

THE 1960S

Poynton
Platinum Jubilee Trail
2022

Brecon (the 'Fire Station') Park in the snow. Note - no Parklands estate behind!



THANK YOU for the photos on the next 2 1/2 pages...
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The Poynton Show
Ann Percy
Mike Williamson
Ken Mitchell
Ellen Curtis
Wendy Bland

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"BANCROFT'S"
31 CLUMBER ROAD

I remember the annual pantomimes at the social centre
Geoff Rushton

These are family photos from my youth of bonfires at the bottom of Barnaby/Vernon Road in the 60's...a family get together with neighbour... they bring back some great memories. I remember how we would go and check the morning after to try and keep the embers burning
Mike Williamson

I loved 'Playback' record shop on Queensway, and we used to buy our fashionable clothes from a shop on Park Lane Sue Allen

I remember calling at Bancrofts Bakery on Clumber Road for free cakes after 3pm on way home from Vernon School and then Pat's Pantry on the corner for the penny tray. Then moving on to the new Worth School in 1969
Wendy Walker



I worked at Tweedales hairdressers 1958-1963, I did my apprenticeship there. I loved Poynton then! There was a painter and decorators' next door, Worsencrofts I went out with a boy from there!
Carole Anne Moore

Nelson Avenue being built c.1960



EXTENSION to modern Ladies' Salon, E. J. A. and M. D. Tweedale, 9 Park Lane, Poynton, provides excellent opportunity for Two Experienced Assistants: good salary

The name is **WORSENCROFT**
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Craftsmen in this village for over a century

25th June 1958
Manchester Evening News,
from the British Newspaper Archive

A local painter and decorator advertised in the St George's Church Centenary Celebration booklet, 1971

Parklands Estate being built c.1962





Stills from a video of the Poynton Show, 1960



SNIP (Saturday Night in Poynton), at St George's Hall, a Saturday night disco - we all loved it, and then there was the Social Centre Youth Club

Susan O' Donnell
French



Vernon School, Clumber Road, 1960-1 and 1964-5



Staff at Windak on Woodside Lane, mid 1960s

I remember playing in the brook after walking up our road, Barnaby Road...Getting wood shavings for the rabbit from the sawmill on Macclesfield Road, next to the large white house which housed the Soil Association...sadly gone

Christine Bruce

We moved into Deva Close when the houses were new in about 1964. My daughters were born there. I shopped at the Co-op and most days walked with the pram up to Mum and Dads' on Clumber Road and they played in the back garden but rushed into the house when the Vulcan came over

Barbara Barber

TRAIL OF HAVOC AS TORNADO HAMMERS CHESHIRE

Several injured as houses crash

A Tornado hit Poynton in 1962!

ROOFS were torn off, chimney stacks rattened and trees uprooted by a tornado which hit the Cheshire residential area of Higher Poynton and Adlington, near Macclesfield to-day.

A Cheshire County Fire Brigade official at the Chester headquarters said: "Nine detached houses in Red Brook Way, Adlington, have been severely damaged. Several people suffering from shock have been taken to hospital by ambulance."

A local policeman told the "Evening Express": "It was absolutely terrifying. It was all over in about twenty seconds. Sheds were rooted up out of gardens. One or two trees were ripped out. Lots of house roofs have been damaged. It was utter devastation. It was a rushing, swirling wind of terrific force. It seemed that nothing could stand up in its way. It seemed to come over from the direction of Adlington and blew itself out in the direction of Disley. A lot of houses must have suffered."

We moved from Liverpool to Poynton in 1963...I remember waking up to sheep in our garden at Birch Road. Discos at the Social Centre. Ballet and Judo lessons. Horses and Poynton Pony Club. Going to the new primary school at Worth

Happy memories
Philippa Komachero

We moved to Chestnut Drive in 1965 with my parents..loads of friends there..great place to grow up with fields and ponies and dogs

Kay Lester



Fleetbank Farm stood approximately where the top end of Vernon Road meets Dickens Lane. It was knocked down when the Vernon estate was built in the early 70s.

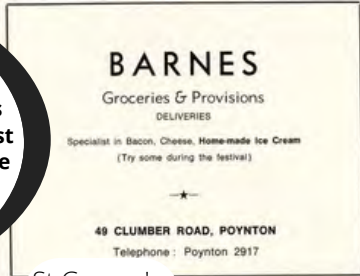


The last owner of the farm was John Moss, and many people knew it as Moss' Farm in the 1950s and 60s.

