





Hallo is there anyone out there? Does anyone read – even *enjoy* reading – the articles and news featured in this, *your*, Newsletter? I ask as the amount of feedback I have had has diminished to a big fat round zero following the publication of our August issue!

So why is this, I ask? Are you all completely happy with the Newsletter or do you all think it is total rubbish so that it is consigned straight to the bin on arrival (for those of you who have opted to receive the printed version) – or perhaps not worth booting up your computer to see in vivid colour?

I tried to start a *Letters to the Editor* section, optimistically taking up a whole page, but the few letters we had have dried up so I have discontinued the page. This I thought would not only be an ideal spot to tell the Editor (me!) what you thought, good or bad, about the Newsletter but, more importantly, to voice your views and opinions about absolutely anything of interest to other Purbeck U3A members.

Almost 500 members with no views at all! I can't really believe that King Apathy reigns supreme in Purbeck U3A-or does it?

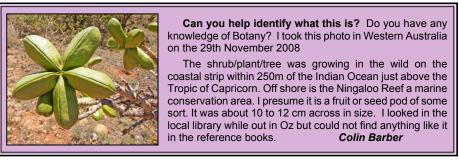
It has been my view, since taking over the Editorship, that the Newsletter should be made available in printed form to any member who cannot view, or is not happy with viewing, it on a computer. Many of you like to have a copy available, to which you can refer instantly to look up dates of group meetings etc., on your coffee table.

We discussed this at the last Committee Meeting and, although not all Committee Members totally agree, the consensus was that colour printed copies of improved quality (from an outside printer if the current in-house quality could not be improved) should be made available to *all*

I tried to start a *Letters to the Editor* members and obviously, to cut down ction, optimistically taking up a whole costs, members in the same household ge, but the few letters we had have dried would be able to share.

The problem that then comes is one of distribution: Postage is very expensive these days and hand delivery (the previous method) has been considered too onerous on members concerned. Another alternative being considered is for Group Leaders to carry a stock of Newsletters at their Group meetings and you may have seen a Broadcast email sent recently requesting members to state from which Group their hard-copy should be collected. There has been a response to this of only three members to date!

More apathy one wonders, or is everyone happy to see the excellent full colour version on their computer? Please



RNHF Yeovilton - Forthcoming Visit

One of our Members, Jim Humberstone, is a volunteer with the Royal Navy Historic Flight at the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton, Somerset. The Flight welcomes small parties of visitors to their HQ and Hangar on the airfield. The Flight operates several historic aircraft including two Hawker Sea Furies and two examples of the legendary Fairey Swordfish. Their most recent acquisition is the spectacular De Havilland DH Sea Vixen.

A visit by U3A Members can be arranged. The Flight Manager has suggested she can accommodate between 12 and 15 visitors. All names will need to be supplied to obtain security clearance, also the registration numbers of cars to be cleared across the airfield.

Jim wishes to gauge the extent of interest in a visit to the Flight, so would those Members who are keen to make up the party give their names to Jim McGivern who is co-ordinating the event. They should indicate in addition, whether they can contribute transport for the party. Further details can then follow.

Since the year is beginning to draw to a close and the hangar and Flight are likely to be busy, it may not be possible to make the visit before the New Year. Part of the day can beneficially be devoted to a visit to the famous Fleet Air Arm Museum on site.

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

> Committee Members: Jim McGivern; Norma Foster 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

let <u>subscribe@purbecku3a.org.uk</u> know your views and delivery requirements.

In this issue, as well as the usual Group News and other topical items, I have managed to include some of the excellent articles written for your interest and enjoyment by members over the summer months. I should like to thank these contributors who have spent time typing up their experiences and supplying photos to accompany their articles, and to apologise for having to 'hold over' some articles from the previous packed issue.

A Happy Christmas to you all and please make a New Year's Resolution to submit articles and news to me here at <u>newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk</u> by 15th January for publication in the February issue. Many thanks. *John Hale*







I am writing this during a very warm half term aware that you will be reading this mid-November and it seems a little odd that you will be reading about our Christmas lunch when it is so spring-like outside. I hope that the weather turns to winter gradually and doesn't give us all a nasty shock!

