

## Newsletter

Issue No. 1

1<sup>st</sup> March 2011

### Chairman's Remarks.

What an incredible time we've had over the past few months. We've really hit the ground running! The response to our first meeting in November was overwhelming and the vote to start a U3A was carried unanimously.

At the inaugural meeting in January we were astounded by the number of people who became members. It really shows how keen everyone is to be involved in our new U3A. The enthusiasm of all new members has made the effort very worthwhile and reinforced our convictions that Poynton was ready for a U3A. Thank you everybody who has shown faith in us to get this new venture started.

Within days of the inaugural meeting many interest groups had been formed and were up and running in no time. This was due to the wonderful effort put in by Groups Coordinators Joan and Bob Stepto. They are working tirelessly and new interest groups are still being formed.

The quarterly news letter and the web site [www.poyntonu3a.org.uk](http://www.poyntonu3a.org.uk) are being established and we hope these two forms of communication will keep all our members well informed. None of this could have happened without the tremendous hard work of all committee members and my thanks go to each and every one. They will be happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

Enjoy your new group and contribute by joining interest groups, starting up new ones, giving us feed-back and ideas, attending main meetings, but most of all by having fun and making new friends. I thank you all for your support and hope we will have a very successful Poynton U3A.

Jo Leach (chairman)      chairman@poyntonu3a.org.uk

**Hello and  
welcome to our  
first newsletter!**

Hi! I'm Joyce your Newsletter Editor. I hope you enjoy this first issue. Production has been a steep learning curve but hopefully it will be onwards and upwards from here.

The newsletter will be produced quarterly and distributed initially via email, meetings and posted on the web page.

I hope to keep you informed of news and activities from around the groups but any comments, stories, articles or poems from the membership will be gratefully received.

It's your newsletter and will be as interesting as you make it. Not sure about writing for publication? No problem! Just tell me what you want to say and I'll sharpen it up for you.

Anybody wishing to contribute should email information to [newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk)

My grateful thanks go to all who have contributed so far.

### Diary Dates

#### Monthly General Meetings

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month; 2pm Poynton Civic Hall**

Each Meeting deals with Poynton U3A events and information and the highlight of the meeting is the guest speaker.

#### Guest Speakers

15 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr & Mrs Drackley Tales of the Unexpected
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Walter Mason- English Gardens- Snowdrops to Eden
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Donald Lodge An ex-Butler's Reminiscences
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Speaker-Francis House

# Meet the Groups

## Established Groups

Telephone numbers are available in the paper version

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Antiques	Judith Davis	To be advised
Art	David Williams Tony Worthington	Monday 1.30-3.30 Civic Centre
Bird Watching	Peter Owen	Monthly (8 <sup>th</sup> March)
Bridge	Dorothy Rowlands	2.00 Alternate Mondays (7 <sup>th</sup> March)
Concert Visits	Wendy Vigurs	Information at General Meetings
Dancing	Pat Arkinstall	To be advised
Days Out	Janet Jones	Information at General Meetings
Dining Club	Jessie Monaghan	Information at General Meeting
Family History	Moyna Barrott	2 groups 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed & Fri in month (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> March)
French Conversation	Vivienne Arnold	To be advised
German Conversation	John Blackburn	Monthly (4 <sup>th</sup> March)
Geology	Peter Bennett	2.00Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> March Vernon Room, Civic Centre
Gardening	Carol Capner	To be advised
Holidays	Janet Jones Marlene Edmonson	Information at General Meetings
Pilates	Wendy Litchfield	Weekly Poynton Community Centre (7 <sup>th</sup> March)
Play – Reading	Catherine Owen	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues in month
Reading	Iris Neale	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues in month (group full; 2 <sup>nd</sup> group being organised)
Scrabble	Dorothy Bayman	Mon or Wed afternoon
Singing	Lil McPhee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs in month
Spanish	Wendy Vigurs	Mon. 10-11.30
T'ai Chi	Brenda	Scout Hall, Marple, Mondays 2 – 4 pm
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	1st & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs in month 2-4pm Poynton sports club
Theatre Trips	Elaine Roe	Information at General Meetings
Walking	Joy Bradburn	Information at General Meetings
Short Walks	Bob Stepto	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues in month Information at General Meetings

**If you are interested in joining any of the groups contact group organiser**

## Organiser Needed

Creative Writing	Discussion Group	History	Keep Fit	Poetry
Computing	German Beginners	Local History	Photography	

We need to grow to succeed. Could you organise one of these groups which all have potential members? Perhaps you would be willing to sort out a first meeting so that members can decide a way forward.

