

# Purbeck



Registered Charity No. 1075342

# Newsletter

February 2014

Designed to keep you in touch

**New Year - New Interest ...**

## Information Days Success!

**O**n Monday 6th January we held a Purbeck U3A Information Day in Swanage library and then again in Wareham library on Thursday 9th, both with the theme “New Year, New Interest”.

Purbeck U3A Chairman, Julie Seidel said later:

*“We were able to give out information about Purbeck U3A to library users and it was surprising that some people had never heard of us so we were able to supply details of our activities.”*

We are now considering holding Information Days several times a year and if you are able to give an hour of your time to give out information we would be delighted to hear from you.

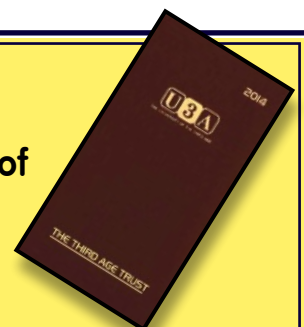


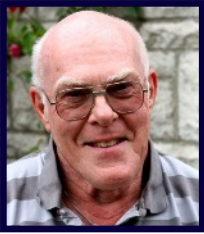
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### U3A 2014 Pocket Diaries

The Treasurer still has a number of paid-for diaries that have not been collected and also some still available for purchase at £2 each.





## From the Editor...

As you will have seen from the front page, some Purbeck U3A members and committee members were on duty in Swanage Library and Wareham Library during the early part of January for Information Days to promote our organisation to local people. It is hoped that the successful enterprise – this time, with the theme “New Year – New Interest” - will be a promotional feature at other times in the year.

At the beginning of a brand new year we can look forward to many U3A activities and special events for you to attend. With over 40 interest groups to choose from, all members should be able to find activities in which to indulge their interests. Why not try a new group (there is a comprehensive list on the main Purbeck U3A website - click [www.purbecku3a.org.uk](http://www.purbecku3a.org.uk) and look for the first tab called 'Activities').

Also do 'spread the word' to your friends and let them know how much interest and friendship awaits them at the U3A. Encourage them to come on a free

trial visit to any group that may interest them and explain that our monthly Meeting Points (fourth Thursday morning at Harman's Cross at 10am) is exactly the place to come to see what we have to offer. They will be introduced to other members there, have a cup of coffee and be able to listen to a presentation on a wide variety of subjects. Both they and you can get information from our Meeting Points website at: [www.meetingpoints.purbecku3a.org.uk](http://www.meetingpoints.purbecku3a.org.uk)

Perhaps the most important event of the U3A year, a date to put in your diary, will be the AGM which this year will be held on Thursday 15th May at Harman's Cross. This traditionally is preceded by a meeting of the Group Leaders who discuss matters of mutual concern over a 'working lunch'.

In this issue of your Newsletter I have featured the Cycling Groups as well as some reports of past events and other matters of interest such as Group News and a couple of

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**Chairman:** Julie Seidel  
**Vice-Chairman:** Charles Miller  
**Business Secretary:** Ann Churchill  
**Treasurer:** Patrick Webb  
**Membership Secretary:** Clive Bacon

**Committee Members:**  
Norma Foster; Denise & Brandon Broadbent

(Committee contact details on back page)

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

letters. My thanks to all members, Group Leaders and Committee Members who have sent copy to me for inclusion in this issue of your Newsletter. However, with now over 450 members I have to admit to being somewhat disappointed that more of you have not taken a few minutes to submit a short article or just send in a letter for publication. In these days of emails it is so much easier to jot down your thoughts and send them to me at [newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk) Why not give it a go for the next issue? The deadline is the 15th April, but my inbox awaits your message at any time!

*John Hale*

**Brandon and Denise Broadbent** have just joined the Purbeck U3A Committee and are taking up their new duties: Brandon has taken overall charge of the popular monthly *Meeting Points*, while Denise will be looking at New Group Development and Shared Learning Projects. Here we introduce them to you.



