

Registered Charity No. 1075342

August 2014

Newsletter

Designed to keep you in touch

Goodbye Open Days ...

Hello Information Days

... for a trial period

All the Latest Group News on <u>Page 7</u> Including the Walking Group ...



Information Days Schedule:

Wareham library:

Thursday 14th August 10 - 4

Saturday 13th September 10 - 12.30

Sainsbury's Wareham:

Saturday 16th August 10 - 4

Swanage library:

Wednesday 20th August 10 - 4

Friday 12th September 10 - 4

Corfe Castle library:

Monday 1st September 2 - 4

There will be other times and locations which will be arranged soon and we will inform you of these when we have the details.

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It has been decided that Purbeck U3A will no longer have Open Days but will be organising Information Days to attract new members. See schedule above and Membership Matters and the Chairman's Report on Page 3 for details.

Leonard's Quiz Corner

- 1. Which is the longer river Zambesi, Limpopo or Orange?
- 2. What name is given to the fruit of the Hawthorn?
- 3. English, Flemish and Quarter Bond are related to what trade?
- 4. What is the County town of Rutland?

For Answers turn to Page 7



From the Editor...

ow the months and years go by so quickly as we get older! I can't believe that we are more than half way through the Summer already and I am working on the August issue of your Newsletter!

Firstly I should like to welcome all the new members who have joined Purbeck U3A since our last issue back in late April and, of course, to members who have read a Newsletter before: Welcome back! The past editions of the Newsletter are of course always available to see by going to our website www.purbecku3a.org.uk and clicking the Newsletters tab at the top.

On that page you will also see the "page turn" version of this and the past four issues that I have edited. I can recommend the "page turn" or "flip" version as it is a true representation of the paper version of our journal. For example, something which I particularly like is being able to see "opposing pages" which give a better flavour of the layout of the pages. You can of course zoom in and pan the pages to explore them at the best resolution for your particular sight. There are full instructions there if you click the graphic entitled "Click for Page Turn Version Help" as to the best way of moving about and using the pages. Of course the standard pdf format document is still available to view, download and print out if you wish. Happy viewing!

Newsletter Editor: John Hale
Email: newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk

Chairman: Julie Seidel
Vice-Chairman: John Hale
Business Secretary: Ann Churchill
Treasurer: Patrick Webb
Membership Secretary: Clive Bacon

Committee Members:

Jim McGivern; Norma Foster Brandon Broadbent; Sue Sides

(Committee contact details on last page)

Views expressed in published articles and correspondence are those of the contributors alone and are not necessarily the official views of Purbeck U3A

In this issue I am introducing a new regular Quiz spot with questions composed by our Quiz-master Leonard Coling. The answers will be available on another page of the same issue.

Although Purbeck U3A already boasts over 40 groups, about 15 new groups have been suggested or requested and you can read more about this from our New Group Development Co-ordinator on Page 4.

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcomed from all members and Group Leaders and you can send them to me at any time. Send them to newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk and I will do my best to include them in the next issue or a future issue of your choice. We don't want the Newsletters to be simply a Committee mouthpiece ... we want input from you, the members, too!

Enjoy the Summer, see you again in the Autumn!

John Hale, Newsletter Editor

Your Committee for 2014/15



Ann Churchill Business Secretary

Clive Bacon Membership Secretary

Sue Sides Volunteers Co-ordinator

Brandon Broadbent Committee Member



Julie Seidel Chairman

John Hale Vice-Chairman Newsletter Editor; Web liaison Patrick Webb

Hon Treasurer

Jim McGivern Groups Co-ordinator

Picture N available

Norma Foster Minute Secretary



Purbeck U3A

Chairman's Report



t was good to be able to meet so many of you at our AGM and I am delighted to welcome new committee members, Jim McGivern and Sue Sides. The challenges for the committee remain the same i.e. to keep Purbeck U3A lively and vibrant and to meet the needs of our increasing membership. I am delighted that we have now more than 500 members and we hope that we will be able to attract more members when we hold our Information Days later this year. Through our efforts, we are attracting more people but we must ensure that we retain the members we have.