Cheshire Image Bank Refs. c02494, c02495, c02496

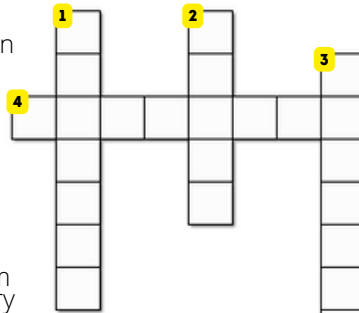


I loved to visit the sweet hatch on the wall at Barnes' sweet shop opposite Vernon Infants School. Saturday morning visit to Peka's toy shop on Park Lane just to see the vast array of toys they sold and then on to the mini market who sold nearly everything
Garry Harney



Poynton Crossword Puzzle

St George's Church Centenary Celebration booklet, 1971

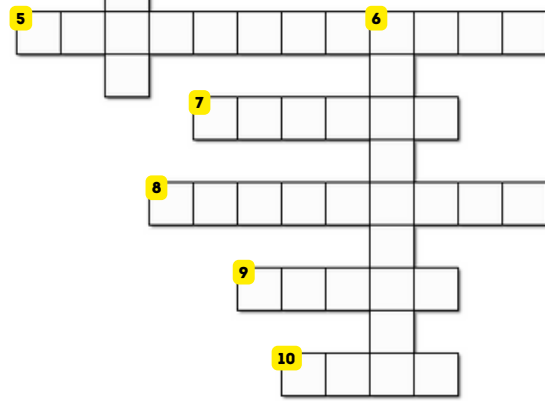


Across

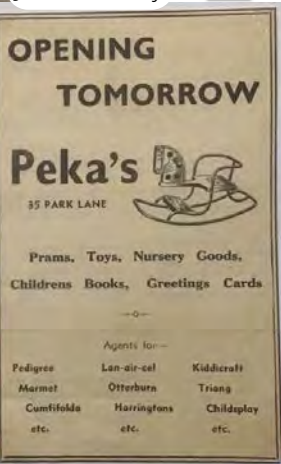
4. Name of the garden by the library (8)
5. Which Primary School is on the 'Bird' estate? (7,4)
7. Italian Coffee Shop on School Lane (6)
8. Carpet Shop - Carpet (9)
9. Which Poynton Primary School has a green jumper? (5)
10. Clothes shop Prickly (4)

Down

1. Nickname for Lady's Incline (3,3)
2. Name of the hardware store in Poynton (5)
3. Church by Waitrose (9)
6. Gift shop in Poynton - Handpicked by...(9)



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net



Peka's photos from Joanna Bery



Huge thanks to Cheshire Life for allowing us to use this article



One of the legends of Poynton refers to the church which stood near the present site of St. George's. The further you go the more you see A church without a steeple and a bell in a tree The rhyme, sometimes attributed to Oliver Cromwell, means simply that the church bell was hung in a tree. It served the present church, which was built in 1858, until the steeple was added some years later.

POYNTON has been called the ugly duckling of the Cheshire villages. As one resident put it, "Poynton will never win any pretty village awards". Yet for all that, the residents are proud of their straggling streets and the belt of green fields and woods around them. Proud, but a little worried about their future, for semi-detached suburbia is swallowing up the farmland, and threatening to swamp the village spirit.

Poynton is suffering from growing pains; it is going through the awkward adolescent change from a small but independent village to a twentieth century dormitory town.

The very names Poynton and Worth suggest their deep rooted history and though the villages were not mentioned in the Domesday survey, it is thought that Anglo Saxon settlers moved to the area about the 9th century. The suffix "ton" is of Saxon origin and Poynton was often spelt Pointon or Poinington in old documents.

Worth, or Wurdth, is also of Saxon origin

Ugly Duckling Village

JUDI GOODWIN EXPLORES THE PAST AND THE FUTURE — OF POYNTON.

PICTURES: CYRIL LINDLEY

above Harold Tripper has lived in Poynton thirty-two years and has made a close study of its history. Though retired through ill health, he has devoted his spare time to a painstaking study of the past. His travels take him all over Britain and he has investigated Poynton's parish registers from 1723, discovered the names and areas of the farmers' fields, made a detailed map of the underground coal workings, and even has the names of all the pit ponies carefully listed.

meaning farm or homestead, and originally Worth covered a larger area than Poynton itself. Now the parish is officially Poynton with Worth, and only a few remnants of its former glory survive as Worth Clough cottages and Worth Hall, a dairy farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson. Mr. Richardson, by the way, is a county councillor for Bollington, Adlington and Poynton.