The committee is working very hard on your behalf and it would be good if you could think about giving us a hand. I am asking that you give us just one hour in a year to help with our various activities and hope you will get in touch with Sue Sides, our volunteer co-ordinator. However if you can give more I would love to hear from you.

We discussed succession planning at our last committee meeting and we need to start thinking about who would be willing to join the committee next year. Perhaps you are looking for a new challenge or an outlet for your energies. I can guarantee that you will be welcomed and we will try to utilise your skills.

We are keen to have someone to join a team organising outings for us and also we need someone to review our IT systems. Get in touch! I am pleased to advise you that our Lunch group will restart in January. I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas lunch which promises to be an entertaining event! For details see the Front Page.

A Happy Christmas to all our members!

Notes from Committee Meeting October 2014

- Next year we will revert to Open Days but Information Days will also be held.
- Succession planning The committee recognised the need to start looking for potential committee members.
- Treasurers report The Treasurer reported a healthy financial position
- Membership report The Membership Secretary reported that online subscription renewals had increased and membership now stood at 456.
- Groups report Beginners' Italian started in September and was now full, Road Cycling has started and the Gardening group have just held their first planning session.
- New posters have been received from the Third Age Trust: we will use these in future.



Philosophy Group summer party



You may remember that at the end of the last academic year we had a membership of precisely 500. So far this year 422 of those members have renewed their subscriptions and have been notified of their new membership numbers by one means or another – mostly by email.

From my perspective the initiative to eliminate membership cards has been a success with only one or two queries arising. Members need not worry if they forget their membership number as group leaders have a full list of this year's paid up members and their respective numbers.

To date some 78 members have not renewed, however I am

pleased to report we have attracted 48 new members. One of whom brought excitement to my lacklustre life by



sending me an enrolment form using a variety of old postage stamps (see photo above).

We are sad to have learnt of the death of the following members and extend our belated condolences to family and friends.

Gordon Collins Janet Hancock Heather Fowler Susan Harrison Myrna Gomes-Maria Robin Kemp Maureen Webb



Understanding Nature Group Field Days

Ferry Bridge Nature Reserve - Summer 2014

By Robin & Maxine Humphries

wo groups visited the Ferry Bridge Nature Reserve and Fleet Lagoon (managed by Dorset Wildlife Trust), the first group on 5th June and the second on 3rd July 2014. Both days were blessed with good weather, though a little cool and windy early in the morning when pullovers were required. We gathered at the Ferry Bridge Nature Reserve Visitor Centre (NRVC) for a quick coffee before walking along the causeway to just behind The Ferry Bridge Inn, where we boarded the glass-bottomed motorboat for a conducted tour around the eastern end of the Fleet Lagoon.



We were treated to close up viewings of the Little Terns (a rare breed) nesting in the protected and guarded areas on the Chesil Bank. The adults were flying



around in numbers not too happy with visitors so the boat slowed down. Volunteers of the RSPB and other local organisations were encamped with powerful telescopes watching the area for predators such as foxes, gulls, etc. Since the area has been guarded it has been very successful, as numbers of birds are up from a few just a couple of years ago to the many dozens of youngsters this year.

The views through the glass bottomed boat were not brilliant, as visibility was murky the day we visited. We saw the Oyster Beds cultivated by a local restaurant and Cormorants were wind-drying on the posts of the Oyster Farm. We were told about the damage to the Chesil Bank and beach in last winter's storms and the various 'canns' (ravines) formed by the sea coming through the Chesil Bank, one of which has undermined a fisherman's rather substantial hut.

After a picnic lunch or food purchased from the Visitor Centre our Group Leader, Peter Orchard, took us on a walk around. From the NRVC; we crossed the causeway road and walked along the bed of the disused railway (which used to go to the former Naval



Dockyard and Portland) and up to the edge of Portland Harbour.

Peter pointed out many plants growing on this wasteland, many of which were wild varieties of domestic vegetables. We then looked around the car park area which was unfortunately marred by some windblown domestic rubbish, and then went onto the Chesil Bank with views of some birds - starlings and waders - before the group dispersed to go home.

A very good time was had by all. Many thanks to Peter for organising the day!

