



### • *Chairman's Report*

I never know how to start my piece for the Bulletin; it's always easy to do the middle and end but I always struggle to get started. However, this is the last time that I will be in this quandary as you will have a new Chairman in May whose role will include writing a piece for the Bulletin. My three years as Chairman is almost up and I have been on the Committee for four years and it has been a great experience which I have greatly enjoyed and I have met so many wonderful people here in Purbeck.

So it's a time of change and new beginnings. Perhaps you feel it is time to step up and help out (yes I'll still be asking right up to the time I leave the Committee!) and the bigger Purbeck U3A becomes then the more help is needed. Maybe you are new to the area and volunteering is a great way of meeting like-minded people. Perhaps you may think you have nothing to offer, but I am sure you do! I am a firm believer in what you give, you get back, so for those of you who don't normally volunteer, maybe you will be surprised at how you will enjoy yourself, at the friends you will make and the satisfaction you will feel knowing that you have contributed to the successful running of Purbeck U3A. To misquote JFK, *'ask not what Purbeck U3A can do for you - ask what you can do for Purbeck U3A'*.

I am pleased that Meeting Points continues to grow in popularity and we are regularly achieving audiences of around 90 members and on a couple of occasions we have exceeded 100. The Committee members are usually in attendance so do come along and meet them and show them your support.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on 19 May and following the business of the day, which we try to keep as brief as possible, our new Singing group will be giving their first performance and I know they are working very hard to ensure the success of this event.

To end, I would like to thank all the members for their support during my time as Chairman and, in particular, the Committee members who work tirelessly to ensure that Purbeck U3A is up to date, lively and relevant, meeting the needs of our many members. I know that I am leaving your U3A in good hands. *Julie Seidel*



### *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Cliff and Sheila Watters.

They are two of the Purbeck Volunteers of the Year for their work in Wareham St Martin. Well done both of you.

## ● Membership

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

### **Harmans Cross**

Andrew Langley

### **Langton Matravers**

Celia Mullen

### **Poole**

Barbara Holtom

### **Ridge**

Jan Heath

### **Swanage**

Lynne Castle

Ann & Malcolm Emery

Jenny Huntley

Hilary Seal

Wendy Smith

Ann Yeates

### **Stoborough**

Sue & Ray Reed

## ● News From The Groups

### *Purbeck U3A Wine Appreciation Group*



We meet at Harmans Cross on the third Monday of each month (September – June). We taste and discuss wines of all types and wine lovers at every level of experience are welcome – we have many beginners who enjoy our sessions.

Each meeting is themed. This season a blind tasting of sparkling wines was followed by wines chosen to go with specific foods.

Ralph Hochar discussed his legendary Musar Lebanese wines – we tasted six of them.

We ended 2015 with a joint meeting with the U3A Pudding Cub – “Just Desserts”. The Pudding Club provided the desserts, and we provided wines to match!

2016 started with a Rioja tasting and in February we were privileged to have a talk on Burgundies by Keith Hawkins, from Oriel College, Oxford, who had raided the Oriel cellar on our behalf.

Another food/wine matching session will be followed by a talk on Yalumba wines (the founder was born in Wareham) and a presentation of Italian wines by Jonathan Charles of the Dorset Wine Company.

Many of the wines we tasted were recommended by “Wotwine” – a site that reviews supermarket wines and scores them for value. Wotwine is available as an App that can be loaded onto your smartphone – you can then scan the barcode of wines in the supermarket and see what they say – often highly informative

We have space for new members. If you would like any more information please feel free to contact me. [wine@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:wine@purbecku3a.org.uk) *Gordon MacPherson*

## The History and Contemporary Affairs Discussion Group



Before the Days of Purbeck U3A we worked on the principle that, if a group which interested you did not exist you created yourself. So the Discussion Group was started about 25 years ago.

It was advertised in the "Swanage Advertiser" with the date and subject of the next meeting and people just came along. Others joined through word of mouth or by invitation. Over the years membership changed as people left the district or dropped out for various reasons.