Following the AGM I am delighted that we were able to recruit a team who are working with the committee on new roles; Maxine Bacon (contact with new members), Janette Nourse (Welfare) and Denise Broadbent (New Group Development). David Knott has been successfully publicising our events and will continue with this role. As you know I am keen to have a team organising outings and I have some interest expressed but need more people; are you interested in helping us?

You will be aware that I believe in 'sharing the load' and I think that all members should be involved in the running of Purbeck U3A. With this in mind, I would like every member to GIVE ONE HOUR of their time each year to help run Purbeck U3A - your U3A. Maybe you already do this by helping with refreshments, setting up/clearing away

or assisting your Group Leader. At the moment, we are recruiting volunteers to help us for one hour to hand out information at our Information Days, helping at our Christmas lunch (Friday 12th December) and helping at our regular monthly Meeting Points (fourth Thursday of the month). Sue Sides is our Volunteer Co-ordinator so please contact her (Tel: 01929 550735 or email volunteers@purbecku3a.org.uk) to let her know if and when you will be available to help us.

njoy the good weather and I look forward to seeing you in the Autumn at Meeting Points or our other events.

With kind regards, Julie Seidel, Chairman



During June the membership of Purbeck U3A reached a nice round figure of 500. Our membership level has been increasing year on year and the committee is hoping this trend will continue as the larger the membership number the greater the revenue – and the more we can offer our members.

I am pleased to report that about 50 percent of our members have already renewed their subscriptions for 2014-2015, many doing so on-line - which is arguably the simplest way. Others have returned their forms via a group's nominated committee contact or by post.

Those members will have been notified of their new membership numbers - usually by an email from me. Where possible I am also trying to confirm the details by providing members with a printed slip showing their new membership number.

Pleased as we are that half our membership has already renewed, it does mean that half are still yet to do so. If you are one of this number may I encourage you to do so soon. Instructions are on the Renewal Forms that were sent with the

previous newsletter, and may also be downloaded from our website. Or if you prefer you can write to me memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk and I will try and make it as easy as possible for you.

May I remind you that instead of Open Days we plan to have Information Days to try and attract new members: the first of these are on 14th August at Wareham Library and 20th August at Swanage Library. Although the Information Days are intended principally for new members, existing members can hand in completed Renewal Forms and subscriptions on the day in a sealed envelope, although you won't receive your new membership details until a few days later.

These Information Days will be the last opportunity to deliver your renewal form before the new U3A year without incurring postage.

Group Leaders will be notified by the end of August of the names of all those members who have renewed their membership so that they may plan accordingly for the new year.

One or two members have advised that they are moving away from the area or are sadly not renewing their membership for health or other personal reasons. If you do not intend to renew your membership for the coming year, could you please drop me a line and let me know – I do record the information and it's always useful for us to know why. Thank you

Clive Bacon memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk.

New Groups for One and All!

May I draw your attention to all the interesting Groups Purbeck U3A has to offer you in our new year, commencing Sept/Oct 2014. We have quite a lot of potential new courses which I hope will encourage you - I'll list them alphabetically:

Astronomy - There has been a lot of interest expressed - is there anyone out there that could lead this group for Purbeck? I have someone who can do so next year, but in the meantime, if you are very keen, Upton Lytchett U3A currently have only two members and would welcome more. This is held at Hamworthy Fire Station every Wed 2 to 4 pm, commencing Sept 17th.

Beginners French - At least six interested in this, but no group leader as yet. Does anyone feel they could help others to make a start, *si'l yous plait?*

Beginners Italian - We have a group leader for this and enough to run a course, however, I would still like to hear from anyone else that would like to learn this wonderful, expressive language.

Bridge - We potentially have enough to start a new group, but it would be good to hear from anyone else that would like to join in and a volunteer to run the group.

Gardening - Quite a few people interested in this and we have a very qualified/experienced person to lead it who is happy to tailor the group to everyone's requirement. Please register your interest!

History - The current group is full, but there are lots of people on the waiting list, so a new group beckons. Is there a history buff out there who would like to help make this happen?

