



Registered Charity No. 1075342

# Newsletter

Designed to keep you in touch

## **Pedal Power!**

February 2015

The U3A Cycling for Fun & Fitness group enjoying a fine October day on the downs near Old Harry



#### Your Printed Newsletter - A Reminder

If you wish to receive a printed version of your Newsletters, either because you cannot see our online version or would like a paper version in addition, please let us know from which of your groups you wish to collect it. Group Leaders will only hold copies for their members who have registered for collection with them or via

subscribe@purbecku3a.org.uk

#### Archaeology Art Appreciation Philosophy Photography French Intermediate Gardening Book Grd Book Gro Bridge for Fun Comput FOT Comput Creative Textiles Science Technology Jazz **Just Desserts Creative Writing Short Tennis** Cycling for Fun Mah Jong **Table Tennis** Cycling for Leisure Chi **Cycling for Softies** lking Iking K9s **Discussion Group** FrenchConversation Painting Club Wine Appreciation

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#### Date for Your Diary

2015 AGM

to be held on Thursday 14th May 2015 at 2 pm At Harman's Cross

Village Hall

#### **Leonard's Quiz Corner**

1. An olpa is a piece of ...

harness, shaped metal or earthenware?

- 2. What name is given to the arterial pressure point inside the biceps?
- 3. The name Camilla can be construed as: "Temple Maiden". True or False?
- 4. When a horse gets up, which pair of legs rise first? Front or Back?

For Answers turn to Last Page



#### From the Editor...

John Hale

Purbeck U3A Newsletter for 2015 – and an especially warm welcome to new members who have joined Purbeck U3A since our last edition was published just before Christmas. Their names are listed on the last page so, if they join a group to which you belong, please give them a warm welcome.

My thanks to all members who wrote in to respond to my last Editorial which showed my open disappointment that more members didn't send their articles and photos in to me for

publication as well as giving me feedback about the Newsletter. I apologise if my rant annoyed some but it did solicit a fair bit of mostly positive comment. I received a fair number of emails of support for the existing format for the Newsletter with only one sent in offering 'constructive criticism' (I think!). I have decided not to publish all these messages but really appreciate the effort some members have made in letting me know their views. It is a shame that, despite the positive views expressed, I am still in receipt of relatively few articles about the Purbeck U3A and its group activities this time. I would really appreciate hearing from you if you can spare time to report events that have taken place in your group or other short articles of interest to members. Please send your articles (and don't forget photos too!) to me at: newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk A single page Guidelines for Contributors is available to help you with your submissions and is available from the same address.

Recently there have been a number of requests for space in the Newsletter for articles giving information about the Newsletter Editor: John Hale Email: <a href="mailto:newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk">newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk</a>

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

affiliated to the U3A. My view has always been that articles included in the Newsletter should be, in order of priority for our limited space, about Purbeck U3A activities primarily, then: general U3A information; information of help to members (eg being aware of scams); items about local organisations that have helped Purbeck U3A, usually on a reciprocal basis. If space permits, should I accept submissions from or about outside organisations, eg advertising their classes, groups, charities, etc.? What do you think? If I do so, I hope you agree that they should never take priority over the categories of articles mentioned above. One point about this worries me in particular: I feel that, with all of us having pressures of time, to be pointing up activities outside the U3A could easily draw members away to the detriment of our organisation which must keep its membership intact to survive.

No doubt about it: The Christmas Party 2014 was a resounding success! You can see Ann's report, accompanied by Tony's pictures on page 4. Now let's start again:

activities of outside organisations, not affiliated to the U3A. My view has always been that articles included in the Newsletter should be, in order of priority for our limited space, about Purbeck U3A activities primarily, then: general U3A The Christmas Party was a resounding success for those 50 or so members who attended. But where was everyone else on Friday 12th December? Surely there can't have been 450 of you all doing your activities primarily, then: general U3A Christmas shopping on that day?

