



# Poynton News

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

[poyntonu3a.org.uk](http://poyntonu3a.org.uk)

Issue 19

Spring 2016



The Christmas meeting went with a swing with the help of mellow jazz from the Mart Rodger quartet. Mart has been doing these gigs in the area for more years than most of us care to remember, so has a large and loyal fan base in Poynton, some of whom are our members.

On arriving at the Civic Hall it was soon apparent that the room had to be re-arranged as the committee and helpers were going to find it impossible to serve refreshments because of lack of space between the tables. These were soon moved, complete with their green and red cloths, crackers and decorations. Each table was supplied with quizzes, and also a crossword from Ed Milius. Everyone enjoyed puzzling through these while listening to well-known jazz favourites; the enthusiasts having ensconced themselves at the front of the hall to concentrate on Mart's music.



About 250 people came for our January speakers from Arighi Bianchi, Paul and Nick Bianchi, father and son, an entertaining and informative double act.

In 1854 Antonio Arighi, leaving civil war in Italy, came on foot from Casnate, a silk weaving town near Lake Como, arriving in Macclesfield, a silk weaving town with 71 mills. He began selling barometers and clocks, and was joined in 1868 by Antonio Bianchi, a relative by marriage and a skilled cabinet-maker. From these beginnings 160 plus years ago the business progressed and prospered. Nowadays behind the wonderful cast iron and glass façade of the main building lies a whole labyrinth of rooms holding furniture and fabrics from Britain and across the world. Following their presentation Paul and Nick showed photographs of the early days, and a beautiful mahogany barometer made by Antonio Arighi which now hangs in the company boardroom. They both stayed to chat and to answer our questions.



*(Pictures by Kind Permission of Arighi Bianchi.)*

# Committee News

---

## Reflections on the Origins of the U3A on our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011 176 people attended the inaugural meeting of Poynton U3A in the Civic Hall and paid their £10 subscription as members. The first General Meeting with a speaker followed on 15<sup>th</sup> February. So this year we are celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We owe a great deal to the members of the early Steering Committee which had made all the arrangements in the autumn of 2010 for the successful launch of an organisation which now has over 450 members as well as over 30 Interest Groups.

The origin of the U3A, which is now an international movement, lies in the setting up of L'Université du Troisième Age (UTA) in Toulouse in 1972. It arose from a wish on the part of the French Government for universities to take up the teaching of adults. The concept of a national Open University engaged in distance education was still unique to the UK. However the UTA could only flourish where there were existing university institutions.

In early 1981 a conference was held in Cambridge to discuss the possibility of bringing a University of the Third Age to the UK. It was hosted by Peter Laslett, a political philosopher who was also the Director of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. It was his work in this latter area which was highlighting the shifting balance between young and old in the UK and leading him to see the need for providing broad educational opportunities for these "third agers". Peter Laslett had been in the group which laid the basis for what became the Open University. But the Open University was, for the most part, offering courses with qualifications at University level. What was needed was something broader which would embrace the social as well as the educational needs of "third agers" in a particular community

And so it was that the U3A movement came into being, the first U3As appearing in 1982. Since it was to be local, it would need to be reliant on the resources of that local community. It would have to be able to take its own decisions. There needed to be a careful and clear statement of how each of the local U3As would relate to the National Body, The U3A Trust. This was not finally determined until June 1989. The aims and principles of the U3A are enshrined in the statement of The U3A Trust. But the key unit in the U3A movement is the local body (in our case – Poynton U3A) and not the national body.

**David Sewart**

## Day Trips

### Wednesday 6 April - Boundary Mill & Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington

We will visit Boundary Mill for some retail therapy and have a fish & chip lunch at Banny's Restaurant- Gluten free batter or Cheese & onion slice available – please make this clear when booking. Then we go to Haworth Art Gallery, a stunning Edwardian Arts & Craft House, which features a wonderful collection of Tiffany Glass.