When the "Advertiser" ceased to give the subject of the meeting and we could no longer recruit members as we had done, I thought to let it die a natural death. However, remaining members asked me to restart it. We decided that the only way to do it was to offer it as a group for U3A.

The meetings are sometimes introduced by an outside speaker or a member of the group or a topic is given in advance for discussion. The meetings are lively and friendly and there is respect for different points of view.

We now have space for a few more members and we should like to invite you to join us.

Perhaps you would like to make an initial enquiry by contacting me at [discussion@purbecku3a](mailto:discussion@purbecku3a)

*Diana Morgan*



## Mah Jong Group

The Mah Jong Group now meets at Harmans Cross Village Hall on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 2.00 pm until about 4.30.

We are a sociable group of about twenty players who take the game seriously and play competitively but at the same time enjoy the lively and friendly atmosphere.

We have space for more members to join the group – either experienced players or complete novices.

If you would like to learn Mah Jong or know more about it why not come along to one of our meetings for a taster session – if there is enough interest we plan on having a beginners table at each meeting so new players will be able to learn at their own speed.

Interested ? – contact Clive Bacon, Group Leader at [mahjong@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:mahjong@purbecku3a.org.uk)

# Creative Photography Group



The invention of digital photography has opened up the possibility for everyone to carry a camera, most commonly nowadays in the form of a mobile phone or tablet. Point, shoot and share!

The creative potential of digital photography, however, greatly exceeds that of the simple 'snapshot'. Modern cameras have been designed so that the 'auto' setting will produce acceptable images on most occasions. If your aim is to improve the quality of your images from merely acceptable to compelling, then you need to move away from the 'auto' setting and take charge of your camera using the various controls provided. In the days of film, photographers would spend a lot of time in the darkroom perfecting their printed images. Nowadays, most of us have a digital-darkroom in the form of a computer or tablet. Image-editing software allows you to be more creative and to move closer to the type of image you wish to create.

At the Creative Photography group we aim to explore the various technical and artistic aspects of digital photography through talks, workshops and projects. We also look at the work of master photographers, via videos and the Internet, so that we may learn from their artistic and technical expertise.

*The last project of the creative Photography Group -*



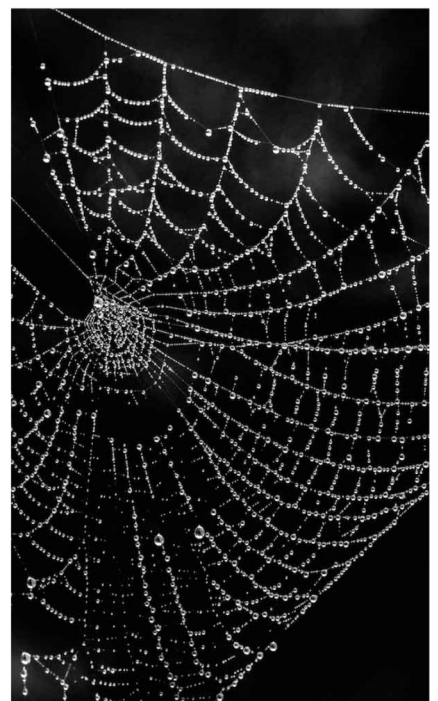
Butterfly JS



*"Patterns in Nature"* Shell JJ



Marks on fence panel CB



Spiderweb AS



**Opening flower** CB



**Pattern in trunk section** CB

If you are interested in taking your photography to the next level come and join us. We welcome both experienced and novice photographers.

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Room of Harmans Cross Village Hall between 10:00 am and 12:00 midday. [photography@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:photography@purbecku3a.org.uk) *Tony Smith*



## *Creative Textiles*

One day in January we were visited by Colonel Lobb and Lady Katherine of the Napoleonic Association.



Colonel Lobb, a member of the General Staff is very fortunate in that his good lady is such a skilled seamstress. Lady Katherine, or Kate as she is known to her friends, makes not only her own costumes but also those of the Colonel.

