



## ● *Chairman's Report*

Moving to a completely new area as one approaches the age of seventy is not without risk; there is a new home to be found new friendships and acquaintances to be formed and not least of all a context to be developed in which to enjoy the latter part of your life.

Lyn and I quickly discovered Purbeck U3A on our move to Wareham just over two years ago. We put our hands up to play Mah Jong and suddenly I was on the Committee and Lyn was setting up and running a Memoir Group.

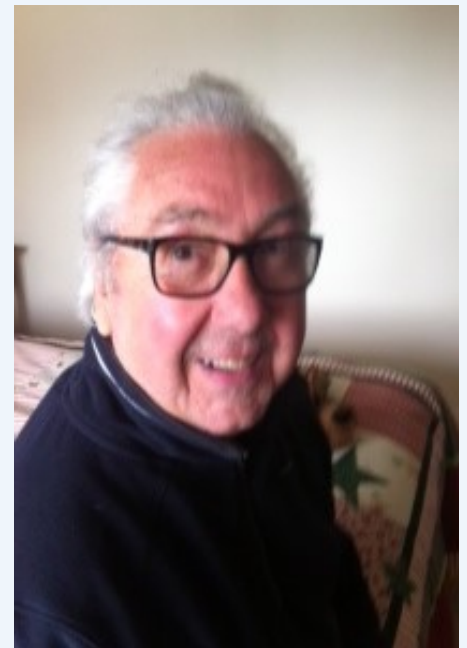
Julie, our previous Chair, mentored me as I assumed the role of Group Coordinator; this was a really steep learning curve but excellent experience in gaining an understanding of the whole of the Group structure of our U3A Community.

After two years my colleagues on the Committee have elected me as their new Chair and I have to confess to both being flattered and daunted in equal measure.

I have done Chairman roles before on Boards of Governors and the now defunct Learning and Skills Council in my local area of Bedfordshire.

My background is the hospitality industry where I was fortunate enough to travel the world in the Restaurant and Hotel Industry.

Lyn and I feel very privileged to live in Purbeck. We are still infused with a sense of wonder and excitement as we explore the varied and diverse terrain that the area offers. I don't think I will ever lose this excitement and if I have one ambition for my period of Chairmanship it is to encourage our groups to celebrate the uniqueness of the area in their wide range of activities.



*Jim McGivern*

*Jim McGivern*

## • Reflections of Past Chairman – Julie Seidel



*Julie and Bob Seidel*

No-one was more surprised than I was when I was elected Chairman of PU3A three years ago, after all, I was the new girl having only been on the committee for a year as Group Co-ordinator. I quickly had to think about what I wanted to achieve as Chairman and my aim was simple - to make a difference. Retirement can be a tricky time when you have worked all your life and suddenly have time on your hands or when you move to a new area and have to start afresh making friends – U3A can be a lifeline and I wanted to develop this in Purbeck.

Have I achieved my aim? We certainly have more members than previously and we offer more groups and a wider range of activities than previously.

Being a member of the committee has helped me to meet so many people in Purbeck. I have used my IT and interpersonal skills and I have also developed my sweeping skills as I swept the floor after every Meeting Points and it is with pleasure that I have hand over that task to someone else. I have continued to attend the Photography and French groups and I would have attended each MPs even if I wasn't on the committee and maybe I will now have time to join other groups. There was, and is, not a chance of getting bored and I have enjoyed learning for its own sake, not because I had to or to pass an exam.

Bob and I have continued to go to France regularly and it will be nice not to have to worry about what was going on with PU3A while we are away – will I be able to stop myself checking for emails? I doubt it.

*Julie Seidel*

## ● *Membership*

A very warm welcome to our new members who have joined us since the previous Bulletin in April.

### **Blandford Forum**

Julia & John Jenner

### **Corfe Castle**

Christine Kemp

### **East Holme**

Mervyn Christopher

### **Langton Matravers**

Sandra & Neville Crook

### **Norden**

Diana Bratby

### **Ridge**

Jackie Perry

### **Tincleton**

Jonathan Walsh

### **Wareham**

Paul Bibby

## ● *Membership Matters - U3A Beacon*

Those members who attended the AGM not only learnt that our membership is currently 587 but also heard about a new U3A membership database that has been developed by volunteers under the auspices of the U3A National organisation. Your committee agreed last year that Purbeck U3A should take advantage of its functionality and Bob Day completed the formalities to make this happen. This all came to fruition in March when we uploaded the Purbeck U3A membership data and I, as well as Patrick Webb our Treasurer, have been getting to grips with how we use this online system - The system has been given the name U3A Beacon – hence the image of the lighthouse.