We will depart Bulkeley Road, Poynton at 9.30am - Depart Accrington 3.30/4.00pm  
£18.00 per person

### Thursday 12 May - National Trust Shugborough Estate

Shugborough is the ancestral home of the Earls of Lichfield. This Historic Estate and Mansion House has a Georgian working farm, Servants Quarters and County Museum, Walled Garden and extensive grounds. On arrival we will have tea/coffee and cake.

We will depart Bulkeley Road, Poynton 9.30am - Depart Shugborough 3.30/4.00pm  
£19.00 per person. Extra charge of £4.50 for Non NT members – payable on the day.

### Thursday 14 July - Pot House Hamlet & National Trust Nostell Priory

We will have morning tea/coffee and cake at Pot House Hamlet which dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and have time to look around. Then we will go to Nostell Priory, a Palladian House with an impressive collection of Chippendale furniture and interiors designed by Adam. There are also extensive parkland and gardens.

We will depart Bulkeley Road, Poynton 9.30 am - Depart Nostell Priory approx 3.30/4.00pm  
£15.00 per person. Extra charge of £10.50 for Non NT members – payable on the day.

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

**Iris and Gerry Neale**

## Coffee Mornings

Members continue to enjoy the Coffee Mornings at Wetherspoons on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.30 am. Do come and join us for a coffee and chat. The next dates are March 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Anne Wynn**



# Views from the Groups

---

## The Scrabble Group

On a particularly wild afternoon in early February with the rain pounding on the roof of Dorothy's conservatory, the Scrabble group met for its monthly session. Perhaps one of the smaller groups we average about six players every month, meeting in the organisers lounge on the second Monday at 2pm.



We usually have two games on two boards with 2-3 players on each. A bit of mental stimulation does us all good and apart from that we learn new words from each other, what is, and is not, allowed, as well as the enjoyment of each other's company. If you enjoy this sort of mental stimulation and are interested in joining us contact Dorothy Bayman on 01625 879371.

## Science & Technology Group visit to Paradise Mill and the Silk Museum, Macclesfield



## Art Appreciation's Trip to see Pre-Raphaelite Exhibition

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February six of us from the U3A Arts Appreciation Group went, by train, to Liverpool to see the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery.

It was an excellent exhibition, beautifully displayed and for the concession price of £5 we were able to go in and out at will. The information on the audio set was a useful guide.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was founded in 1848 in London by seven artists, the most significant being Rossetti, Holman Hunt and Millais. The group's name reflected their admiration for mediaeval art before Raphael. John Ruskin, the famous critic, was a huge influence on them as well as being a staunch supporter. Many of their influential patrons in Liverpool included John Miller, George Rae and Frederick Leyland. The Pre-Raphaelites believed that artists should paint meaningful subjects and express true human emotions. People and their settings were observed with the utmost attention to detail.

Included in some of the iconic pictures we saw were Millais' *"Isabella"*, which is in the permanent collection at the Walker, Holman Hunt's *"The Scapegoat"*, Simeon Solomon's *"The Mystery of Faith"*, Edward Burne-Jones' *"The Beguiling of Merlin"*, Rossetti's *"The Blessed Damsel"*, and the Liverpool artist, William Lindsay Windus' *"Burd Helen"*.

**Glenys Parry-Jones**

---

## North West Region U3A News

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

**North West Region AGM and Conference  
Liverpool Quaker Meeting House  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**West Region Summer School 2016  
Newton Rigg College, Penrith  
30<sup>th</sup> August - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**