This time the venue was changed to Harman's Cross with its much better facilities, and we were fortunate to have wonderful entertainment by John Barclay and the Rex Players, to say nothing of Len's short quiz and the excellent food brought in by members attending. It has been calculated that, if you deduct the 16 of us who helped on the day, that leaves only 34 members who simply came to enjoy the party – including, I am pleased to say, our founder members Tony and Shelagh Capon. The question is: What future does the traditional U3A Christmas Party have? Answers to the usual address!

Finally my thanks to all members and Group Leaders who have submitted items and articles for inclusion in this issue. The next Newsletter is due in April, a few weeks before the AGM which this year is on Thursday 14th May.

## **Recting Points** Meeting Points has been running monthly since September 2011

The meetings take place on the morning of the fourth Thursday in the month (except July, August and December) and start at 10:00 am, ending at midday, and are held at Harman's Cross Village Hall, where there is plenty of car parking space.

Refreshments are available on arrival then, following announcements, at 10:30 a guest speaker will start their presentation on a wide range of subjects.

Talks coming up:

■ 26th February: My Life in China

■ 26th March: Wild Purbeck Nature Area

■ 23rd April: The Army in Dorset

■ 28th May: Life on the Royal Yacht Britannia

■ 25th June: The International Space Station

If you haven't been before, why not give it a try?

For full details please go to our website: www.meetingpoints.purbecku3a.org.uk



### Purbeck U3A

## Chairman's Report



This is one of the tasks that the committee undertakes to ensure we reach the retirees in the area and spread the word. Research has shown that there are many retired people who maybe live alone and are lonely and in particular, the majority of these lonely people are men, who may be reluctant to 'join in'. If you know of anyone who lives alone and may fit into this category, why not encourage them to join us or bring them along to *Meeting Points* so that they can find out what we do - see the panel on Page 2 for details.

For the past few committee meetings we have had Succession Planning on the agenda and it will be included at each committee meeting in the near future. We have a strong committee structure and we work hard to ensure we meet the needs of our membership. However there are only seven of us and we are all working at full stretch. Jim McGivern, our Group Co-ordinator, is visiting groups to see how they function and, at the same time, is talking to groups about the work of the committee.

We need a framework of members joining the committee and coming up through the ranks to ensure we have continuity and fulfilling the continuing and expanding needs of our membership.

The more of us there are, the less we each have to do. Please will you consider joining us? Maybe you think that you have

'done your bit' whilst in paid work or that you had had enough of committees in your working life but with us you really would be contributing to the community of Purbeck, providing life-long education, social and leisure activities to those of us no longer in full time work. It is worthwhile and enjoyable and you will meet and work with people from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. I am sure you will not regret it! Do contact me for further information at <a href="mailto:chair@purbecku3a.org.uk">chair@purbecku3a.org.uk</a>

The committee are usually at *Meeting Points* each month so come along and meet them, have a coffee and meet other members. I look forward to seeing you there!

Julie Seidel

## How much should the U3A evolve and adapt to our changing circumstances?

Recently a friend thought it was my birthday because I posted on Facebook I'd had my first pension payment (just 1 week though!) and received my bus pass. Us women don't get our pensions at 60 any more. I will be 62 years 5 months by the time I get my first full payment. Female friends that are just a bit younger than me will now have to work up until 65. I don't know what the ages are for men, but I can imagine they are older. This is fine if you love working, do it from choice, are fit enough to do so, or can afford to retire at your chosen age anyway.

There are lots of questions around this as in should older people be taking jobs from younger people? Should there be a retirement age at all?

But most of all, how will the older retirement age affect U3A membership? Will numbers dwindle? Will people want payment for leading groups because they can't get buy on their pension, so why work for free? I'm guessing there are plenty of other areas of concern that people would like to throw open for discussion?

How about the idea that we have a Meeting Points once a year that is basically a discussion forum for our Chairman to report back to U3A Head Office? Would you like your voice to be heard? Do you have an opinion? If so, U3A needs to hear from you!