Over the centuries, the people have reared dairy cattle, corn and root crops, but it was coal mining that really put Poynton on the map. The author of a book published in 1795 gives an interesting account of how coal was discovered in that century. A tenant farmer, tired of bringing water a long distance, gave notice to quit the land unless a well was sunk. The landowner, not wishing to lose a good tenant, finally agreed to his request, and so discovered the vein of coal. Charming though this account may be, it is untrue, for coal had been mined for years before and was first mentioned in 1635.

Miss Margaret Marsh (left) has been headmistress of the Vernon County Junior School, for the past four years. She says, "Emphasis is laid on co-operation in the school rather than competition, with involvement in as wide a range of activities as possible." Evidence of co-operation in the school was the £500 they recently raised to buy a guide dog for the blind.



Mrs. Leslie Prince, Poynton's first-ever woman clerk to the council, has held the post for two and a half years.



above One of the most interesting industrial concerns in Poynton is Baxter, Woodhouse and Taylor. Here, Mr. William F. Taylor, chairman and managing director (left) discusses with Mr. Roy Fisk, the development engineer, the relationship of the two pressure suits — the one for high altitude and the other for deep-sea diving. The full pressure space suit (right), is recognisable as that used in the T.V. series "Dr. Who" and in the Columbia picture "First Men On The Moon". The diving suit is now in the pre-production stage and is the newest development in oxy-helium suits. It is anticipated that it will be of particular use on oil rigs.

The Poynton estate was held by a succession of families, and the first on record was the Poutrells in the 13th century, under the Earl of Chester. But it was the Vernon family who have had the most powerful effect on the village and its development during the last century. Though they sold out their interests some thirty years ago, the family still retains an interest in Poynton and the present Lord Vernon is president of the Social and Youth centre, housed in a building which one of his predecessors built in 1839 as the village school. It served its purpose for almost a hundred years, until the school was transferred to Clumber Road as the Vernon County Junior School.

The Vernons came close to acquiring one of the largest houses of the village, Lostock Hall, early in the 13th century when William de Vernon married Margaret Warren whose family held the baronetcy of Stockport and the Manor of Poynton. The marriage agreement stipulated that if she failed to produce a male heir Lostock Hall would be forfeited to the Vernons. A son was born and the Vernon family had to wait another six hundred years before becoming Poynton landowners.

They eventually acquired the land, ironically, through a mistake. When Elizabeth Harriet Warren died at the beginning of the 19th century, without an heir, she left the Manor of Poynton to a girl she believed to be a close relative, Frances Maria Warren. The girl was in fact a descendant of the Warings of Tamworth, and her family had merely adopted the Warren name. Shortly after, she married George Charles Vernon, and the Vernon reign proved to be a happy one for the village.

The new lady of the manor endeared herself to the people by distributing food and clothing and in 1844, Lord Vernon presented recreational land to the townsfolk, then called

Stringers Fields, but today known as Vernon Park. Lady Vernon built a clinic, the good effects of which can be seen on the child mortality figures at that period.

It was then common practice for children to work in the mines and some of the miners living in Poynton now can remember men who had begun at the age of seven, pushing coal tubs. A Royal Commission on the employment of children in 1841 suggested it was positively beneficial to their physical and mental health!

"I have no reason to doubt that after a child has attained the requisite strength for labour that it is advantageous that it should be engaged in productive physical employment, concurrently with its moral and religious education." The report praised the Poynton schools maintained by Lord Vernon, and expressed admiration at combining two-to three hundred pupils (instead of the usual sixty or so) which could be "handled by two masters without increasing the expense".

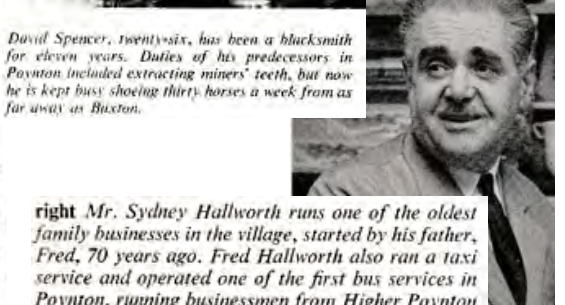
This was a great period of expansion for Poynton and most of the large buildings, the railways and the canal were built in this boom. The Macclesfield canal built in 1830 was the last important canal to be built in England, for in 1840 the railway came to revolutionize transport.

In spite of good communications to all parts of the country from a very early date, Poynton has held on to her residents. Family names appear over shops time and time again. The Claytons who date back to the 14th century, the Hallworths to 1500, the Potts and Shrigleys who moved in from the neighbouring village of Pott Shrigley.