See the NW website for further details -  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west](http://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	1.30-3.30pm Mondays Civic Hall
Art Appreciation	Kath Bell Carol Gatenby	Monthly. Contact Organiser
Ballet Appreciation	Meg Humphries	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday or 4 <sup>th</sup> 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	Vivienne Arnold Evelyn Shepherd	Contact Organiser. Next meeting Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2.30pm Wetherspoons
Cake Decorating	Ann Tofield	Contact Organiser
Creative Writing	Veronica O'Connor Ann Walker	2.00pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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)	Gerard Miller	Next meal - Tuesday March 22 <sup>nd</sup> 12.30pm at the Boar's Head, Higher Poynton.
D.I.Y.	Sue Badger	Contact Organiser.
Embroidery	Barbara Davies	2.30 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in month at Patchfinders
Exercise Class	Irene Johnson	St Martin's Church Hall 11.00 - 12.00 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday in month. Restarts 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
Family History	Moyna Barrott	Twice monthly. Contact Organiser.
Film Discussion Group	Maggie Eagland	2.00 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in month
French Conversation	Sandra & Keith Batchelor	Monthly. Contact Organiser.
Geology	Peter Bennett	Monthly. Contact Organiser.
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly
History	Wendy Fermor Dorothy Bayman	2.00 4 <sup>th</sup> 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. Contact Organisers.
Play Reading	Catherine Owen	2.15 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday in month
Reading Group 1	Iris Neale	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	2.00 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday in month
Short Walks	Joan Stepto	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in month
Spanish	Paul Freeborn	Mondays 10-11.30
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	2.00-4.00 1 <sup>st</sup> four Thursdays and 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays in month, Poynton Sports Club
Walking	Marilyn Westbrook	1 <sup>st</sup> 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

## NEC Network U3A Open Groups

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Art (Bramhall)	Peter Richardson	1.00-3.00 alternate Mondays
Badminton (Bramhall)	Douglas Moore	2.00-4.00 Tuesdays
Church History (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	10.00 alternate Wednesdays
Creative Writing (Bramhall)	Pat George	2.00 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in month
Cycling (Wilmslow)	Richard Thomas	Weekly – Contact Organiser
Embroidery (Bramhall)	Dorothy Chesterman	10.00 alternate Wednesdays
Line Dancing (Bramhall)	Chris Chapman	1.30 -3.30 Wednesdays
Personal Image (Bramhall)	Catherine Jones	6-week courses, Thursdays 10.00-12.00
Scottish country Dancing (Bramhall)	Sheila Bruce-Smith	1.30-3.00 Fortnightly, Fridays
Wine Tasting (Bramhall)	Jenny Richmond	Bi-monthly

**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 Joan at General Meetings or email [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk) .**

Diary Dates	
Monthly General Meetings	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month at 2pm - Poynton Civic Hall	
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Warrender – The Battle for Kinder Scout
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Platt – It's a Prison Life
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	George Eccleston – Mary Queen of Scots - The Captive Queen <i>Note: This is a change from the original program.</i>
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Penny Dean – A Small Person in a Tall World

*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](mailto:newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk) or give it to a member of the Newsletter Group. The next copy date for the Poynton U3A Newsletter is June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016.*

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

# Members' Corner

## A theatre visit to *Into the Woods* turns into a real life fairy tale!

Stephen Sondheim's darkly comic musical, *Into the Woods*, intertwines the plots of several classic fairy tales but sometimes real life can be stranger than fiction!

In a highly unusual occurrence the performance that we had originally booked to see was cancelled with just 24 hours' notice due to technical problems. Fortunately the Royal Exchange theatre was able to offer us tickets for a later date, although on the night we learned that this performance was nearly cancelled as well and was only able to go ahead with an understudy in one of the main roles.

Gillian Bevan, the lead cast member who was playing the part of the Witch, was unexpectedly taken ill. Melissa Bayern, a graduate fresh out of Drama College, had just played the part of the Witch in her final performance on a musical theatre course at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She had gone to see the show with friends and watched as one of Bevan's fellow cast members stood in as the Witch, script in hand. Afterwards, she decided to leave her details at the theatre for director, Matthew Xia, offering herself up for the role should Bevan not be better for future performances. Xia subsequently contacted Bayern, who was on a train back to London, to offer her the chance to take up the part. She returned to the north, and the following day was in at 9am for costume fittings and a five-hour rehearsal, before going on stage that night, making her professional stage debut.