<u>Footnote</u>: The Ferry Bridge Nature Reserve Visitor Centre (NRVC) is surrounded by the Chesil Bank and the Fleet Nature Reserve which is protected for both wildlife and geology. Both are rare habitats and have been selected as a Special Protected Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The Fleet is protected internationally as a RAMSAR site.



Photos: Peter Orchard & John Kirwin

BEWARE UNEXPECTED GIFTS BEING DELIVERED THIS CHRISTMAS!

Some people, especially older folk, have been caught out.

You are asked to pay the delivery charge for a delivered item by Credit Card - unusual in itself as such a charge is usually paid for with the order.

Your card is then cloned by the machine produced by the delivery man, enabling access to your account and perhaps thousands of pounds taken from it. *Beware!*



The K9 group started in the Purbeck area 11 years ago to provide an opportunity for exercise, exploration and sociability for U3A dogs (with their owners or carers) excluded from other walking groups. The lead has now been passed to the fourth two-legged member of the group.

An aim of the group was to introduce new walks in Purbeck, especially for solo walkers who might be less willing to explore new areas on their own. Whilst walking we take note of historical and geographical landmarks whilst also enjoying and learning about the flora and fauna on the route. We cover all types of terrains from beaches, forests, hills, heath, valleys, river and lakes and also of course picnic benches, pubs and cafés!

K9 Group meetings

The group meets every month on the third Thursday morning for a two hour session in almost all weathers! We meet each



month except August which can be too hot for the dogs (unless they are walked early or late) and we also find the Purbeck area is too crowded with visitors.

Each month the identified group member leads the walk taking the group to

different areas of the very beautiful Purbeck area. Before each walk the routes are checked by the leader to assess the current terrain and hazards which may have been affected by the weather or horse riders, cyclists or farming vehicles, etc..

Walks start at a safe car parking location and generally last for 90 minutes depending upon the weather and the terrain. The routes usually avoid farm animals and cliffs (many visitor dogs go over the cliffs here) but, if they are included, the leader or front walker warns the group about the hazards and the time to apply leads or walk single file for example.

The dogs



All the dogs are well behaved and are able to obey their owner's commands (recall). They include gun dogs, terriers, utility, working and mixed breed dogs and are currently aged between one to eight years old. They love the company of other dogs and are often lucky enough to get

treats from other owners! Owners also bring water for their own dog. Walking as a group helps young dogs with their socialisation training and for the owners, local tips, information and resources are shared. The group applies 'good practice' routines when the dogs defecate. Bags are used and either taken home or placed in the location dog bins.

The Owners

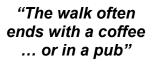
There are currently 15 members in the group of mixed sexes and a wide range of ages. Everyone enjoys both walking the Purbeck area and their dog. The walk often ends with a coffee on a bench, in a pub or even some home made goodies and birthday celebrations.



Walking procedures

The group has followed the guidelines from the U3A Walking Subject Adviser, Neil Meek with, for example, walk leaders and back markers, safety checks, lists of ICE numbers and OS maps. We all wear good walking books (or wellies) and some use sticks. Amongst the group we have a compass, whistle, first aid kit, mobile phones and, to cater for all our needs, a physiotherapist, nurses, a GP, a vet and – if in dire straits – a vicar who could administer last rites!









ith all the bad news in the press these days it is heart-warming to have a good Samaritan story to tell you. As some of you know, I recently bought a road bike off eBay, so that I could join the new Road Bike Group.

On a ride out last week, we started from Bere Regis and rode through some beautiful countryside towards Sturminster Newton. I am not very good with maps, but was happy to



But then for me the nightmare began. At the bottom of the hill, as we came into a small village called Oakford Fitzpaine, my freewheel hub broke. I suggested that the rest of the group go on, and I would phone my wife to come and fetch me.

then discovered there was very little mobile signal, and the pub I had stopped at was closed. I also remembered that I had only brought £5 with me for tea. I asked a lady walking to her car if she could possibly give me a lift to Bere, but she said sorry she did not give lifts to strangers. I approached a white van delivery driver with the same question, but he unfortunately declined.