\*\*Denise Broadbent\*\*

The **Rex Players** (who provided entertainment at our Christmas Party) have their Variety Show nightly from 3rd March to 7th March inclusive at the Rex Cinema, Wareham. All proceeds go to Wareham charities. Tickets are on sale from the *Discover Purbeck* Information Centre, South Street, Wareham.

The Rex Players are hoping that some U3A members will be interested in supporting them, maybe some who may not have been aware of their 19 years of raising money for charities. This year the money is going to the local Careline.

#### Points from the December 2014 Committee Meeting

- Treasurer reported that there would be a financial surplus at the end of the year.
- The new Group Co-ordinator, Jim McGivern said he would try to visit as many groups as possible over the next few months to introduce himself and talk briefly to members.
- It was reported that the Quiz Group and the Walking Group were looking for new members.
- Discussion on risk assessment for outdoor activities.
- The Membership Secretary reported that there were 482 paid up members at the end of November.
- There was a discussion about succession planning for the committee and ways of implementing succession.
- To approach Group Leaders to ask their members if they wished to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter for collection.
- Christmas party arrangements were finalised.
- Discussion about timing of Open Days and Information Days.

Words by Ann Churchill

2014 annual venue for the celebration this year was Harman's Cross Village Hall and on the day, a group of volunteers arrived early to make sure the Hall was ready and the audio visual and

> lighting systems were prepared ready for use.

As guests arrived, they were served drinks and put their plates and dishes of festive food on the buffet tables and there was soon a hum of conversation as groups began

to chat and to work on the Christmas Quiz provided by Quizmaster, Leonard Coling.

The food and drink, served in the Meeting Room next door and brought through, was steadily consumed and as everyone relaxed after lunch, Len read out the answers to the quiz. There were no 100% scores but a couple of tables put in very creditable performances.

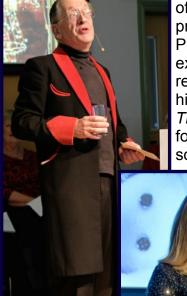
Thank you Len.

afternoon's programme of entertainment was provided by The Rex Players who gave an excellent musical rendition of the highlights of Fiddler On The Roof. This was followed by Christmas songs and John

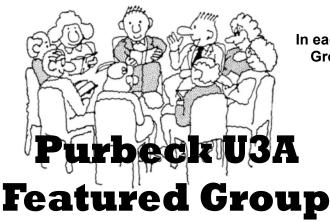
Barclay's poems looking at the lighter side of Christmas. The performance ended traditional carols led by a delightful young soprano called Grace. In fact I was once again The next part of the reminded of the enormous musical talent that exists in Purbeck amongst the young and not so young. After showing our appreciation, the only thing that remained was the clearing up which was soon accomplished by willing volunteers.

> The Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make the party a success - all the volunteers, The Rex Players, our Quizmaster and the members of Purbeck U3A who came along, provided food, and kick-started the year's Christmas celebrations.









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!



Purbeck U3A Science & Technology group, with over a hundred members, is currently the largest of our 44 groups. It has a monthly meeting between 10am and midday on the third Wednesday of each month in Wareham Parish Hall (just off The Quay) and has an average attendance of some 50 members.



The S&T Group has been running for almost eight years, having started with its inaugural meeting on 20th September 2007, conducted by our Founder Member Roger Chambers.

The group started with a dozen or so members, having monthly meetings in the

upstairs meeting room of Wareham Library but, after a while, the increased popularity of the group resulted in this small room proving far from adequate, so the venue was changed to Wareham Parish Hall which offered better facilities and considerably more space.

At about the same time a small committee of four founder members was formed to assist Roger in running the group. In 2011 Roger decided to step down and the S&T committee was increased to the present five who, as well as other duties, take turns at leading the meetings and introducing the speakers. See the Committee: Click HERE

Meetings generally take the form of presentations made by speakers from the field of Science and Technology from outside the U3A, or from some S&T members and committee members themselves.