Kate arrived wearing a green jacket, matching skirt and warm bonnet, so ideal for the cool winter's day and much more practical than her pale green pelisse and Oldenbury bonnet.



The pelisse, an over garment of expensive material and designed to fit perfectly, is buttoned throughout and always worn with a matching bonnet, preferably an Oldenbury.

The Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna of Russia, Duchess of Oldenbury, in the 1870s, along with her brother the Tsar, visited London wearing such a feathered creation – it was an instant success copied by all the great ladies of the land. And Kate, being a lady of such an exalted regiment simply had to make one.

Ladies, as Kate revealed to us, wore a number of layers of clothing during the Napoleonic Period. Like everyone else the first under-garment was a white cotton shift followed by a corset, essential to form the figure needed to wear low cut dresses; a petticoat and then a dress appropriate to the time of day. It was deemed to be important to have a collection of day and afternoon dresses and more than one ball gown – if one could afford it! Stockings and garters were always worn as were gloves - for a lady could not be seen to have rough care worn hands. Dress fabrics could be fine lawn, cotton, heavy cottons especially for women of the lower orders, velvet, wool, silk or brocade.

Gloves or mittens were long and tight fitting and hats as extravagant as fashion or taste dictated. Kate can be seen in this picture buttoning up her crocheted mittens whilst wearing one of her favourite day dresses of blue lawn.



In constructing costumes Kate likes to be as authentic as possible acquiring fabrics, patterns and trimmings wherever they are to be found. She tries to use sewing techniques of the period which means that there is much hand sewing especially when dealing with thick military fabric and braid. Accessories, such as bags, gloves and trimmings are also put together using traditional methods.

Towards the end of the morning Colonel Lobb, or Adrian to his friends, returned to model some of his uniforms. Owing to his exalted position gold braid is very much in evidence. The fit and style of the uniform enhance his military bearing and directly relate to his rank.

This visit of the Colonel and Lady Katherine was a real treat for us – the costumes wonderful, the information about the Napoleonic Period fascinating and Kate's skills absolutely inspiring.

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

*Kathleen Doyle*

## Wareham Book Group



One of my priorities when I moved to Dorset to enjoy a more relaxing way of life in retirement was to join a book group as reading for me is one of the most important and stimulating pleasures in life.

Various newspaper articles, since the advance of the internet, have highlighted authors' concerns regarding internet killing off serious novels. For example, Tim Parks, author of *Nemesis* stated in 2010: 'The concentration, the focus, the solitude, the silence, all the things that are required for serious reading are not within people's reach anymore.'

We have just read 'Pompeii' by Robert Harris. Coincidentally, participants in some recent research conducted by Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia were scanned for a total of 19 days with MRI scanners and for nine of those days they read 30 pages of 'Pompeii'. The researchers found 'heightened connectivity' in several areas of their brains on those days. The temporal cortex, which is associated with receptivity for language, and the central sulcus, the primary sensory motor region of the brain, were particularly heightened.

Guidelines are issued to help people in reviewing each book if they want them. We read a variety of titles, occasional classics, biographies, certainly not 'chick-lit', set in various parts of the world, some in the present, some in the past.

Because we are bookworms anyway, we usually meet for a coffee and book chat in the months when there isn't a formal meeting. I took over this group in 2010, people have come and gone, but we are now full with ten keen readers as that is the maximum number of copies per title the Dorset library service issues to their hundreds of book groups.

*Theresa Cook*

We currently have three book groups, based in Wareham, Ridge and Swanage. Each is different depending on the interests and preferences of the members.

If you are interested in joining a book group there may be sufficient numbers to start a fourth one. If you would be happy to lead it, even better!

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



## Wanted – A Piano Man (Or Lady)!

The Singing for Pleasure group is fast developing and Rod Brassington, their leader, is spending more time on conducting the choir.

Would you like to join this group and play the piano for them?

It would be a great help and you will enjoy being part of this friendly bunch.

Contact [singing@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:singing@purbecku3a.org.uk) to find out more.





