

Purbeck



Registered Charity No. 1075342

August 2013

Newsletter

Designed to keep you in touch

Welcome to Our New Style Newsletter!

New Committee Elected at AGM

Harman's Cross Village Hall, the exceptionally well equipped meeting hall built just three years ago and centrally placed between Wareham and Swanage, was the venue this year for the Annual General Meeting of Purbeck U3A held on Thursday 16th May 2013.

The meeting was well attended and was preceded by a sandwich lunch provided by the organisation for Group Leaders as thanks for all the vital work they do during the year. The Group Leaders, who seldom meet due to group activities taking place often simultaneously and at different venues, discussed matters of mutual interest lead by Chairman, Nigel Tennant.

Purbeck U3A members then started to arrive for the AGM to be held at 14:30 but were first entertained by a display of paintings from the Painting group and, at the other end of the hall, by projected photographs taken by the Creative Photography group.

The AGM itself, which took about an hour and was again lead by outgoing Chairman Nigel Tennant, concluded by electing the Committee for the year 2013-14 (details [back page](#)) and by presentations to Janet Clark, who is leaving the committee after having

been our Secretary and Newsletter Editor for the past eight years, and to Nigel himself who (to comply with Section 7 of our Constitution) has to resign as Chairman as he has completed his statutory three years in the post. The picture above, taken by Tony Smith, records the occasion.



At the meeting of the new Committee which followed the AGM, Julie Seidel was proposed, seconded and elected as the new Chairman for Purbeck U3A. She introduces herself (for those who don't know her) and sets out her aims for the following year on [page 3](#).



← So what are these members of the Creative Photography Group expectantly waiting to see?

Please turn to [Page 6](#) to find out!

Purbeck U3A Open Days

Wed 21st Aug - Wareham Town Hall 10 - 12 noon

Wed 28th Aug - Swanage Mowlem 10 - 12 noon

From the Editor...

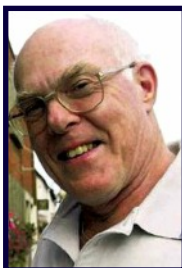
This August issue of the *Purbeck U3A Newsletter* has been completely redesigned to be informative and easy to use and will be a quarterly publication from now on. The months of publication, and deadlines, may be seen on the [back page](#). Also on the back page you will be able to find details of the new Committee, including names and the duties of Committee members, together with their contact information.

If you are looking at the PDF version, you will have the advantage of seeing the Newsletter in full colour as well as being able to click on the many [blue](#) links provided to send emails, view external web sites and even jump to other pages within the publication. We urge all members who

have computers and broadband to view in this way. For those who don't, we have a black and white printed version for you to see - but you will be missing out on all these extra features!

This year our new Chairman (I am old fashioned, and use the term generically) is Julie Seidel who also retains her role as Group Co-ordinator, a post she held on last year's Committee to great effect. Patrick Webb retains his role as our excellent Treasurer. I shall keep my Web Liaison role but have moved over from being Vice-Chairman to being Newsletter Editor, an important job excellently done by Janet Clark until her retirement from the Committee this year. The other Committee members have joined Julie, Patrick and me and were elected at the AGM in May. It is good to have new talent in the running of Purbeck U3A and I am sure members will join me in welcoming them all.

A very important task for all Committee members is to raise the profile



Newsletter Editor: John Hale
Email: newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk

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

Committee Members:
Norma Foster Julia Haworth

(Committee contact details on back page)

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

of the organisation in order to make members of the public aware of the huge benefits of joining the U3A with its diverse range of group activities in the Purbeck area.

One way we can achieve this is by means of our annual Open Days which are held in the month of August each year. Most Group Leaders as well as Committee Members, will be on hand this year between 10am and midday on Wednesday 21st August in Wareham Corn Exchange and again a week later on the 28th in the Mowlem, Swanage. It being that time of year for you to renew your subscription (still only £16 per year!) the Treasurer and Membership Secretary will also be on hand to issue you with your new Membership Card and Number.

A poster, which advertises the Open Days, is available to members as a PDF file to print off for display in A4 size and also there is a smaller A5 flyer of similar design.

I hope to be introducing some new features in future issues of the *Purbeck U3A Newsletter* and a Letters to the Editor page for all your burning thoughts regarding Purbeck U3A, its Groups and its Organisation – or anything else you may wish to write in about! If you have any suggestions as to the sort of articles you want to see in your Newsletter, please write to me at newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk

Finally, with it now being the height of the holiday season, please enjoy the warm weather but be aware that there are countless vehicles about whose drivers are not used to our small lanes and more leisurely way of life here in beautiful Dorset!

The next issue of the Newsletter will be out in November ... we'll see you then with more topics and information!

John Hale
Newsletter Editor

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U3A Membership Subscriptions Are Now Due!

Still only £16!

Renewals are due before 1st September 2013

Forms have been sent out with our June Newsletter, but may be obtained from Purbeck U3A website. www.purbecku3a.org.uk, or the Membership Secretary. **2014 diaries** and subscription to The Third Age Trust Magazine, *Third Age Matters* may be ordered on the enrolment form.