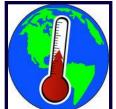
**Summer Visit to the Mineral & Mining Museum** 

#### By John Hale (S&T Committee Member)

Website: <a href="www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk">www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk</a>
Contact email: <a href="mailto:s&t@purbecku3a.org.uk">s&t@purbecku3a.org.uk</a>

During the hot days of Summer, group visits are arranged to places of scientific interest such as the Purbeck Mineral & Mining Museum and Wych Farm Oil Field –

and even a Sewage Treatment Works!



About 80 Presentations have taken place so far over the years, with another dozen already booked for this year.

Past talks range from Climate Change, Tides and Digital Mapping to the Enigma Machine, the History of the

Camera, the Sandbanks Ferry, Time Measurement, TV Sound Production; Knee & Hand Surgery, the Early Days of Radar in Purbeck, High Speed Rail — and even The History of the Toilet!

You can see the complete list of past and future presentations on the S&T Website page – look for the <u>Programme</u> tab and the <u>Past Meetings</u> tab under it.

New S&T members are always welcome to our monthly meetings, so why not look at our website, <a href="https://www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk">www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk</a> select a topic

that interests you and then drop in for the talk? Have a cup of coffee with us too (for which there is a small entry charge). You don't need to have a technical background as our speakers are usually aware that they are talking to an audience



"Zero Gravity"

with a variety of backgrounds and experience and aim to inform and often entertain without assuming prior technical knowledge

## Wine and Puddings - What more could a person want?

What more could a person want than good company, six intriguing dessert wines and 12 lovely puddings! That is what members of the combined Wine and Pudding (Just Desserts) Groups experienced at a joint meeting in December held in the Harmans Cross Village Hall.



The six dessert wines (see picture) ranged from a elegant Malvasia light Frizzante Dolce to a heavy strong tawny Port, and included a Pedro Ximenez sherry, a Tokaji from Hungary, and a Muscat

from Rutherglen, Australia.

The puddings and cakes were made by the Just Desserts Group, with welcome contributions from the Wine Group members. The feast, as shown in the photo, included two chocolate roulades; a ginger cake with salted caramel sauce; a lemon cheesecake; a Linzertort; lemon syllabub; chocolate profiteroles; mince pies; biscotties; and lovely round Lindor chocolates to finish.

#### By Paul Lurie and Don Hunter

The only challenges we faced were deciding which wine to start with and then what to taste with which pudding or cake. In the end as there were two puddings per wine we often had two

desserts with each wine. We believe we saw a few people spitting out after wine tasting, and only because the alcohol average content was about 15% and they were



driving, but can promise you that nobody did that to the desserts!

In case anybody was still feeling hungry there were some sausages on sticks to fill the cracks.

We can assure you that everybody was a little fuller, a little bit redder, much noisier and ever so happy after we finished the meeting, and everyone agreed we should do it all again!

#### **Nature Walks Group**

Sadly, being a carer now, I have unpredictable demands on my time and I can no longer commit to a regular programme of events so am unable to continue to run the Nature Walks programme. I have enjoyed doing this for the last three years but sometimes decisions are made for you by prevailing circumstances.

If there is anyone who would like to take on organising and leading the walks I would be delighted and I would hope to be able to join them to help whenever I can, but overall responsibility is not something I am now in a position to bear.

Through my Nature of Dorset www.natureofdorset.co.uk/website members with a particular interest in wildlife can find places to go

and things to see, can follow my daily nature note series and can get the latest Dorset nature news. I am happy to try and answer questions or provide advice either through comments posted on the Nature of Dorset forum or by direct email.

If there is sufficient interest I would also be happy to look at setting up some form of 'on-line' nature group to enable U3A members to enjoy the wildlife of Purbeck. If you would be interested in such a group and have ideas about what you would like such an on-line forum to provide then please get in touch.