Brandon and Denise have been together for 22 years. Living and working in Kent, Denise held managerial positions in Kent Tech (Investors in People) and the Kent Wildlife Trust. After working in Local Government Brandon went into private practice in 1987. In 1993, together they set up a small consultancy. The business was dissolved at the end of 2011, although Brandon still acts for selected clients. They retired to Wareham in March 2012. “Best thing we have done!”

Denise and Brandon started taking short holidays in Dorset and particularly the Isle of Purbeck about 10

years ago and fell in love with the place straight away. Their visits became more frequent when their remaining parents passed away three years ago. With the family dispersed and parents gone, they no longer had ties to the south east, so they found their new home and retired. They then got involved with U3A.



They have a wide range of interests spending as much time as possible outside walking and enjoying the countryside. They both want to get more involved with U3A, its ethos and activities. Through it they have made friends and hope to make more.





Purbeck U3A

# Chairman's Report



**W**e have had a busy start to the New Year with our Information Days held in the libraries in January. We are trying to spread the word about Purbeck U3A so that all retired people in the area have the opportunity to meet others, learn new things and share their knowledge.

I am delighted to inform you that Brandon and Denise Broadbent have agreed to join the committee. (See [Page 2](#) for their Profiles.) Brandon is temporarily taking over responsibility for Meeting Points as, unfortunately, Charles Miller is unwell at the moment. I am sure you will join me in wishing Charles a very speedy recovery.

Denise Broadbent has agreed to take over New Group Development to include Shared Learning Projects and Intergenerational Projects and I am sure you will hear from her in due course about her plans.

Our Development Team met for an initial meeting in November and they will continue to meet monthly to look at new initiatives. If you would like to be part of this please do get in touch.

Before you book your summer holiday why not look at the U3A Summer schools which take place in August (details on the National website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)). There are a wide range of subjects available to book.

I am delighted that Peter Orchard is now able to restart his very popular Nature group - now renamed the Nature Walks group - see further details in this Newsletter on [Page 6](#). I would like to thank John Challis (Jazz group leader) and Paul Lurie (Table

Tennis leader) who are standing down as leaders of those groups. Without their support and hard work we would not have been able to offer the range of activities that we have.

For 2014 I would like to see us offer a wider range of groups and be able to give more support to our leaders and members alike and if you can help in any way, please do get in touch. *Julie Seidel*

## Points from the January Committee Meeting

- Brandon and Denise Broadbent were formally confirmed as new members of the Committee.
- Peter Orchard to restart his Nature Walks ([see Page 6](#)).
- The subscription level was reviewed but will remain the same for the time being.
- Membership subscriptions will not be collected on Open Days this year. Other ways of paying will be available from May onwards. Further details later.
- The AGM will take place at Harmans Cross on May 15th at 2.30pm. After the formal business entertainment will be provided by the local duo *Ball and Socket*.
- Because of the AGM and local elections, there will be no Meeting Points in May.

### Use a Hearing Aid?

If you wear a hearing aid or have a disability that makes travelling by train difficult, you might qualify for a Disabled Persons' Railcard. Use it for a journey that costs £60 and you will save £20 - and the card will have paid for itself!

The Disabled Persons' Railcard allows you to get 1/3 off most rail fares throughout the UK and, if you're travelling with an adult companion, they also qualify for 1/3 off their rail fare too.

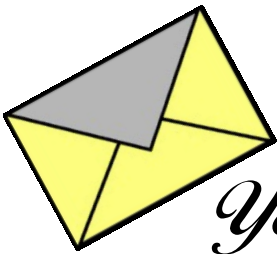
The Disabled Persons' Railcard costs £20 for one year and £54 for three years. For further information please see:

<http://www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk>

or obtain a leaflet from your nearest railway station.



pudding Group: Julia, Shirley & Margaret (See [Page 7](#))



Please send messages to:  
[newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk)

Views expressed are those of the correspondents alone and are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the U3A. Letters may be shortened for reasons of space.

## Your Letters & Emails

Please include your Name and Membership Number when sending messages for publication

Dear Editor,

While I'm aware that not all members of the Purbeck U3A subscribe to the *Third Age Matters*, it would be good to read more about our groups in the magazine.