So I walked to the local school, and asked the lady at reception if there were any buses or other transport to Bere Regis. There were no buses, so she asked around but there was no help forthcoming. Then, out of the blue, she offered to give me a lift to Bere Regis herself! As you can imagine, I was extremely relieved.

She duly gave me a lift. I followed her back, picked up my bike and drove home, being very thankful to the good Samaritan - and happy to know there are good people in the world in amongst all the bad stuff that is going on.

Footnote: I asked the good Samaritan for her contact details, and have subsequently arranged for her to join us for lunch next month, to say thank you again for doing something I thought was exceptional.

Days Out to Remember

By Norma Foster

Purbeck U3A received a letter from Blandford U3A about a forthcoming trip to the British Museum to see the new Viking Exhibition. I phoned and asked if I could join them as I wanted to see the Saxon one as well.

We met at Blandford by Tesco and I was able to leave my car in the car park. They were a really nice group and made you feel very welcome. The coach dropped us in a side street. We were due to visit the Viking exhibition at one o'clock and had two hours for something to eat and look around.

To top of next column >

The displays were incredible, especially the longboat but the jewellery, swords, pottery and paintings were wonderful too and we saw a most beautiful carved chess set about 1,200 years old.

After that, quite a few of us shot off to see the Saxon Exhibition and again the exhibits were wonderful especially the Sutton Hoo hoard of silver and the helmet.

"The Bishop thought quickly and planted some special trees..."

Following this visit, they contacted me and asked if I would like to go to Wells with them, which I did. It was nice to meet the people again and we had a lovely trip through the countryside - the poppies in the cornfields were stunning. We were dropped off at the gates of the Bishop's Palace and the Cathedral.

We had a meal and then a guided tour of the Palace and Gardens - our guide was very knowledgeable and told us many fascinating things about the Roundheads etc. The gardens were stunning and to see the five wells rising and watch the speed of the water running off into a duct was amazing. The water is used for the town, Cathedral and Palace.

We were told that the Council wanted to compulsorily buy a piece of land right next to the wells for a car park! The Bishop thought quickly and planted some special trees and as it was the Queen's 25th year on the throne he dedicated it to her and called it an arboretum. The Council backed down and it is now a lovely wood to stroll through and picnic in. Quick thinking by the Bishop saved the day!

The moat, which goes all the way round, looked lovely with swans, ducks, moorhens and we even saw one kingfisher. The swans were not interested in ringing the bell for food so the visitors were seeing to that!

We had a walk round the Cathedral but unfortunately no time to see the town except when we drove through it but it was a really magical day.



NEW Boules Group

There are currently eight people registered for this, which will start when weather permits! There is a court at Upton Park, so the venue is sorted. Group Leader is Tim Price and he can be contacted at <u>caswellprice@btinternet.com</u>, so if you're interested, please let him know

NEW Gardening Group

First meeting was held on 30th October, to which nine attended, with four others interested. Venue: Harman's Cross Meeting Room. Held on **third Mondays** from 11 am to 1 pm, starting 17th November. Group Leader is Chris Bonanni, so please register your interest with her at <u>chrisbonanni@hotmail.co.uk</u>. She has taken input from the first meeting and is working up a very interesting and comprehensive programme.

NEW Bridge Group

Several people have expressed an interest in this and Denise Broadbent would like to hear from anyone else who's keen so that we can get it started.

Please contact <u>newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk</u>.



Science & Technology Summer 2014 visit to Higher Hyde Heath Nature Reserve

Science & Technology

Third Wednesday 10 am to 12 noon – Parish Hall, Wareham 17 Dec: Modern Day Psychiatry: Science, Art or Witch Doctoring? 21 Jan: Making of AV presentations - Dorset scenery & wildlife 18 Feb: Forensics

18 March: Application of technology to Olympic Sports Website: <u>www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk</u>

Intermediate Computing & Tablets

Fourth Wednesday 10.15 - 12.15 – Harman's Cross VH Help with laptops & tablets: 26 Nov; 28 Jan; 25 Feb. *Note: No December meeting.* Details: www.computing.purbecku3a.org.uk

Walking Group

Second Monday at 10 am - finish around noon. Non-members welcome but insurance covers first visit only. Suitable footwear essential. Rainwear and walking poles or sticks recommended. There may be stiles to negotiate. Bring a drink. Start points will have parking available. Please try to car share. Sorry no dogs. John Kirwin, Tel: 481000 Email: walking@pubecku3a.org.uk

Forthcoming walks:

Dec 8th: Starting at the RSPB car park at Arne.