Mr. Sidney Hallworth runs one of the oldest family businesses in the village, an ironmongers on Park Lane. His grandfather was once the village blacksmith near the Vernon Arms at Midway and his father Fred took over the



above right Alderman and Mrs. Joseph Shrigley, both of whom were born and bred in Poynton. A county alderman of Cheshire, Mr. Shrigley has spent forty-four years on Macclesfield R.D.C., fifty-one years on Poynton parish council, and was chairman of Macclesfield R.D.C. on two occasions - from 1935 to '37, and 1960 to '61.



David Spencer, twenty-six, has been a blacksmith for eleven years. Duties of his predecessors in Poynton included extracting miners' teeth, but now he is kept busy shoeing thirty horses a week from as far away as Buxton.

right Mr. Sydney Hallworth runs one of the oldest family businesses in the village, started by his father, Fred, 70 years ago. Fred Hallworth also ran a taxi service and operated one of the first bus services in Poynton, running businessmen from Higher Poynton to Poynton station, to catch trains to Manchester.

smithy and ran it for thirty years. It was Fred who branched out and opened an ironmongery almost seventy years ago, not an unusual undertaking for a blacksmith in those days, when the trade was very different. "Dad supplied the local farms with tin milk cans," he said, "as well as brushes for washing bottles, and odd things like oil lamps. It was the cycling hey-day and he did a lot of bicycle repairs. Mother ran the kitchen side, selling pans and

POYNTON continued

kettles and cooking equipment." Sydney has been in the business since he was fifteen.

Poynton's population has grown steadily over the last 150 years, but now it is rocketing and many feel it is out of control. The figures have doubled in the space of twenty years and many fear that the days of Poynton as a village are numbered. A town map of 1962 planned for a population of 9,200 by 1970, but already there are 11,500.

The new draft town map allows for 17,500 by 1991 but you can hardly blame the residents for wondering just how accurate that forecast can be. Yet despite their verbal opposition to new building, the Poyntonians are unusually hospitable. A stranger wandering around the village will find friendly nods and smiles in plenty from people he passes in the street, and Poynton is blessed with friendly front doors that open up and invite you in.

There is no division between old and new residents. Families on the three new estates are quickly made to feel at home and newcomers are invited to join in with the multitude of activities taking place. The Social and Youth Centre on Park Lane, housed in the original school building, is the hub of village life. Almost any interest you could think of is catered for, from ballet and badminton to folk music and fencing. It is extremely well supported with roughly a thousand people going

through the doors in any one week - about a tenth of the entire population.

Mr. Eric Brock, the secretary, said it was deliberate policy to combine social and youth activities in one building, and one that paid off. "Running both separately would be much easier," he said, "but we think there is a mutual benefit from combining the generations. They can learn a lot from each other and it leads to a better understanding and tolerance between young and old."

More sophisticated pastimes are practically unknown in the village. There is no "in" restaurant, no coffee bar, and the nearest cinema is five miles away. No wonder the people fling themselves wholeheartedly into making their own entertainment. The dramatic society has its own playhouse and the chairman of the committee, Mr. Wilfred Cadman, makes frequent appeals for some of the newer residents to join them.

The church has been active in promoting a community feeling in the village and encouraging people who may only be "passing-through" residents to join in socially. Five years ago, the Neighbourhood Church was formed in Poynton and now there are sixteen groups meeting in each others' homes for discussion, study, fellowship and prayer.

Rev. Bob Lewis said, "Poynton has become a shifting community and many residents are here only for a short time. They think they have no time to join in and get to know the rest of the people, but we want to show them that Poynton does care about them. We don't

want to reach the stage where the neighbours don't know each other, and the meetings provide vital links of communication. One group even publishes a newsletter which it distributes in its own area..."

One thing the Poyntonians have proved is that if they lack a facility they will roll up their sleeves and provide it themselves. In St. George's Hall every Tuesday morning, for example, a handful of volunteers serve coffee and biscuits to shoppers, a project which has proved a great success.

This month they begin a transport service for old people, and volunteer drivers will collect the old folk and drive them into the village to do their shopping on two mornings a week. Old people are well cared for and council flats and bungalows are provided for them at Lawrence Place and the new Midway estate. Strangely enough, the mining Poyntonians had beaten them to the idea some hundred years before. Six cottages were built by public subscription on land next to the church, as almshouses for retired miners, and these are still occupied by the elderly today.

The go-ahead industries in Poynton come as something of a surprise for a quiet residential village. A space-suit factory is just about the last thing you would expect to find, but lurking in a group of trees just next to the cricket ground is Baxter, Woodhouse and Taylor Ltd., well known in the flying world as manufacturers of pressure suits and helmets. The science fiction appearance of these has led to them being used in space films and the BBC "Doctor Who" series.

