10.00 alternate Wednesdays
Country Dancing (Wilmslow)	-	Contact Wilmslow U3A
Cycling (Wilmslow)	-	Contact Wilmslow U3A
Embroidery (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	10.00 alternate Wednesdays
Line Dancing (Bramhall)	Chris Chapman	1.30 -3.30 Wednesdays
Poetry (Cheadle Hulme)	Pat Wright	Contact Organiser.
Scrabble (Cheadle & Gatley)	-	Contact Cheadle & Gatley U3A
T'ai Chi (Cheadle Hulme)	Pat Wright	Contact Organiser.

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 Bob or Joan at General Meetings or email groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk .

Diary Dates	
Monthly General Meetings	
3 rd Tuesday in month at 2pm - Poynton Civic Hall	
April 21 st	Hugh Beggs – Delamere - a wooded ridge
May 19 ^h	Ken Bryne – Underwater Photography, Little and Large
June 16 th	Rosalie Gorton – Tatton Park and the Egerton family
July 21 st	Brian Greene – Gilbert & Sullivan - The 'Ah-Ha' moments

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 committee member. The next copy date for the Poynton U3A Newsletter is June 8th 2015.

Members' Corner

Richard III - The Last Warrior King of England

Having been married to a Richard the Third groupie for many a long year, it was with some interest, and great excitement that we received the news that an archaeological excavation to find the remains of King Richard was going to be undertaken in Leicester City. The chosen site was in the Social Services' car-park where tarmac now covers the Friary built by the Greyfriars in the 15th century.

Having a daughter living and working in Leicester we were kept well apprised of the progress of the dig. When informed that there was going to be an opportunity to tour the excavation site and stare into those medieval holes in the ground we arranged to visit said daughter and view the site. So in September 2012 we queued round the outside of the old grammar school, a jolly group of enthusiasts or ghouls, depending on your viewpoint, kept informed and in place by the head of Heritage in Leicester. Attempts had been made to make it more interesting with background information, and the history of the red and white rose conflicts, even armour and weapons of the period, but most people wanted to see holes in the ground, not any hole, just the particular hole. Bones had been uncovered on the first day of the dig, under tarmac marked with the letter R.



Some time later a Channel Four TV programme on the raising of funds and the excavation was shown. In this it became clear that Philippa Langley instigated the project, and her determination and enthusiasm moved the investigation on, unlike the scepticism of the experts.

My wife and daughter have applied for tickets to attend the re-interment of the remains of Richard III in Leicester Cathedral on Thursday the twenty-sixth of March 2015. Five hundred and thirty years ago the body was buried, now after a short hiatus what is left will be entombed a few hundred yards from that place. The site of his previous grave is on view through a glass floor in the new Visitor Centre. I hope the last Plantagenet King of England will be left to rest in peace.

Clive B Hill

Birds Love Gardens

As members of the Bird Watching Group we also get great enjoyment from watching the birds in our garden. Our reward for keeping three bird feeders topped up through January has been to see a good number of different birds from the comfort of our own home! The most numerous is a flock of up to thirty Goldfinches, vying for a perch on the kibbled sunflower heart feeders, with House Sparrows, or, less regularly, four Greenfinch, two Siskin or two Bullfinch, along with the common garden birds.

A flock of eight Long-tailed Tits arrives occasionally, stopping off at the mesh feeder filled with fatballs. They come in a mixed flock with several Blue Tits and Great Tits, calling to each other as they flit about then quickly move on. A pair of Coal Tits dash in to grab a seed or two, and a Robin balances awkwardly on a feeder perch. Several Starlings flutter in an ungainly way around the fatballs, stabbing with their strong beaks at chunks which fall to the ground. Other birds such as Dunnock, Chaffinch, Collared Dove and a Song Thrush find a ready supply of morsels there. The Song Thrush is particularly welcome as they are seen less frequently in gardens these days. This one is undeterred by a female Blackbird which chases it. Sheltering under a small Holly Bush it seizes an opportunity to grab a bite while the Blackbird's attention is drawn to some berries on the Cotoneaster.

Only during cold weather snaps do we scatter breadcrumbs and raisins on the patio, as we choose not to actively encourage the larger birds such as Wood Pigeon, Jackdaw and Magpie, though they do show up.

It's due to a Wren bobbing round the herbaceous borders in search of tiny insects that we notice on the bare soil, under the Buddleia, a group of small brown birds feeding. They have a red forehead – Redpoll! eleven of them, winter visitors from Scandinavia. They must have found seeds on the ground from last summer's Buddleia flowers. Restless and nervous the Redpoll don't hang around, but what a treat to see them. And a surprise, the next day, when a Grey Wagtail appears, away from its usual habitat of streams and small rivers. It performs aerial acrobatics over the lawn, aiming for midges.

So, be inspired, put up some feeders and be amazed at what birds come to your garden.