Rarely do I see any mention of the various activities, projects or visits enjoyed by our members.

How about it, group leaders? A few words here and there would put us 'on the map' and show that we're not all asleep in this area. *Christine Bridson-Jones*

### Re: Computers for Beginners and Improvers Group

What a help the Computer for Beginners and Improvers group has been to me this year! Since attending, I have learned to e-mail friends and attach photos to my e-mails. I can back up my work, order all my grocery shopping online and buy things on Amazon and e-bay with confidence. Just before Christmas we even learned how to

make address labels for our Christmas envelopes, which saved me a lot of time.

Paul and Clive have endless patience when explaining things and will even go to members' homes if they are having problems with their computer set up. As the group is so friendly, we can help each other over coffee if we get stuck and several kind members have given me individual advice on the phone or in their homes. Complete beginners have an hour's individual tuition from Clive and Paul before the Improvers class starts, so they can learn at their own pace. People who had never used a 'mouse' a year ago, can now e-mail friends and family and send and receive photos.

If anyone would like to start learning about using the computer but feels they have left it too late, I would really recommend this class, as it starts right at the beginning and gradually builds your knowledge over the months. If you need to gain more confidence with computing, do give it a try!

*Jane Kirwin*

## U3A Christmas Party 2013

By Ann Churchill Photos: Tony Smith

It was very pleasing to see so many of our members at the Christmas party. Fortunately the weather was fine and dry so we did not have to battle through the sort of conditions we have seen more recently to get to Furzebrook Village Hall. Everyone arrived with generous plates of food which not only filled the serving tables but overflowed into the kitchen. Looking at it all, we thought there would be lots left over but amazingly it all disappeared!

While sitting and chatting, guests exercised their brains with the quiz devised by Leonard Coling and after a short interval we were entertained by John Almond and his excellent singing



group. Naturally he got the audience involved and we found ourselves singing carols and even a round. We finished with tea and coffee and then there was the inevitable clearing up - not that it took very long as there were so many willing helpers.

We would like to thank all those who helped in the setting up, entertaining, bringing food and clearing away, which ensured such a pleasant occasion for all present.



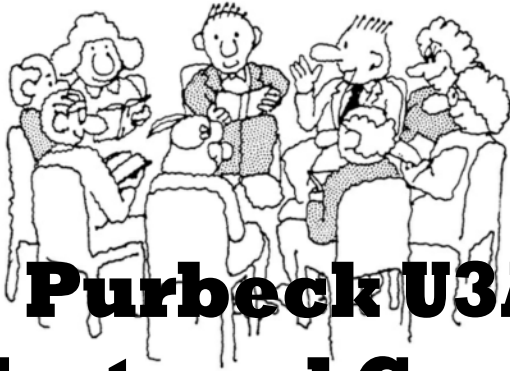
### Julie, our Chairman adds:

Thank you to the many members who contacted me to say how much they enjoyed the Christmas lunch.

Two plates were left behind when we cleared away: a black Tupperware plate (22cm) and a wooden platter (25cm). If these belong to you please contact me (Tel: 07564 937871) to arrange collection.







# Purbeck U3A Featured Group

We are all constantly reminded in the press that keeping active improves our general health and mental ability and mental health. Here in the Purbecks, some of us keep fit and enjoy the amazing countryside by cycling. There are three U3A groups which cater for all levels of cyclists and their aspirations. Returners to cycling after many years of hard work are especially important to us and we have found that cycling in a friendly group has increased their confidence and also their stamina!

**Cycling for Softies** was started in 2012 and is the introductory group for people who want to increase their confidence, return to cycling after many years of absence, or simply want company when cycling and do not want to



spend all day on the activity. The rides are held on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings of the month. They follow gentle routes, are usually 12 miles long and last approximately two hours. All abilities of

riders are catered for. There is some riding on quiet roads and there are also some off-road routes including forest tracks. Some walking also takes place! Each ride is led by a different member of the group. Contacts are made with details of the route via email and if the weather conditions are poor, the ride is cancelled by 8am on the day. Come and join us and explore the Purbecks!