A question was asked at the AGM about security of our data. Although we were aware the privacy issues had been fully considered, we couldn't give specific details at the time. I can report that all participating U3A's branch data is co-hosted on the same server with comprehensive security arrangements to ensure that the data of each U3A branch is effectively isolated from that of all others. Moreover, the encryption key used to encrypt sensitive data fields is different for each U3A branch. Access to U3A Beacon is only gained by means of a username and password, allocated by each local U3A branch administrator.

U3A Beacon is currently only being used by me for our Membership Applications and Renewals and by Patrick to keep control of receipts and Gift Aid. However, it does also have other functionality which we hope to roll out later in the year.

I have been experiencing numerous problems recently with emails not getting through to members from my **memsec@purbecku3a** account. Beacon should help circumvent that as *"it has its own commercial email agent to despatch messages from a dedicated IP address"*. That doesn't mean much to me except I'm advised it should eliminate the problems of emails not getting through.

E-mails originating from me and other officers of Purbeck using the Beacon system will reach you via an address of **noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk** Please add this address to your email address book and/or white list.

Emails sent by and to me using this system will appear like this in your mailbox:

**Clive Bacon via Purbeck U3A <noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk>**.

Please continue to contact me using my current email addresses:

**memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk** or **subscribe@purbecku3a.org.uk**.

We shall shortly be sending out a Broadcast inviting members to renew their membership for the twelve months commencing 1st September 2016 and these emails will reach you via the existing system we currently use for Broadcasts with which you are familiar. We may need to make a change to our memberships numbering method but all this will be advised to you in the email acknowledgement to confirm receipt of your renewal subscription. Those without email will receive details by letter.

In most other respects renewals will follow the same procedures as previous years with the annual subscription remaining at £16.00 per member, Diaries at £2.00 each and Third Age Matters at £2.20 for the year.

With apologies for all the email references I remain, Clive B(e)acon,

Membership Secretary [memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk)

## ● *News From the Groups*

### *Quiz Group*

The Quiz group meets at Corfe Library from 2-3pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, why not join them?



1. What phylum/division of animals do cuttle fish belong?
2. The painter Giorgione is famous for working in which city?
3. The first official International football match was played in 1872 between England and which other country?
4. What formula can be used for calculating the area of a circle?
5. What type of compound is Starch?

Answers on page 12



## Gardening Group

### Plant Sale



Following on from last year's successful and popular plant sale, the gardening group worked hard through a very difficult Spring to produce plants for this year's sale. April Meeting Points was blessed with a dry and sunny day and we raised £240 for Julia's House, the children's hospice in Broadstone .

Every penny raised for this worthwhile cause helps children and families through difficult times so thank you very much to all our customers and to all the group members for making this another successful sale – it's on the calendar for next year !

### Highgrove Visit

After a very good journey we arrived at Tetbury for a short break (coffee and cream cakes) Then on to Highgrove where we were inspected to make sure we were not a motley crew.

The guide made the tour very interesting explaining about the gardens, statues and various hideaways. All the gardens seemed to blend in together and it was even nice to see that Prince Charles has snails on the hostas !

In spite of the weather (it is always mentioned) hailstones and very cold, it was an excellent day out and enjoyed by all.

When our tour finished, we were taken into the restaurant and shown to our tables, reserved for us. It was all waitress service and very friendly, welcoming and delicious! Everyone commented on the reasonable cost as well! A really lovely experience.

Thanks to Chris and Patrick for organising it.

*Rita White*

## French Intermediate Group 2



The Wednesday morning French group enjoyed some delicious French cuisine at the Guildhall Tavern in Poole.

Some French was spoken ('du vin s'il vous plait', that sort of thing), but mostly it was a good social gathering.

Thanks to Sue Sides for arranging this.



## Archaeology Group

### Hengistbury Head

Usually the Archaeology group meets monthly on Friday mornings at Sandford Community Hall and listens avidly to excellent speakers who inform us on a range of archaeological topics, but on occasions we venture out to visit sites.

So, dressed in waterproofs & walking boots and armed with umbrellas, fourteen members ventured out to Hengistbury Head on April 22nd - one of the wettest days this year.

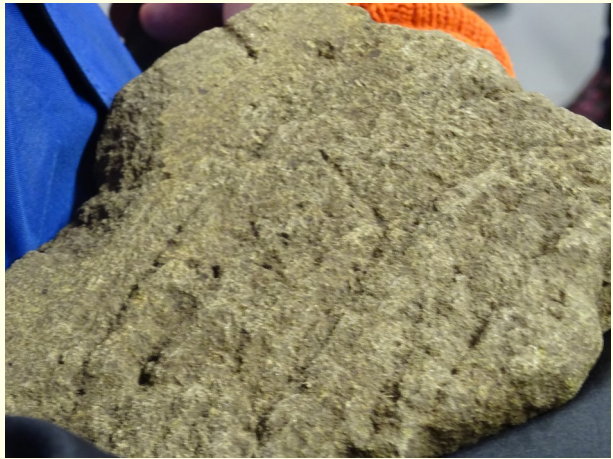


Fortified with strong coffee in the Hiker Cafe, we made our way around this spectacular site, (which can usually be seen clearly from Swanage), guided by Ben Buxton & Bryan Pople (a local archaeologist).