Thank you to all of you who have supported the group in the past; I am sorry it has to come to an end much earlier than I would have hoped. Peter Orchard

#### **Archaeology Group**

The Archaeology Group, which meets at the Community Hall in Sandford has been running for several years and membership grew steadily under the leadership of Robin Humphries. When Robin decided to retire we all wanted the group to continue, but none of us felt able to take on the leadership alone. The solution was to form a small committee of three to take over the reins and co-ordinate all the willing volunteers within the group.

The committee is responsible for booking speakers and organising the meetings but (remember Julie's "Give an Hour" campaign?) we ask that everybody who is able takes a turn at helping with making tea, washing up, setting out and clearing up the hall after the meeting etc. It's working! and we three, who barely knew each other at the start of the year, see that people are getting to know each other better and that the room buzzes with conversation and laughter in the break.

We don't follow a course of study, nor do we, as a group, take part in hands-on fieldwork. All our members are interested in Archaeology but very few us have much expertise to share. Instead we have visiting speakers and cover their fee by making a small charge to those who attend.

We've had some brilliant speakers over the years and this year is no exception. At our December meeting every available chair was taken! We are fortunate to have a local archaeologist who comes to talk to us at least once a year and has been kind enough to help with contacting other speakers whose talks she thinks we might enjoy.

We have nine monthly meetings, one of which is usually an Outing/Field trip. Talks for the year to date have been entitled: WW1 in Wareham; Dorchester - Plenty to shout about; Pompeii - The day a city died and Archaeological Adventures in Mesopotamia (Iraq).

We have over 50 registered members and have closed the list for this year. However, if you are interested in joining us in the future, we can put your name on a waiting list and offer you the opportunity to come along to one talk this year to see if you enjoy it. All we ask is that you contact me first as our numbers are constrained by the conditions of hire Connie Beasley archy@purbecku3a.org.uk at the hall.



An email arrives claiming to be from Oh, no! your Local Council which states that you are in debt because they haven't been able to process your last Council Tax payment. The email goes on to

say that you must update your details by clicking a link. Be wary and don't click the link. If you are in doubt about whether such requests are genuine or - which is far more likely - a scam, ring the Council to check whether they sent it.



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

#### **Cross Stitch Group - Now: Home Crafts**

The group has been re-named **Home Crafts** to include all forms of needlework (knitting, crochet and tapestry) and broaden its activities to include other crafts (but not painting). One Member is willing to teach Card Making and other portable crafts. The Group continues to meet on the 1st Thursday of every month, at 88 Northmoor Way, Wareham.

#### **Discussion Group**

Understanding Contemporary Affairs in their Historical Background. Meetings will be held usually on 2nd Thursday monthly from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm at 64 Victoria Avenue, Swanage BH19 1AR. If you are interested in joining 'phone Diana Morgan on 423929

At the end of each meeting members may bring a current topic they think it may be interesting to talk about on the day.

#### **Programme for Discussion Group Spring 2015:**

12th February Father Tony Delsink

Pope Francis and the reforms in the Catholic church.

12th March Diana Morgan.

Napoleon the Great? His positive achievements

9th April Andrew Corke

'Friends, neighbours, enemies or brothers - a historical, political & cultural examination of the dispute between Israel & Palestine.'

To be held in All Saints Church Hall. Donations welcome.

#### **Gardening Club**

This group has proved so popular that it has outgrown the Committee Room at Harman's Cross and the new venue is Corfe Castle Village Hall.

We meet 3rd Monday of each month 11am to 1pm.

#### **History Group**

Meet fortnightly on Fridays at the Methodist Church, North Street, Wareham 10:00am - 11:30am.

As you can see, we have a varied programme with something of interest for most people:

January 16th: A Dorset Utopia; 30th: Lundy Island February 6th: Lady Hamilton; 20th: Samuel Plimsoll March 6th: Barbarians; 20th Edwin Hubble

#### Science & Technology

18th February - Ian Church

Forensics: "The death by fire of an old lady"

Ian Church is a Crime Scene Investigator with Dorset Police who will explain forensic techniques used at crime scenes.