**If you are willing to organise a group** please contact our interest groups co-ordinator Joan Stepto at [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk)

# Groups in Focus

## Play-reading

Nine people attended the first meeting of the proposed U3A play reading group. We read the first third of T S Eliot's "The Cocktail Party" which was both funny and thought provoking. We had regular breaks from reading to discuss what we thought of the play and its meaning.

Everyone very much enjoyed the meeting and it was agreed that the group should meet regularly on the first Tuesday of every month, in the afternoon. Meetings will be held at members' houses by arrangement but if members do not wish to host a meeting there is no pressure to do so.

Anyone wishing for more details should contact Catherine – email [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk) with 'Play Reading' as the subject.



## Bird-watching

Ten members met at Poynton Pool on the morning of 31<sup>st</sup> January for our inaugural event. We had a short walk by the pool on a clear but cool morning. As a group we saw twenty species on the pool, in the trees around the pool and in adjacent fields: These included wren, blue tit, great tit, blackbird, magpie, tree creeper, coot, cormorant, mallard, moorhen, Canada goose, mute swan, black-headed gull, tufted duck, jackdaw, robin, jay, wood pigeon and long tailed tit. We then repaired to Brookside Garden Centre, for hot drinks and to plan for the future.

Our next event will be a visit to the Jacksons Brickworks Nature Reserve on Poole House Road in Middlewood. We will meet on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 a.m. in the car park, by the reserve. We anticipate finding ourselves in The Boar's Head afterwards for more hot drinks.

We intend to have relatively local weekday walks and outings on a monthly basis with periodic weekday trips further afield. With this in mind we are planning to visit Leighton Moss reserve in Lancashire during April.

We shall be very pleased to see any new members interested in the Jacksons Brickworks walk and look forward to meeting you then. If anyone cannot come on the 8<sup>th</sup> March but would be interested in joining the group, please email me at [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk) with 'Bird Watching' as the subject. Similarly if anyone wants a lift to and from Middlewood on 8<sup>th</sup> March let me know.

Peter Owen

## German

Two initial meetings have been held to see what arrangements might be made going forward. Since there was a wide a range of backgrounds among those interested, it was decided, in principle, to split into two groups, with a conversation group for those who would wish the meetings to be conducted primarily in German. The next meeting of this group is to take place at the home of Peter and Catherine on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 p.m - for further details email [groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk) with 'German' as the subject.

It is hoped to form a second group for beginners or near beginners with the first meeting likely to take place later in the year and more details should follow.



# Meet the Committee

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Jo Leach	Chairman
Stan Shaw	Vice Chairman
Gerry Neale	Treasurer
Iris Neale	Assistant Treasurer
Carol Gatenby	Minute Secretary
Lindsay Kay	Business Secretary
Helen Long	Membership Secretary
Joan Stepto	Interest Groups Co-ordinator
Robert Stepto	Assistant Interest Groups Co-ordinator
Joyce Horan	Newsletter
Jeanne Maxwell	Speaker Organiser
Joyce Tapper	Refreshment Organiser
Jessie Monaghan	Assistant Refreshment Organiser
Audrey Lawson	Members Representative

Telephone numbers are available in the paper version

All Enquiries      <mailto:enquiries@poyntonu3a.org.uk>

# Members Corner

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**Over to you!!!**

Can't wait to hear from you all for next publication

Entries will need to be received by 16<sup>th</sup> of May

<mailto:newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk>

Or see me at meetings.

Joyce