Music Appreciation - The two current groups are oversubscribed, but there is plenty of interest in a third and new group. I'm sure there must be someone out there who would like to draw these people together and enjoy the bounteous pleasures of appreciating music?

Singing - We have a choir of people who have sadly lost a cherished leader, but they are very keen to continue. Is there a virtuoso out there willing to help harmonise the enthusiasm?

Other suggested groups are **Backgammon**, **Boules**, **Country Dancing**, **Flower Arranging**, **Folk Music**, **Poetry Reading** and **Scrabble**. Any takers?

Leading a group is not an onerous task and it is very fulfilling – bringing like-minded people together to share an interest/enthusiasm. In fact there doesn't have to be one leader, it can be a shared role as we are all retired and can't always be here all of the time!

I would also like to point out that groups do not have to be held in your own home. There are venues around that can be booked, which our capable Treasurer handles (at no cost to the group).

So, I hope you're as enthusiastic as I am about all of the above potential for getting together and keeping our minds active, which is what U3A is all about.

Please contact me at newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk regarding any of the above. I hope to hear from you very soon!

Denise Broadbent

Purbeck U3A Cycling Groups

Cycling for Softies Group

This group has been running for more than three years now and is for those people:

- who have not cycled for a while and have lost the confidence,
- who want to return to gentle cycling,
- who want to find out about gentle cycle routes in the Purbeck area,
- who want to have fortnightly gentle exercise on their bike (whatever type including power-assist)
- who want to have enough breath left to have a conversation! We meet every two weeks on a Tuesday morning (2nd and 4th of the month) and ride for approx 1½ to 2 hours and often finish with some refreshment.

If you would like to find out more or to join our group for the 2014/2015 session, please contact the coordinator Liz Day on Email: elizabethyalerieday@gmail.com

Intermediate Cycling Group

The Purbeck U3A intermediate group was formed to provide rides of:

- a maximum about two and a half hours, starting at 1000 finishing by 1230, usually starting/finishing at a pub or café.
- on a mixture of mainly quiet roads and off road but not dangerous or challenging off road.
- as safe and convenient as we can make it, stopping at all junctions to make sure all are OK.

Note - No special off road bikes needed, just bring a puncture repair kit

Please contact coordinator Andrew Thomson on 01929 426 773 mob 07775 620 415 or Email:

andythomson@btinternet.com

For more details, please see the **Notice Board** on the Purbeck U3A website.

Points from the July Committee Meeting Ann Churchill

- The Treasurer reported a healthy balance as more membership renewal fees had been paid than this time last year. He also said that the number of members paying on line was slowly increasing.
- The Membership Secretary endorsed this and said the new methods of paying were working well and making his life easier.
- Next year's AGM date agreed to be 14th May 2015
- Dates were agreed for a number of Information Days during August and September in Swanage, Wareham and Wool. Dates to be publicised in the Newsletter and in Broadcasts.
- So far no leader has been found for the Singing Group though efforts are continuing.
- The leader of the Painting Group has had to step down but ways are being explored for the group to continue.
- A date and venue were agreed for the 2014 Christmas Party [later amended to]: Friday 12th December at Harman's Cross Village Hall.



In each Issue we will be featuring one of the Purbeck U3A Groups, with background supplied by Group Leaders

Group Leader contributions to:

newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk please!

Roger Bartley

Featured Groups Wine Appreciation

Do you enjoy wine? If so, this group may be a good one for you. Do you feel that someone who appreciates and tastes wine is a verbose snob, whose only pleasure is in demonstrating their superior knowledge and generally putting down the rest of us? Forget all that – this is a friendly and informal social group who meet to taste, discuss and evaluate a selection of wines in order to increase their knowledge of a subject which is almost as old as history, but is constantly changing.



Alan & Jane Rogers

Simply because enjoy want to the experience of tasting, and at the same time increase our knowledge of something which can be an everyday activity, but is also an incredibly ranging, sometimes complicated field. We try to increase our understanding of

the major types of wine, grapes, wine countries and regions, while seeking out new and different wines which we otherwise might not taste. I like to think that after a couple of years, a group member could walk into a posh restaurant, pick up the wine list and confidently order wines which he or she enjoys, and which would complement the food to be eaten.