**The Leisure or Intermediate Group** was started this year 2013, when some of the Softies group wanted to ride each week and wanted more challenging routes. This group meets on the first, third (and fifth) Tuesday mornings of each month. Each ride is led by a different member of the group. The rides are more challenging and usually last two hours and cover approximately 15 miles. Contacts are made with details of the route via email and if the weather conditions are poor, the ride is cancelled by 8am on the day.

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](mailto:newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk) please!

**Purbeck U3A** 



**Cycling groups**  
By Dave Samson & Ros Ham

**The Cycling for Fun and Fitness group** has been in existence since about 2005 and has grown into a popular and friendly bunch. Every Tuesday they depart from various points around the area: from Owermoigne in the west to Pamphill in the east. Most rides are a mixture of both on and off road and are normally 20-25 miles but distances of 35 miles have been covered. The on road portions avoid busy main roads and off road sections are mainly on solid tracks, although mud will probably be encountered at some times of the year. All notifications are via email and if weather conditions are severe cancellations are made during the evening before the ride. Wherever possible a map is included with the ride details so that members can ensure they are happy to undertake it. The first ride of every month is organised by the leaders; the other members are paired up and must organise (i.e. reconnoitre, lead, tail end, make lunch booking and make the weather decision) on a rota basis. A basic knowledge of your bike is encouraged, e.g. being able to change a tube if you get a puncture. Most members have 'hybrid' or 'mountain bikes' and the current average turnout is 18 riders per session, a 'banana break' is made midway through the ride and an optional refreshment stop is normally planned at the destination.



# Nature Walks

Peter Orchard is pleased once again to be in a position where he can resume the nature group again. However, it is going to be a little different in format this time:



- Walks only - no indoor sessions
- One walk a month from February until November
- 2 pm on the second Thursday of the month
- Finish about 4 pm, walking distance app 3 miles
- Looking for anything alive - mammals to fungi!

The group will now be the *Nature Walks* group to reflect the simple new structure.

The first three meetings are outlined alongside but the full programme, with more information about the locations and, if you are interested, species lists from last years walks can all be found here: [www.peterorchard.me.uk/lp/u3a](http://www.peterorchard.me.uk/lp/u3a)

The group is open to all members and previous Understanding Nature group members are, of course, most welcome. Printed copies of the programme for the year will be available at the first three meetings for those without Internet access.

If you want to join the group either email Peter (there is a contact form on the above web page) or you can phone him on 01929 551708. If necessary he will limit membership of the group to about 16 so obviously 'first come, first served!'. He will be sending short reminder notification emails prior to each walk as it *may* be necessary to change the programme depending on weather conditions!

## Peter's Notes on the first three meetings:

**Thurs 13/02/2014 - 14:00 to 16:00: Brands Bay**  
Winter waders and wildfowl. This will be wet so wellies recommended - don't say I didn't warn you! Meet for a 2.00pm start at the National Trust car park near the Sandbanks ferry toll gate.[SZ035863] Non-members can park along the road nearby as it will not be busy this time of year.

**Thurs 13/03/2014 - 14:00 to 16:00:  
Arne Nature Reserve**

Winter woodland wonders! A chance to look at what nature has to offer in late winter/early spring in woodland (and beyond). Meet for a 2.00pm start in the RSPB car park at Arne [SY972877]. Non-members will have to pay for parking I'm afraid.

**Thurs 10/04/2014 - 14:00 to 16:00:**

**Higher Hyde Heath Nature Reserve**

A return visit to Higher Hyde in the hope of seeing lizards (and possibly snakes) as well as the other signs of spring that this excellent reserve offers. Meet for a 2.00pm start at the reserve car park along the Puddletown Road just past the turning to the golf club and near the gliding school [SY855899]. I will stand on the edge of the road as a marker!