18th March - Gareth Gregory

18th March - Gareth Gregory

Application of technology to some Olympic sports How sport has changed with the advent of new technology. 15th April - Phil Judkins

Wireless Intercept and the Enigma in the Desert War.

For our full year's programme please see our website:

www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk

#### **Painting Group**

Meetings 1st and 3rd Mondays in the Mowlem - 10 am until 12. Monday 2nd March: Local artist David Cole is visiting to talk about Watercolour Painting. <a href="mailto:painting@purbecku3a.org.uk">painting@purbecku3a.org.uk</a>

#### Memoir Group - New!

"Some day I'm going to write, the story of my life"

Have You a Story To Tell?



Why not join a new U3A group dedicated to memoir? It doesn't matter if you haven't written a word yet – or are on volume two with more to say! We can all learn from and support each other. This will be a gentle, informal group, positive and encouraging, run by the group for the group. Wed pm from March-Wareham. Please register you interest, without commitment, by emailing memoir@purbecku3a.org.uk



#### **Walking Group**

All walks start at 10:00 am, 2nd Monday in the month Starting points for coming months shown below: 9th March: Middle Beach car park Studland. 13th April: Sunnyside Farm car park Ridge. 11th May: Spring Street Wool behind Black Bear pub. 8th June: NT car park at the top of the cliffs at Ringstead

#### **Philosophy Group:**

What Do We Do Behind Closed Doors? 2nd and 4th Tuesdays every months, 10 am to noon. Philosophy is a vast subject covering a long spectrum of human existence.

It is something that permeates our everyday lives and any active brain. We study philosophers from Plato to modern day (such as Mary Migley), using books and the Internet as a basis. It's always useful to hear the thoughts and opinions of others to help us achieve a balanced view.

As none of us has a philosophy background, it was a bit like the blind leading the blind at first but most importantly we enjoy it!

philosophy@purbecku3a.org.uk

#### Intermediate French

We meet at Harman's Cross Village Hall on Wednesday mornings and continue to flourish. The level of spoken French improves weekly with a little grammar to add a challenge. Several new members were welcomed last term and we are now 18 in number. The room, which is ideal, is now at capacity and we are sorry but any prospective members will need to join a waiting list. <a href="mailto:french@purbecku3a.org.uk">french@purbecku3a.org.uk</a>

New Members

**Corfe Castle:** 

Ridge:

Jill & Ray Scragg

Sandford: Val Stacey Swanage:

Steve Hills
Harman's Cross:
Pat & Richard Mortimer

Sarah Wootton
Wareham:

**Rempstone:** Pauline Brassington,

Sarah Bircham Anton Hack

#### **Leonard's Quiz Corner**

Quiz Answers to Questions on <a href="Page 1">Page 1</a>:

- 1. Greek jug, so Earthenware
- 2. Brachial pressure point
- 3. True
- 4. Front legs rise first

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.

### The Purbeck U3A Committee 2014/15

Name	Position & Duties	Contact Details
Julie Seidel	Chairman; Meeting Points Organiser	Julieu3a@hotmail.com
John Hale	Vice-Chairman; Newsletter Editor; Web Liaison	u3a@greenacre.info
Ann Churchill	Business Secretary	churchillannp@gmail.com
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

Publicity: David Knott - Email: <a href="mailto:publicity@purbecku3a.org.uk">publicity@purbecku3a.org.uk</a> Membership enquiries: <a href="mailto:publicity@purbecku3a.org.uk">publicity@purbecku3a.org.uk</a>

General enquiries: Phone mobile 07564 937871

#### **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 <sup>th</sup> January
Late April	5 <sup>th</sup> April
Early August	15 <sup>th</sup> 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.

Purbeck U3A Website: www.purbecku3a.org.uk