How is this achieved? Either a group member or an external professional will open a selection of wines, give us

Gig Rowing Group Margaret Sellers

"Gig Rowing for fun and fitness. Take this opportunity to experience rowing in Swanage Bay in a traditional Cornish Pilot Gig." Did you see this advertisement in the Newsletter earlier this year? Was your reaction: "I would love to but I'm not fit/strong/sporty enough?"

Let me reassure you that those of us who've tried it have found that it's exactly as advertised: "Gig Rowing for fun!" The emphasis is on enjoyment. No prior experience is required. Tuition is provided by members of the Swanage Sea Rowing Club (SSRC) as a 'come when you can' activity, not a strict series of lessons.

Ten U3A members gave it a go between May and July, five men, five women. Almost all of us are complete novices. We have had the most exhilarating time!

Why do we do this? a brief summary of their origins, background and production. We then use our eyes, noses and palates to assess their various characteristics, and whether or not we enjoy them. We often find that what is nectar to one person is rather less palatable to another. Similarly, we will taste at different price points, and it is by no means certain that the most expensive wine is the most liked. For most sessions, there is a tasting fee which last year was £6 for six wines.

> What are the sort of wines we cover? Examples of sessions last year include food and wine matching, Italy, a selection of wines from one of the UK's most acclaimed wine merchants, two presentations by a major wine producer and a visit to the vineyard of a Dorset award winning producer of sparkling wine.

> The Wine Appreciation Group meets monthly from 7pm until 9pm on the third Monday of each month, at Harman's Cross village hall. There is no need to worry about drink driving, as the quantities consumed are generally small, and we provide crachoirs (a French term for receptacles for unswallowed tasted wine). The Group leader in 2014/15 will be Don Hunter. Email: wine@purbecku3a.org.uk

SSRC have been amazingly generous with their boats and equipment.

Likewise, club members George Wallace and Jenny Hardy and



our group leaders Janice and Andrew Thomson have given us their time, expertise and encouragement. As Janice explains, "The club's purpose is to bring sea rowing to the community of Swanage. These boats are a community facility to help us all."

The U3A group stops for the summer. But SSRC Open Rowing sessions continue on Tuesdays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 10.30 am. Anyone can turn up, no booking and no club membership is required. So if the idea of sitting in a sturdy gig in Swanage Bay, surrounded by our wonderful coastline appeals to you, now's your chance!

AGM 2014 Success

By Ann Churchill



On a beautiful Spring day, 80 Purbeck U3A members came together at Harman's Cross Village Hall for the 2014 AGM. This was preceded by the Group Leaders' Lunch where, over sandwiches and dessert, Group Leaders were able to discuss any concerns and swap ideas which might help in the successful running of groups. Denise Broadbent, New Groups Developer was able to pass on the results of the questionnaire which had been sent to Group Leaders. It was emphasised by the Chairman that the Group Leaders were the lifeblood of the U3A and she thanked them on behalf of all the members.

At the AGM which followed, the Chairman reported that it had been a challenging year for the committee as four essential posts had to be replaced and in addition three new committee members had resigned shortly after appointment at the previous AGM making it difficult to fill all the necessary roles. Fortunately Clive Bacon, the Membership Secretary, agreed to rejoin the committee and sterling work had been done by Patrick Webb and John Hale in their respective roles of Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

A Development Team had been started during the year, which is a fluid group open to any member of Purbeck U3A. It meets periodically to put forward suggestions and is looking currently at how we might attract new members and retain existing ones.

As a trial it has been decided not to hold Open Days this year but instead to hold a series of Information Days at venues across the area such as Wareham, Wool, Corfe Castle and Swanage Libraries and possibly supermarkets as well. The idea is to give out information about Purbeck U3A to potential new members. As far as renewing membership is concerned, there will be a variety of ways of doing it, online, by standing order, by post, or by handing in completed membership forms to representatives at various group meetings.