## Philosophy

The Purbeck U3A Philosophy group has been running for nearly three years now. It is an ad-hoc informal meeting of people with no philosophy training but who have a common interest in the eternal questions.

- What is this thing called life?
- Does life have any meaning?
- Why are we here?
- Do we only exist in our own consciousness?
- Why do we think and behave as we do?
- Is life all a dream? Etc Etc

The format so far has been that we choose a topic and all members do some prior reading for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

To date we have discussed the Greek, Roman, Medieval and pre-enlightenment philosophical schools and also more wide ranging subjects like the philosophy of advertising and the origins/meaning/relevance of religion. Latterly we have looked at some modern philosophical thinking by considering the novels of Camus and Sartre (existentialism) and even more recently the works of Carl Marx.

The group has become rather disorganised recently mainly due to the lack of a reliable venue but we now have procured the small committee room at Sandford Community Hall and expect to hold meetings there in future at 10.00 AM on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

The group is currently looking for new members, for details and further information please email *Alan Bagley* [philosophy@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:philosophy@purbecku3a.org.uk)

## Gardening Group's Summer Trips



We have three coach trips arranged for this summer and places are available.

1. **RHS Wisley 12 May:** Gardening Group is now an accredited member of the RHS and this entitles us to entry at a special price. These gardens are really beautiful and, whatever your interest, offer something for everyone. Landscape, trees, roses, perennials, etc plus trials areas and glasshouse plants. Contact either Chris [gardening@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@purbecku3a.org.uk) or Patrick Webb [purbecktreasurer@aol.com](mailto:purbecktreasurer@aol.com) for further information. We need a firm booking by **April Meeting Points** for this trip.
2. **National Trust Mottisfont 23 June:** This garden is famed for its National Collection of roses and we are visiting at the peak of the flowering season. National Trust members have free entry to both the gardens and the house with its art work by Rex Whistler. Again, more information as above. Bookings would be required by **mid May**.
3. **Hestercombe, Somerset, Friday 8 September:** Superb late summer flowering, classic landscapes and a lot more.

Please email me at [gardening@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@purbecku3a.org.uk) and I will send you a copy of our newsletter.

*Chris Bonanni*





# THE GREAT SPRING PLANT SALE At MEETING POINTS



**28 APRIL**

Following last year's successful sale, we are doing it again!  
This year all money raised is going to

**Julia's House**

the children's hospice in Corfe Mullen.

We will have a good selection of

**seedlings, young plants and potted up perennials**  
plus lots of others.

If you have any plants you would like to donate, we are very happy to arrange collection, email [gardening@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@purbecku3a.org.uk)

Bring your own bags, we look forward to seeing you on the **28<sup>th</sup>**.



## ● *New Groups*



### **MOTO**

*(Members On Their Own)*

We are always looking for new ideas and our research has shown that many U3As have formed groups for members who are on their own.

In response to some of our members' suggestions, it was felt there is a need for a group within Purbeck U3A aimed at people on their own who may not have opportunities to meet and socialise with others in the same situation. The aim would be to promote friendship and provide company.

What we are proposing is the formation of a group which would meet on a regular basis for trips, visits, lunches, walks, etc., or simply just for coffee and a chat. Ideally, the plan would be for each member to take a turn to organise an event which would share the load and would also mean a more diverse range of ideas. However, we appreciate that not everyone is an organiser by nature, so please do not let this put you off. You can suggest coffee venues or help in other ways. Also, it would not be expected that every member attends every event – you could pick and choose.

To quote one U3A – “We feel that we have alleviated loneliness for a lot of people”.

If you would like to register your interest in the formation of a MOTO group in Purbeck U3A, please contact :

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

If there is sufficient interest, we will arrange an informal get together at a mutually agreeable time and venue where we can all have a say and throw ideas into the mix to decide how best to run the group.

## More New Groups

We have had a lot of requests for two specific new groups – film appreciation and book groups.