**A full list of the Nature Walks may be found at:**  
[www.peterorchard.me.uk/events\\_u3a](http://www.peterorchard.me.uk/events_u3a)

## Meeting Points

### Purbeck U3A Monthly Get-Togethers

Fourth Thursday Each Month

(Not July, August and December)

Harman's Cross Village Hall 10am - Noon

### Refreshments and a Presentation

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

#### The Story of the Royal Naval Cordite Factory

Film maker and Purbeck U3A member, **John Hale**, with presenters **John England** and **Dr Bob Dukes**, have recently made a documentary DVD about the well known RNC establishment near Wareham. They will be giving a presentation of an edited version of their DVD and explaining interesting facts about the buildings and equipment used there during and between the wars for the production of Cordite.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

#### Poetry as a Sound Medium

**John Barclay** is known locally as a writer and poet and was a leading member of the Rex Players. In his talk John will argue that, although in modern times poetry has usually been written down, it is an ancient art which remains centred on the human voice. He will illustrate his talk by performing his own work and popular poems by others. After the talk, John will be pleased to answer your questions.

**Full details on our Website:** [www.meetingpoints.purbecku3a.org.uk](http://www.meetingpoints.purbecku3a.org.uk)





# News from the Groups

The Latest News & Updates

For details of venues and times, Group Leaders, etc., see the separate Groups List or go to [www.purbecku3a.org.uk](http://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

## Walking Group

Our good editor likes to me to plan all the walks a long way ahead but my problem is predicting the ground conditions out there in the countryside. At this time of the year clay soils can be glutinous and threaten to pull your boots off, but they often provide the most attractive walks. However walks along slippery cliffs in windy conditions can be a bit scary.

The next walks scheduled are:

**Monday 10th of February:** Meet at the lay-by on the road to Church Knowle opposite the National Trust visitor centre (NT members might like to park in their car park).

**Monday 10th March:** Start from the car park on the Wareham/Bere Regis road just north west of the Stroud bridge and the Wareham Forest Tourist Park.

**Monday 14th April:** Meet at a car park half a mile north west of Bovington Camp on the road past Lawrence's cottage and about a quarter of a mile from it and we will walk to Culpeppers dish (no food in it!).

Please contact me on 01929 421409 if you have any doubts about the walks. June and July should be in nice weather and we can then take in some coastal scenery. David Gerry

## Sunday Lunch Group

The next U3A lunches will be-

Sunday 23rd February:

at the new Saxon Carvery in North St. Wareham

Sun 27th April: Kemps

Sun 29th June: The Silent Woman on the Bere Road

Please ring Marion on 01929 554433 to be included.

## Tai Chi Group

The group meets in the Youth Centre off the High Street in Swanage at 14.30 on a Wednesday. New members welcome. The exercises are not difficult, the aim being to move energy within the body to promote health. No great level of fitness is necessary, as long as you are able to stand. The only requirements are flat shoes, and fairly loose clothing.

Allen Morgan [taichi@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:taichi@purbecku3a.org.uk)

## Computers for Beginners and Improvers

Are your children pestering you to use email? Would you like to learn to shop on the Internet? Can you do a Google search? Do you want to see and talk to friends in far off countries on a free video link? Do you want to learn how to download photos that are emailed to you? Do you know how to send a photo to a friend by email? Do you want to learn how to keep your computer working well and free of viruses? Do you backup your data?

If you would like to learn any of these skills, in a gently paced and friendly environment, you could do so by joining the Computers for Beginners and Improvers Group. This meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at the Harmans Cross Village Hall. Beginners starting at 9.00; Improvers at 10.00 followed by tea/coffee/biscuits. For more information please contact Paul Lurie at 01929 439028 or email (if you can):

[computerbasics@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:computerbasics@purbecku3a.org.uk)

## The Just Desserts Group

The Just Desserts (or Pudding) Group has proved to be a most enjoyable occasion on the last Friday of each month. Of course you have to like or love puddings. Are there many people who don't? For each meeting each member cooks a pudding or cake, and brings it together with the recipe. The idea of seeing and tasting around eight different puddings or cakes is a sheer delight. As a pudding lover it is interesting to know what problems, if any, have been had in the making of a particular pudding, and tips on how to avoid them can be very helpful. But getting your pudding to the host's home can sometimes be thwart with difficulties, for example, tipping over on the car floor, or spilling as one rounds corners. But mostly they arrive intact, as can be seen in a photo (on [Page 3](#)) of a typical table full of delights. After tasting a small slice of each, and discussing the recipe, one returns home with the recipe and a further helping of some or all of the puds as an extra bonus. So who's worried about a diet with such good food, discussions and company?