The Chairman also reported that David Knott will be looking after publicity and Sue Sides will be overseeing the coordination of volunteers. She also mentioned that the roles of Co-ordinator of shared learning projects and of organising outings would enhance the U3A experience. There are now forty two groups and the Chairman thanked John Almond, who has stepped down, for his work with the Singing Group and hoped we would find someone to take his place. She thanked retiring leaders John Challis, Robin Humphries and David Gerry for the work they had done with their respective groups.

The rest of the business was concluded with reports by the Treasurer and Membership Secretary and the election of committee members.

There was a short break for tea and then we were able to sit back and relax while being entertained by the local duo *Ball and Socket*. They must have been hot in their full formal fig but the pair in the genre of *Flanders and Swann* certainly looked the part. Both were talented musicians and as well as singing some old favourites they had written songs to suit the audience and the



locality. One favourite was *The Hippopotamus Song* with the audience relishing joining in the chorus. They also got the audience involved, with volunteers, some reluctant, at the front impersonating some of the animals!

What talent we have in the U3A! We heard a song about Harman's Cross, going through all the theories of how the village

got its name, including the grisly ones about a murderer called Harman being buried there, a man called Harman hanging himself by the crossroads and the more prosaic one about the only resident by the crossroads being called Harman, no one knows for sure but it made a good song.

They were not above poking gentle fun at the U3A with their song about a man who was bored and joined the U3A only to find every day taken up with activities to the extent that he was grateful to have Sunday as a day of rest. Between songs they kept up an amusing patter and were endearingly forgetful at times. All in all it made a relaxing end to the day and to judge from the audience reaction they were glad they had attended the AGM.

PAINTING GROUP - NOW TO BE A "SELF HELP" GROUP

The Painting Club has morphed into a "Self Help Painting Group" to be held in the Mowlem at Swanage from 10.00am to 12.00 noon on the first and third Monday of each month starting on the 15th September 2014. Very relaxed atmosphere and friendly people – come and enjoy a coffee with us too!

Please email painting@purbeck.org.uk to register your interest.

All Painting Club members present and past would like to express their thanks for the encouragement, knowledge,



time and understanding **Alan Smith** has displayed in the running of the Painting Club during his leadership. He is a true artist and gentleman whose expertise will be sadly missed. We wish him well and hope his health improves so that he can visit his 'old students' from time to time.

Jan Hale



The Painting group visits some members' gardens in the Summer months



For details of venues and times, Group Leaders, etc., see the separate Groups List or go to www.purbecku3a.org.uk and click on the Activities tab. If you are unable to access the Internet, please phone the Group Coordinator on mobile 07564 937871

Nature Group Walks

14th August: Tynham and the range walks

11th September: Sandford Heath National Nature Reserve

9th October: Upton Country Park 13th November: Middlebere Hide

Walking Group News

Hail fellow walkers, I hope you're looking forward to the resumption of our walks after the Summer break. As you will have seen in the last Newsletter, David Gerry is standing down



as Walking Group Leader and handing the baton to me. The first walk of the new season will be in October (see schedule below) but will be led by my deputy, Barry Dyke. Some of you will already know Barry and me, particularly those of you who were on the May walk in Studland which we planned together. Barry joined the Group with his wife Annette earlier this year. They've recently moved to the area and Barry has

previously led walks for the U3A when they lived in Spain. Meanwhile I joined the Group when I moved to the area nearly 3 years ago and last year I trained as a walk leader with Walking For Health. I look forward to meeting you all again soon. Happy Walking!

Details of the next walks are:

13th October at 10.00 am starting at the National Trust car park at the top of the cliffs at Ringstead. Barry thinks there is a donation box for non members otherwise no formal ticket required. To get there it is off the Wool to Weymouth road. Just after Poxwell there is a small wooded area and at the end there is a sharp left turn in the direction of Ringstead. Follow this road for about a kilometre. Near the top of the rise is a right turn to the Beach Café: ignore that and carry straight on. The NT car park is on grass through the gate after another 300 metres. The walk is circular, taking the cliffs (a good sound path) and then coming back inland. Walking time two hours. 10th November at 10.00 am starting at the National Trust car park at Corfe Castle.