We learned that the area had been visited/occupied for over 12,000 years, initially by Stone Age hunter gatherers, that the local ironstone was an important resource during the Iron Age, that it was a significant port for trading with continental Europe via Cherbourg. We saw Bronze Age barrows and evidence of Iron Age settlements, and also began to shiver in the cold rain as we walked past lakes which had been quarries, through beautiful woodland, and on to the harbour shore - all havens for wildlife. We felt heroic!

Trying to imagine the past, our ancestors so busy in this area, was quite hard. As well as listening to our guides, we looked at information boards in significant places, indicating what to look at and what archaeologists have discovered about our ancestors, but vivid imaginations are required. However, when we were on the shore of the harbour, and saw evidence of old middens and actually found pieces of pottery and flint, the past began to come alive.





Once we were in the superb Visitor Centre, (which was warm and dry!), we no longer had to use just our imaginations. As well as the excellent permanent exhibitions there, we were shown and were able to touch significant recent finds by our archaeologist. Fantastic!

After an excellent lunch back at the Hiker Cafe, we drove home, but I for one am longing to revisit Hengistbury Head again - in the sunshine, please. *Pam Smith*

### *U3A Jazz Group*

The U3A Jazz group meets on the first Thursday afternoon of the month in Swanage and the sessions are a mix of listening to recordings, members talking about their jazz likes and showing DVDs of performances. When asked if there has been a particularly memorable meeting their answer was: 'Every meeting is memorable, that's why we like it so much!'



Many famous, and not so well-known, Jazz performers have been featured in recent years at the U3A sessions. Recent subjects have included Dave Brubeck, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Django Reinhardt, Ella Fitzgerald, "Trumpeters in Jazz" and a series of DVD's called 'The History of Jazz'.

We would warmly welcome new members who share our passion for jazz. We normally meet on the first Thursday of every month at the RC Hall in Rempstone Road between 2:00 to 4:00 pm.



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



## MOTO

### *Members on Their Own*

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May saw the inaugural MOTO get together at Harman's Cross attended by enthusiastic prospective members.

The meeting kicked off with Derek Monk and Sue Galise, ably assisted and advised by Group Co-ordinator Chris Bonanni, talking about how they envisaged the group taking shape. It was agreed that the minimum number of rules and regulations should apply, but as with all new ventures, certain ground rules should be laid at the start.

There was certainly no shortage of suggestions for future events – theatre trips, walks, concerts, lunch and coffee dates, boat trips, quizzes, skittles, visits to interesting and unusual places, regular social gatherings just for catch-up – all these ideas, together with many others, were thrown into the ring.

The important topic of car sharing was also discussed at length.

The Group's next meeting was at Holme Nursery for tea and a chat on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May where a very pleasant afternoon was spent with everyone looking at diaries and firming up on forthcoming activities.



A trip is planned for a visit to Moreton Church and the grave of T. E. Lawrence, followed by tea nearby on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Future plans include Skittles at the Clay Pipe in Sandford, a visit to Steeple Gardens in June, a visit to the Dorset Ancient Technology Centre for a Roman event in September, and a 50's musical at the Tivoli in November. If you are not currently a member of the Group, but would like information of planned events, please let us know ([moto@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:moto@purbecku3a.org.uk)) and we will add you to the contact list.

The Group would like to attract more men as at the present time ladies do outnumber the men. The activities planned are hopefully of equal interest to both genders. As mentioned in previous publicity, members are not expected to attend every event and can pick and choose whatever interests them.

So please, gentlemen, do think about giving the group a try.



Again, it is stressed that MOTO is not a dating or introduction agency – just a group of like-minded, friendly and sociable individuals who enjoy going out in the company of others but who are not half of a couple.

The response to the formation of MOTO has been very encouraging and underlines the need for a specialised group catering for people on their own.

It is not aimed at members whose “other halves” do not share the same interests - but exceptions will be made for those with housebound partners.

Other U3As run similar groups with great success and it is hoped that Purbeck will follow suit.

*Sue Galise*

## ● *New Groups*

### *Astronomy*



This year the Purbeck U3A Astronomy Group was a course presented by Graeme Nash that has now ended.