Ann Johnson

## Science & Technology Group

### 3rd Wednesday in Month, Wareham Parish Hall

19 February - Mike Goater - Coastal Engineering

19 March - Dot Kerridge - Reflections of a Meteorologist, plus:

19 March - John Churchill - The First "HS2" Rail Link

16 April - Dr Phil Judkins - "Chess" - The Air War, 1939-45

Full details at: [www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk](http://www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk)

## Intermediate Computing Group

### 4th Wednesday in Month, Harman's Cross

26 February - Nigel Tennant - Photos: Organisation + Tablets

26 March - John Patrick - Family History Revisited

23 April - John Hale - Desk Top Publishing

Full details at: [www.computing.purbecku3a.org.uk](http://www.computing.purbecku3a.org.uk)

## Play Reading Group

Parry Jones has had a number of requests to join his present Play Reading Group but unfortunately it is full. However he is willing to run a second group so, if members would like to join, please would they phone Parry for details on 556206.

## Gig Rowing for Fun and Fitness

Take this opportunity to experience rowing in Swanage Bay in a traditional Cornish Pilot Gig. Learn to row and handle a boat. Get out on the water with all the health benefits of going to a gym but with the extra dimension of fresh air and a view of our fantastic Jurassic Coast.

Based at Swanage Sea Rowing Club's new boat house opposite Swanage Pier. 10 am on Thursday mornings 1/15/29 May, 12/26 June & 10 July. Weather dependant.

£3 charge per session to cover boat maintenance and insurance. No previous experience or special kit necessary - just wear comfortable clothes you don't mind getting wet.

Call Janice or Andrew Thomson  
on 01929 426773 to register.

**Welcome  
New Members**

**Lytchett Matravers:** Tony Baker

**Stoborough:** Carol Summers

**Swanage:** Patricia Bordessa, Charlie Brettell,  
Monica & William Dickinson, Betty Fearn, Pat Foster,  
Diana Peacock, Rita White

**Wareham:** Jenny Edward, Mary Morris

## The Purbeck U3A Committee 2013/14

Name	Position & Duties	Contact Details
Julie Seidel	Chairman; Group Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:Julieu3a@hotmail.com">Julieu3a@hotmail.com</a>
Charles Miller	Vice Chairman	
Ann Churchill	Business Secretary	<a href="mailto:churchillannp@gmail.com">churchillannp@gmail.com</a>
Patrick Webb	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:purbecktreasurer@aol.com">purbecktreasurer@aol.com</a>
Clive Bacon	Membership Secretary	<a href="mailto:memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk">memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk</a>
John Hale	Newsletter Editor; Web liaison	<a href="mailto:u3a@greenacre.info">u3a@greenacre.info</a>
Norma Foster	Minute Secretary	<a href="mailto:normafoster@live.co.uk">normafoster@live.co.uk</a>
Brandon Broadbent	Meeting Points organiser	<a href="mailto:brandon@broadbent.biz">brandon@broadbent.biz</a>
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### Newsletter Deadlines and Publication Dates

Copy to: [newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk) Please ask for a copy of *Guidelines for Contributors*

Publication Date	Copy submitted by
Early February	15 <sup>th</sup> January
Early May	15 <sup>th</sup> April
Early August	15 <sup>th</sup> July
Mid November	31 <sup>st</sup> 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.*

**Purbeck U3A Website:** [www.purbecku3a.org.uk](http://www.purbecku3a.org.uk)

Hard-copy printed by Amberwood Graphics – 34 North Street, Wareham 01929 554482