8th December at 10.00 am starting at the RSPB car park at Arne. John Kirwin

The Lunch Club

As the Saxon Carvery is now closing the lunch date venue for Sunday 28th September will now be at the Red Lion in Wareham. Please contact Marion on 554433 to be included.

Regrettably, as Marion can no longer drive she will not be arranging any future lunch dates.

Philosophy on the up and up!

Purbeck Philosophy group recently met up with Poole Philosophy Group, which proved to be a very useful experience and something other Groups might like to consider?

We are just under a year old, whilst Poole have been going for nearly 10 years. As a new group, and without any philosophical qualifications between us (nor have Poole, incidentally), we were keen to know if we were heading in the right direction and progressing!

It was all very reassuring and we discussed approach, books, radio programmes etc, plus I also found out there was a national U3A group for Philosophy, which we have now joined. This gives very good guidance and has interesting information/links and articles. The idea of having a Philosophy regional conference later in the year was mooted and is under discussion. We would invite one or two speakers and break off into work-groups afterwards. Watch this space!

So, I would just like to encourage other Groups to do the same if you think it could be of benefit or interest?

if you think it could be of benefit or interest?

Onwards and Upwards! Denise Broadbent

History Group

Meetings fortnightly at 10:00am-11:30am in the Methodist Church, North Street, Wareham.

We are a lively self led group with a shared interest in all things historical. Members present subjects of their choice (if they wish) and we also have occasional speakers.

Dates for the Autumn:

19th September Roman Invasion in Dorset.

3rd October Nelson Mandela, his life and times.

Please contact group leader via email:

history@purbecku3a.org.uk if you would like to try this group.

Creative Writing

We are a small home group meeting once a month on Tuesdays 1:45pm-3:45pm

Members have some or very little writing experience but all enjoy exploring various genres. Last term some members attended events for Purbeck Literary Festival and also the writer's day at Sturminster Newton.

Recently we have looked at the national memorial event "Letter to an Unknown Soldier" for inclusion in the Imperial War Museum remembrances.

Autumn meetings start on 7th October. Please contact our group leader via email at writing@purbecku3a.org.uk if you would like to try this creative pastime.

Leonard's Quiz Corner - Answers

Quiz Answers to Questions on Page 1:

 Zambesi;
 Haw;
 Bricklaying;
 Oakham.
 Leonard Coling is looking for new members for his Quiz
 Group that meets at Corfe Castle Library between 2 and 3 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.



Corfe Castle: Margaret Blackburne

Swanage: Roger Arnett, Mick Beck, Brenda Enticknap,

Gordon Packer, Lynne Willis,

Wareham: John Andrews, Bobby Gamble, Tanya Gould,

Jim McGivern, Tim Price

The Purbeck U3A Committee 2014/15

Name	Position & Duties	Contact Details
Julie Seidel	Chairman; <i>Meeting Points</i> Organiser	Julieu3a@hotmail.com
John Hale	Vice-Chairman; Newsletter Editor; Web Liaison	u3a@greenacre.info
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Patrick Webb	Treasurer	purbecktreasurer@aol.com
Clive Bacon	Membership Secretary	memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk
Jim McGivern	Groups Co-ordinator	groupcoord@purbecku3a.org.uk
Norma Foster	Minute Secretary	normafoster@live.co.uk
Sue Sides	Volunteers Co-ordinator	volunteers@purbecku3a.org.uk
Brandon Broadbent	Committee Member	brandon@broadbent.biz

Publicity: David Knott - Email: publicity@purbecku3a.org.uk
Membership enquiries: publicity@purbecku3a.org.uk

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Newsletter Deadlines and Publication Dates

Copy to: <u>newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk</u> Please ask for a copy of *Guidelines for Contributors*

Publication Date	Copy submitted by
Early February	15 th January
Late April	5 th April
Early August	15 th July
Mid November	31st October

Please note that no guarantee can be given that submitted material will be included in a particular issue nor that issues will be published exactly at the times indicated above.

The Editor apologises to some contributors whose articles have had to be shortened or held over this time.

Purbeck U3A Website: www.purbecku3a.org.uk