Jan 12th: Starting at Worth Matravers car park, just before the Square and Compass.

Feb 9th: Starting at the Sheep Pen car park at Kingston. March 9th: Starting at Middle Beach car park Studland. For details of venues and times, Group Leaders, etc., see the separate Groups List or go to <u>www.purbecku3a.org.uk</u> and click on the Activities tab. If you are unable to access

the Internet, please phone the Group Coordinator on mobile 07564 937871

Discussion Group

Understanding Contemporary Affairs in their Historical Background. Meetings will be held **monthly** usually on **Thursday afternoons** from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in Swanage If you are interested in joining 'phone Diana Morgan on 423929 At the end of each meeting, say the last half hour, members may bring a current topic they think it may be interesting to talk about on the day.

11th December meeting:

The relationship between Doctor and Patient: has it changed? Led by Dr. John Challis.

Lunch Group

Starting up in January and meeting on the **last Sunday of each month.** Hosts: Mike & Maggie Leatherby

We are a couple of new members embarking on this new venture, hoping to make this the first of many successful luncheons throughout the year. Here's to a Very Happy 2015! **Date: 25th January 2015**

Venue: Quayside Restaurant in the Mowlem Centre, Swanage. Time:1.00pm meet in the bar for a 1.30 sit down.

A Sunday carvery @ £7.50 main course, starters, deserts & drinks extra. To make things easy you pay for your own drinks as and when you order them, plus your own food addition at the end of the meal. Numbers limited.

To book: 426759 Email: <u>michael@mleatherby.freeserve.co.uk</u>

Painting Group - Self-help

First and Third Monday 10 am - 12 noon. Meeting Room, Mowlem, Swanage Dec: 1st & 15th; Jan: 5th & 19th; Feb: 2nd & 16th; March: 2nd & 16th

Wine Tasting Group

The Wine Tasting Group has now been running for three years. We meet on the **third Monday of every month** at Harman's Cross Village Hall from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm and we are currently welcoming new members.

We not only run the usual meetings where we taste three white and three red wines, but have also enjoyed presentations by a Master of Wine, which we combined with a summer party. We have a presentation on Italian wines coming up as well as a collaborative meeting in December where the Wine Tasting Group and the Pudding Group are joining forces to match wines to different desserts. There will also be vineyard visit next June. You are very welcome to join us for a taster session. The charge is £6.00 per person which covers the costs of the wine.

Leonard's Quiz Corner - Answers

Quiz Answers to Questions on <u>Page 1</u>: 1. Doc, Dopy;2. Spain; 3. Oregon, USA; 4. Six Geese a-laying.

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**.



Blandford: Anne Matthews Corfe Castle: Christine Rennison, Michael Revans Kingston: Rosamond Webber Langton Matravers: Debs Kelly, Heather Lightowler, Peter Lightowler, Cathy Wilcox Lytchett Matravers: Goretti Quinn-Bagley Ridge: Rosie Barnley, Derek Monk, Norman Walters

Sandford: Gordon Antill, Judi Faragher, Leah &
Frank Leggett, Dean PringuerPat Neville, Rona Small
Stukins, Carole ToyerStoborough: Stella Bird, Shelley Cranshaw, Sybil
Dowding, Gordon MacphersonWareham: John Andrew
Pam & Chris Mason, Tir
West Lulworth: Elaine
Wool: Jane Heywood, M
Elysee, Maggie & Michael Leatherby, Paul McDonald,

Pat Neville, Rona Smallwood, Alan Sparks, Don Stukins, Carole Toyer **Wareham:** John Andrews, Alan Green, Cathy Green, Pam & Chris Mason, Tim Price, Bob Warren **West Lulworth:** Elaine & Dave Knight, **Wool:** Jane Heywood, Margaret & Chris Melhuish, Meg Miller, Pat Stanley

The Purbeck U3A Committee 2014/15

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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
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Late April	5 th April
Early August	15 th July
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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.

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