Graeme has kindly agreed to present his course again next year for members who would like to repeat and for any newcomers. Graeme is an inspiring teacher who presents his subject with wit and humour. No prior knowledge is needed. The course is wide ranging covering the Big Bang to the end of time, the astronomy of the ancient Greeks to the latest discoveries from the Hadron Collider.

There are 28 sessions spread over three terms. They will be held in the Sandford Community Hall, Keysworth Drive, Sandford, BH20 7BD, every Thursday starting at 3.15 pm, lasting about two hours, with a short break. The first session will be on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.

For details contact [groupcoordinator@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@purbecku3a.org.uk)

### *Short Mat Bowls*

This very popular activity is played indoors and is available all year.

Wareham has a well-attended club and is offering a 4-week introduction to Short Mat Bowling in September.

Peter Orchard, Chair of the club, welcomes any interested U3A members and should enough people want to continue, he will advise us on setting up a U3A group. This is a very sociable and quite competitive activity so why not find out more! More details about the course are on the club website [www.warehambowls.club](http://www.warehambowls.club). If you would prefer contact [newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk) and your enquiry will be forwarded to Peter

● *Coming soon* .....

Purbeck U3A  
Proudly presents

***A PROGRAMME OF COACH TRIPS!***



Starting in the autumn, we plan to run some trips to various places covering many different places of interest. Full details will feature in the next issue of the Bulletin.

In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or comments please let us know!

Contact [bulletin@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:bulletin@purbecku3a.org.uk).



● **Ask not what your U3A can do for you but what you can do for your U3A !**

Purbeck U3A is run by volunteers and has grown considerably in the past few years - we now have 570+ members!

This leads to a natural growth in the work involved in keeping the organisation running smoothly.

**Can you help please?**

We do not ask for much of your time. Most of the areas where we need help just requires a few hours on a regular basis.

**If you have experience with IT, book keeping/accountancy, media design and graphics or just a willingness to step forward – it will all help.**

● *A Note from the Treasurer*

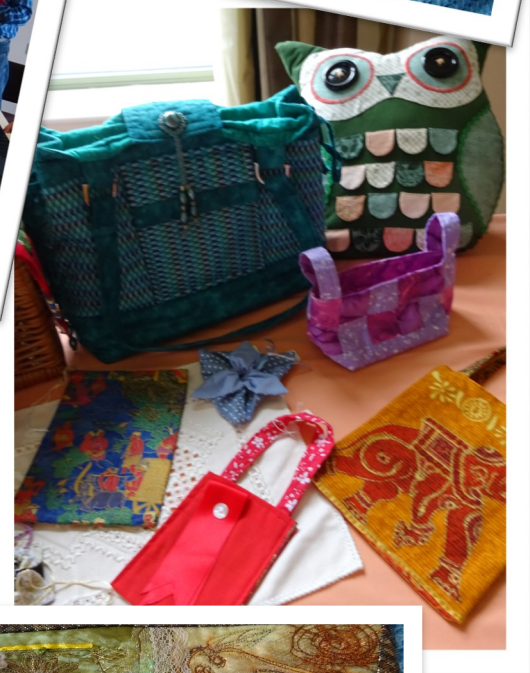
I have been asked by a member to advise others who may not be aware of the facility to transfer unused personal tax allowances.

This allows a spouse or civil partner who is not liable to income tax above the basic rate to transfer up to £1,110 of their personal allowance to their spouse/civil partner, provided that the recipient of the transfer is not liable to income tax above the basic rate.

If you were eligible for Marriage Allowance in the 2015 to 2016 tax year, you can backdate your claim to 6 April 2015.

The party surrendering their personal allowance can apply on line. [www.gov.uk/apply-marriage-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/apply-marriage-allowance)

● The AGM



## ● Meeting Points

### JUNE MEETING POINTS – It's the end of term!



This is the final Meeting Points until September, it's holiday time. Our speaker on 23 June is the Rev Stewart Timbrell who has quite a list of subjects for his talks.

Discovering Dorset – is an insight into a lot we don't know about this beautiful county. You will be surprised and amused by this very experienced speaker.

This will attract a lot of members; Stewart is quite well known. We suggest you arrange to fill your cars with other members to make parking easier for all.

We have some excellent speakers lined up for the Autumn programme and full details will be in the next edition of the Bulletin.

The Editorial Team welcomes your news contributions, suggestions, comments, tips and best b

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**Please send us your copy in WORD** [bulletin@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:bulletin@purbecku3a.org.uk)

Editorial Team: Vicki Fawke & Sue Galise

Answers to Quiz on page 4

1. Molluscs. 2.Venice. 3.Scotland. 4.Pi—r-squared(r=radius) 5. Carbohydrate.



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