This was the night that we saw the production. If we hadn't been told that Melissa had stepped in at the last minute we would never have known as she gave such a confident and polished performance. She did an amazing job taking on one of Sondheim's biggest characters, with just a few hours of rehearsal and received a well-deserved ovation from both the audience and the cast at the end of the show. She went on to play the role for another six performances until Gillian Bevan was better. Without Melissa those performances would have either had to be cancelled or would have been unsatisfactory as the part would have had to be just read from a script by a stand in.

Matthew Xia said 'We will always be extremely thankful to Melissa and her enterprising decision to leave her telephone number with stage door... it's almost a fairy-tale in itself!'

**Elaine Roe**

## Epitaph to the Brookfield Cinema



As the Brookfield Cinema morphs into Aldi the memories return.

Latterly it was just a façade, but to the older people of Poynton,

it was much more, entertainment, education and growing up.

There was a heart and soul inside,  
With its deep colours and Art Deco style,  
Plush seating, some doubles for the amorous.

Programme change three times a week, all with the news.

A Saturday morning for the kids, cartoons and cowboys,

Sweets, ice cream, and drinks, definitely no popcorn,  
Trailers at the end to entice you back next night or next week.

Memories, taken out in tears from Snow White,

A visit by Roy Rogers and Trigger,

The Coronation in colour, and a commemorative beaker,

The only local showing of Rock Around The Clock.

Part of its essence was the aroma of

Coffee, scent, tobacco smoke and body odour,

Stairs to the circle and first floor café,

On up to the Ballroom, Bar and live music.

The tales it could have told as it crumbled to dust.

## Clive B Hill



# Members' Corner

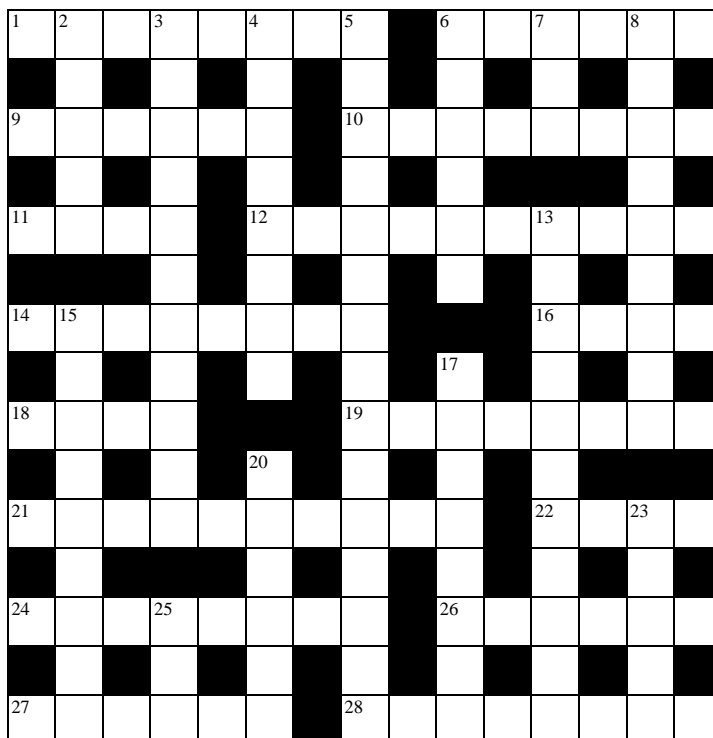
## POYNTON U3A CROSSWORD PUZZLE No.16

### ACROSS

- 1 Large number with one ailing in WW1 battlefield. (8)
- 6 Tree insect drunk with acid and calcium. (6)
- 9 Spoilt, though reserved as leaders. (6)
- 10 Nervous disorder makes you yip and sleep when confused. (8)
- 11 Starters for A Grand Edwardian Dinner? - Well matured. (4)
- 12 Enters dive tipsy, was rehabilitated. (10)
- 14 The real English show elegance. (8)
- 16 Boast about clothing. (4)
- 18 Bob hides millions - a real fortune. (4)
- 19 A question loses direction forming a mathematical problem. (8)
- 21 Tidal wave is howling - that's very exciting. (3,7)
- 22 Non U, in a word to give a name to. (4)
- 24 Evil sods disintegrate, yes - disintegrate. (8)
- 26 Commending peeled dried fruit. (6)
- 27 Hags at work! Overcome with horror. (6)
- 28 Learner in year one, no good he's only a kid. (8)