- **Film Appreciation:** Sue Galise will host an informal meeting for all of you interested in this. This will be to discuss the format for this group and how interested members see it developing. Sue has put together a list of topics to go through and the end result should be the start of a very interesting group. Please email Sue [newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk) She will arrange a date and venue for this.
- **Book Groups:** There is a lot of interest in book groups. All the existing groups are full but there is room for as many as needed. There is a limit on numbers for each group, both for the number of copies of each book available and also to maintain the right atmosphere. Please email me – [newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk) – I will arrange a meeting for us all, together with a group leader from one of the established groups who will go through the 'how to' of starting a book group.
- **Music!** This is a request from one of our newer members and it sounds like a very good idea. She is a musician and now has no one else to play with – badly phrased, sorry! However there are probably quite a few members who would welcome the opportunity to bring their instruments out to play! If this is something you would like to talk about informally let me know. It doesn't matter which instrument you play or whatever your taste in music, I feel sure that something interesting could come out of this. It only takes three to form a trio – the symphony orchestra make take some time.

To register your interest or find out more about any of these proposed groups, please just send me an email – [newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:newgroups@purbecku3a.org.uk)

*Chris Bonanni*

## ● Meeting Points

Meeting Points is the Monthly Meeting for all members of Purbeck U3A held at Harmans Cross Village Hall on the morning of the fourth Thursday in the month (except July, August and December).



New members are especially welcome - just let us know at the door that it's your first visit and we'll help with introductions.

**28 April 2016**

*David Knott*

**Beautiful Bali - The Island of the Gods**

**26 May 2016**

*Dr Peter Down*

**Dorset County Museum**

Past, present, and future

**23 June 2016**

*Rev. Stewart Timbrell*

**Discovering Dorset**

*A humorous insight into Dorset*

## **Parking At Meeting Points**

Meeting Points are attracting more members. This is really good news – we have a lively audience and very interesting speakers.

This has led to an overflowing car park but there is a way to improve the situation. Full cars would mean fewer cars, hopefully. If members can share their cars with others who come to Meeting Points – take it in turns maybe – it should make it easier for everyone.

Why not speak to other members who live near you or arrange to pick up on the way?

## ● *National U3A*



### *Exclusive study day for U3A members at the National Gallery*

The Age of Baroque - spectacle and style

The National Gallery Collection

June 2nd 11am - 3.30pm - £18 per ticket

Following the success of our joint ventures exploring paintings in the National Gallery's Collection both chronological and thematically, the National Gallery is delighted to be hosting another U3A study day which will focus upon the 17th century Baroque style in Italy, Spain, France and the Netherlands. This follows on from the study days on Italian and Northern Renaissance paintings

The meeting will introduce key themes and concepts, functions, chronology and techniques. The day will provide you with a well-rounded experience of various and fascinating aspects of the age of Baroque.

Join National Gallery experts for a baroque extravaganza. Enjoy a feast for the eyes, from the courtly splendour of works by Rubens and Van Dyck, to the light, darkness and drama of Rembrandt and Caravaggio's revolutionary paintings.

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=5a3b56c38b&e=e7e4e3926a>

The Editorial Team welcomes your news, suggestions, comments, tips and best buys.

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

**Publication Date**

Late June

Late August

Late October

**Deadline for copy**

30th May

30th July

30th September

Editorial Team: Yvonne Hunter and Vicki Fawke

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Registered Charity No 1075432



- Finally – Don't forget your AGM !

**PURBECK**  
**U3A**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
**Annual General Meeting**

**to be held at 2.00pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**at Harmans Cross Village Hall**

At the AGM the new Committee will be elected for your U3A.

Are you prepared to join the Committee or nominate someone else ?

In either case please complete and **return a Nomination Form by 30th April.**

**The Nomination Form is on the AGM notice on the Purbeck U3A website.**

Showcasing some of our Purbeck U3A activities

Following the business meeting, you will be able to enjoy a performance by our new

**Singing Group**



and view a display of creative work produced by

the **Photography, Creative Textiles and Painting** Groups

which will be on show in the Hall.

**Tea and Coffee and will be provided. This event is for members only.**