Richard and Vivienne Arnold

Members' Corner

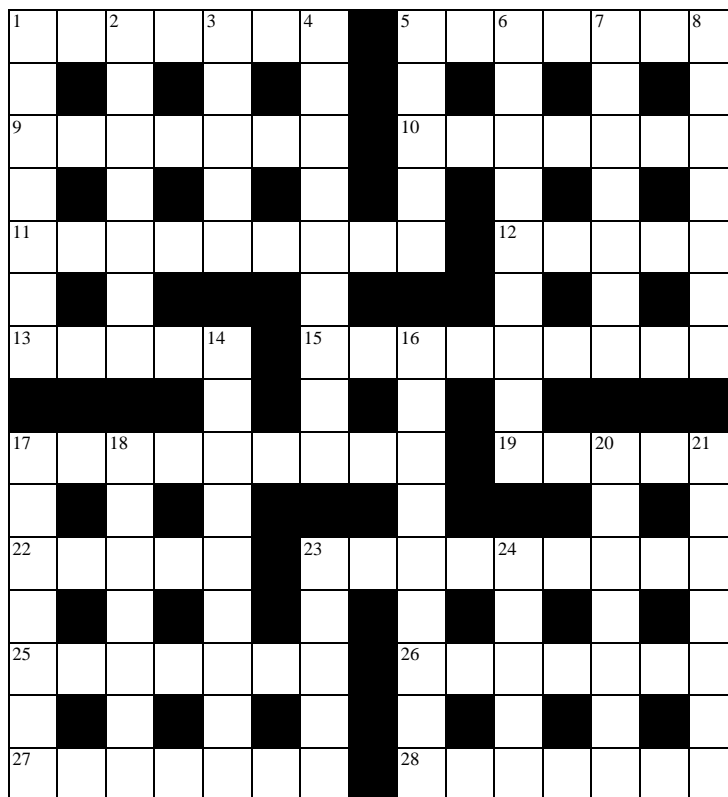
POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.13

ACROSS

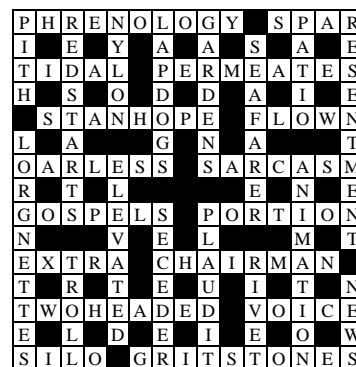
- 1 Relative has soup before Her Majesty. (7)
- 5 Saint Edward initially has drawback regarding official. (7)
- 9 Drained about first drop of water, then exchanged it. (7)
- 10 Drunken tillers produce a framework for the garden. (7)
- 11 Thank God our lessons give no scent. (9)
- 12 German composer forsook the north for a bet. (5)
- 13 Technique sounds like an impediment to the rambler. (5)
- 15 New York Times to come up with evidence. (9)
- 17 Ireland in a spin, after common money for a cheap eating place. (9)
- 19 Knits in a manner that is obnoxious. (5)
- 22 Revive wren flying around east. (5)
- 23 Peculiar mixed amount for one left behind. (3,3,3)
- 25 Singers out of tune, but still make an entrance. (7)
- 26 I hurry about with the Boys Brigade and recycle it. (7)
- 27 Stringed instruments played at Ritz? – he's awful. (7)
- 28 Silver standard on surround, a model of virtue. (7)

DOWN

- 1 Men on board bop and hiss excitedly (7)
- 2 Public speaking as part of a Labour or a Tory MP's job. (7)
- 3 No one gives up. (5)
- 4 Hound a coloured composer? (3,6)
- 5 Sounds as if these locations really are eyesores. (5)
- 6 Alpine flowers are a mix of weeds? – Lies! (9)
- 7 Complete example, or otherwise returned in a lively manner. (7)
- 8 Five hundred storey construction – rebuilt to demolish! (7)
- 14 Were eels initially hiding in another place? (9)
- 16 Caught deep in parts returning could prove costly. (5,4)
- 17 French composer has first zabaglione after breaking boiler. (7)
- 18 Chat ending with a strange thing late on (2,5)
- 20 Pressing task for one man with a faulty trap. (7)
- 21 Appropriate place to thicken stew. (7)
- 23 Nothing in its existing state can result in a fertile area. (5)
- 24 Cautionary light from a processed fish. (5)



Crossword Puzzle No.11 Solution



Crossword Puzzle No.12 (Christmas Meeting) Solution



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

Remembrance



888,246 POPPIES

I went to London. Felt I had to go to see the poppies for myself - just me and four million other people. All round the outside of The Tower was packed but the crowds parted to allow new people to move to the front, look for as long as they wished, take photographs and then back out. Although the site was familiar due to television and newspaper pictures nothing could have prepared me for the impact of the sight of this vast stretch of colour; quite wonderful and amazing. It was hard to realise that each poppy represented a life lost so long ago, but never to be forgotten.

On the embankment side of The Tower volunteers in their red tops were still putting poppies in place. It seems that these folk had come from all over the world to be part of this iconic event. In the booklet which arrived with my poppy in December one girl had written that she had said "Rest in peace" to each poppy she planted, which I found most moving.

My poppy stands in a brick of Oasis in a tall stoneware kitchen jar of the era of the first World War, covered with reindeer moss and kept company by a number of white daisies, just like the ones I saw growing up amongst the sea of poppies in the Tower moat. Something I will always treasure.

Helen J Stanley