Managing Director, Mr. John Taylor has

his sights set even further into the future. He said, "The demand for pressure suits is dwindling, so as a company we have to look ahead. The world is extremely short of protein and there is terrific wealth to be found under the sea. I believe there is a great future for fish farming and of course there is considerable mineral wealth under the sea bed. We are now developing diving sets for deep sea work, mainly for oil rigs and we work in close collaboration with the divers and oil companies who will use them."

Poynton Parish Council would like to see more industries in the area, to provide work for inhabitants, and improve rush hour traffic on nearby roads. Mr. David Bowers, the thirty-two-years old chairman said, "We are trying to remain a village, but that does not mean we wouldn't welcome more industry here. There is vacant space on two industrial estates just outside our boundaries, one for light industry and one for storage and distribution."

The current suggestion and hope of the Parish Council is that the population figure aimed for of 17,500 in the life of the town map now due, should be spread over 30 rather than 20 years. It's a nice thought, but are they reaching for the moon?

Alderman Joseph Shrigley, one of Poynton's most loyal residents, with a long record of service to Chester and Macclesfield Councils and over 50 years on Poynton Parish Council, has a far more realistic attitude to population expansion. Though he is in his 80s, many of his ideas are more in line with this century than are those of some of the younger residents.

"When the first council houses were built here, there was a lot of controversy. Many residents resented the new buildings but people have got to live somewhere, haven't they? And why shouldn't they live where they want?"

In fact, history is simply repeating itself and it is strange to think that the gentry of Poynton opposed the building of the charming rows of miners' cottages over a hundred years ago.

There is undoubtedly a fighting spirit in Poynton that rallies in times of crisis. When Beeching threatened the closure of two of Poynton's stations in 1963, the residents fought



above A get-together in one of the old people's flats in Lawrence House. From the left, Mrs. Eileen Barlow, the warden, Mrs. Mary Cartridge, whose flat it is, Mr. Joseph Boggan, and Mr. Harold Wood.



Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson live in the centuries-old, reputedly haunted, Worth Hall and breed jersey cattle on the farmland. Some of the land is soon to be turned into a golf course to replace that of the Davenport Club which is to be submerged in bricks and mortar.



above These stone cottages on Coppice Road were built a hundred years ago for miners. They were constructed, without plans, partly from local stone left over from the building of the steeple for St. George's Church.

like fury and won. They may have had a better chance of remaining a village if they had not.

The Residents Association was formed in 1961 to oppose indiscriminate building, a policy it still follows. With a membership of several hundred and regular social meetings to keep up their strength, they are undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with. When it was proposed to turn the Brookfield cinema into a gambling casino, they took up the cudgels and the idea was soon abandoned. They are currently biding their time until the forthcoming publication of the town map.

How realistic is their aim to keep down the population of Poynton? What is important, surely, is not that the growth of the village should be stunted but that as it grows, the facilities keep pace. The Civic Centre which the Council hopes will be begun this year, is a step in the right direction. School building is just about keeping pace, but if the County Council cuts delay the three schools currently planned, overcrowded classes will inevitably result. This is the kind of thing that poisons a community, for when locals suffer because of the newcomers, resentment sets in.

In spite of all Poynton's efforts to keep down population, a bitter blow could strike the village this year when the Boundaries Commission report is published in November. If the worst happens, as well it might, Poynton could be amalgamated with neighbouring areas to become a borough of Stockport. That would surely be the end of its individuality and character.

But whatever happens next, Poynton has a warm heart, and if she can't remain the ugly duckling village, it is to be hoped she will have the good grace to grow into an elegant



above In front of the old miners' cottages at Worth Clough, Middlewood Road, are Mr. James Needham (left), and Mr. William Potts, who are themselves ex-miners. By chance their birthdays are on the same day - March 20th - when Mr. Needham will be eighty-one, and Mr. Potts, seventy-five.



Mr. and Mrs. Pat Marshall have lived in Poynton for seven years and particularly like its mixture in styles - both of houses and people. They own Clumber Cottage, one of the old farm buildings, which was earlier owned by C. P. Scott, though they have not been able to discover whether he actually lived there.



above Seventy-six-years-old Mr. Herbert Walton, an ex-miner, who lives at Higher Poynton. A most knowledgeable citizen, he is an amateur astronomer, an expert gardener, and a lecturer on local history and astronomy.



The ermine mantle of Winter

Anson Road, near Worth Clough, Poynton, photographed after last month's heavy fall of snow. The building is known as Worth Cottage. Poynton is the subject of a special pen portrait to be found on page 50.

Picture: Cyril Lindley