### DOWN

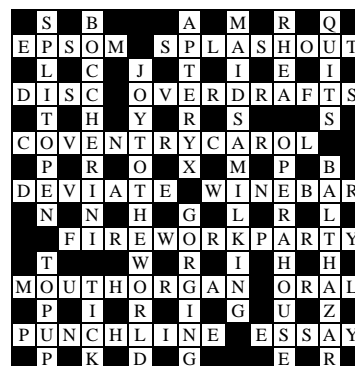
- 2 Sounds like I can serenade - how sweet!.....(5)
- 3 .....perhaps I can perform for this operatic ghost writer? (5,6)
- 4 The old boy was well versed and noted. (8)
- 5 Was that a knock on the front door? No it's a ball that's scattered the batsman's wicket. (7,8)
- 6 Chase up hollow victory at end of chapter 4. (6)
- 7 Signal to a clergyman who's lost a rodent. (3)
- 8 Speed carelessly on bumpy road - what a madcap! (9)
- 13 Bus returns with man turning tail - that's quite enough. (11)
- 15 Deceitful couple note Chinese dynasty. (3,6)
- 17 Country Uncle. (8)
- 20 Hole in the wall ethics offers a place for banknotes. (6)
- 23 Marriage flag. (5)
- 25 Recoiled snake offers water supply. (3)



### Crossword Puzzle No.15 Solution



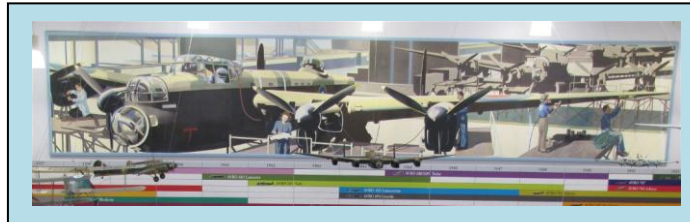
### Special Christmas 2015 Crossword Solution



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



# Avro Heritage Museum



I was lucky enough to be invited to join members of the Science and Technology Group on their visit to Avro Museum. Having been to the original small Museum I was unprepared for the wonders of this splendid new one in the former fire station on the far side of the site. It is light and airy, with an amazing array of planes, photographs, wonderful murals showing the planes which have been made by A V Roe & Co., Hawker Siddeley, and British Aerospace in the now demolished buildings.

The place is manned by a hugely knowledgeable group of men with a wide experience of flying and creating planes. From being a child I have watched planes come in over Park Lane to land at Woodford, all wonderful in their way, but the supreme champion for me was always the Vulcan. With many other people I stood at the edge of what had been the airfield to watch Vulcan XH558's final wonderful roaring flight over me as it said a sad farewell to its birthplace last year, to be seen in the skies no more.

Vulcan groupie? I think so. It was wonderful to ascend the yellow steps into the cockpit of a Vulcan which is within the Museum, marvelling at the miniscule space in which 5 men worked in this enormous aircraft, 3 not being able to see out, and the pilot and co-pilot in the tiniest area at the front with limited outlook.

The story of Alliott Verdon Roe, and of all the aircraft made by Avro is there, from the tiny Roe 1 Triplane, the Anson, the Manchester, Lancaster bombers, Vulcans, to the Nimrods, the last of which had been built and never sold and were hacked into pieces behind huge screens when it was decided by the powers that be they were defunct.

A fascinating and wonderful visit, topped off by having a cup of coffee made by an ex-Vulcan pilot. What more could a person ask for on a Thursday morning?

**Helen J Stanley**

*[It's well worth a visit – Ed]*