Please note if you have provided an email address this *Purbeck U3A Newsletter* will only be available online and by Broadcast email attachments unless you tick the box on the form to receive a paper copy delivered to you.

Even easier: pay online or set up standing order with your bank (no need to complete and post an enrolment form for this unless you are a new member).

Payment to: **Purbeck U3A A/c No. 72007648 Sort Code 60-22-45**

If paying by online banking or standing order please notify Purbeck U3A by means of a confirmatory email of the total amount, the date paid and member(s) name(s). Address confirmation email to subscribe@purbecku3a.org.uk



Purbeck U3A

Chairman's Report



I was very honoured to be elected Chairman at the Committee meeting following the AGM in May whilst also retaining my Group Co-ordinator role. Other Committee members also elected (whose details you will see on the [back page](#)) are proving to be a great team who are working hard to support Purbeck U3A in achieving its aims. To remind you, these aims are to advance the education of those people, no longer in full time gainful employment, in Purbeck and the surrounding area and to provide facilities for leisure and recreational activities for them. However we still have vacancies on the Committee and we are able to co-opt members at any stage. If you feel you have skills that would be useful and if you would like to join a team of like-minded people to promote our aims, we would love to hear from you.

We hope you will like our new-look Newsletter which we are hoping will include more information for you about our groups and what is happening in Purbeck U3A. John Hale is Editor and if you would like to make a contribution to your Newsletter at any time do get in touch with him by writing to him at newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk. Also, we feel that we need to develop our Publicity so that all people who are eligible to join Purbeck U3A know about us and what we do and, to this end, Charles Miller, Vice Chairman, has taken on responsibility for this. You may have already seen us using the Lions Beach Hut in Swanage one afternoon to promote U3A and again at The Quay at Wareham Carnival.

I would like to see us developing some short and all-day Outings offered to you all. Would you like to join a team of people to organise these? Please email me at julieu3a@hotmail.com if you're interested.

This Newsletter also includes a current Group List and you may find a new group that you would like to join from well over 40 available. Contact the Leader by email for further details or telephone the contact number. I am delighted to inform you that we have a Philosophy group starting in September and this will meet fortnightly in Wareham. We have a committed and hard-working group of Leaders who are keen to share their knowledge and expertise with you and they will be pleased to hear from you and supply you with details of their group. Why not try a new group this year - perhaps the Book Group to gently stretch your mind or Tai Chi to gently stretch your body?

We are keen to extend the range of groups we run and ideas for future groups are Astronomy, Scrabble, Backgammon, Bus Pass Travellers, Boules, Quiz, Genealogy, Gardening, Beginners French, Beginners Italian, Digital Electronics and Latin. If you are interested in any of these, have any other ideas or if you could lead a group, please let me know.

Meeting Points is our very successful social morning, with a talk, that meets monthly at Harmans Cross Village Hall. The talks have been fascinating and it's a great chance to meet other members in a friendly environment. Come along - you will be made most welcome!! Info: www.meetingpoints.purbecku3a.org.uk

I am very pleased to inform you that Clive Bacon (Membership Secretary) was co-opted onto the Committee at our meeting in July. I welcome him to the committee and look forward to working with him.

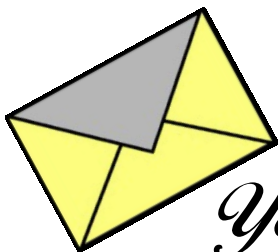
Finally, the Committee is working on your behalf to meet our aims and if you have any comments or queries or feel that you could help us, do please get in contact (for all contact details, please see [back page](#)).

I shall look forward to meeting you at Meeting Points or during the year at various group meetings.

Julie Seidel, Chairman & Group Co-ordinator

U3A Diary 2014

Diaries will be available on a first come, first served basis at £2 each at Open Days and Meeting Points and from The Treasurer



Please send messages to:
newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk

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

Your Letters & Emails

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

It seems I have the honour of writing the first letter to the new Letters page, so here goes ...

When we first moved down here after retiring, I saw the U3A as providing some interesting diversions to our fairly busy family life and many interests. I was viewing it from a personal point of view and not really thinking of what other people thought of the organisation

However that changed when I joined the committee, and certainly during my time as chairman, when I came to realise just how varied our members view is of what the U3A means to them and what they want from it.

I think it tries hard - and mostly succeeds - in providing a wide variety of opportunities, whether by way of the enjoyment of passing on skills and knowledge, simply absorbing information or taking part in activities.

However I've come to the view its most important activity is as a social network. For the self contained this may not be relevant but for many it's a real opportunity to meet other people and maybe make new friends or at least friendly contacts. This is especially so for those who have lost a partner or who find it difficult to make the effort to get out - the group, whatever its actual purpose, provides the perfect 'excuse'. I think we as an organisation need to make much more of this aspect.

Perhaps you don't agree, but either way perhaps this is the sort of subject that the new "Your Letters" page is designed for.

Nigel Tennant

(now an ordinary member!)

So what do readers think? Ed.

We are going to start an Outings Group ...

If you are interested in joining please let us have your name, telephone number and email address. Please also state any particular areas of interest you may have (e.g. gardens) or any particular venues you would like to visit.

We are looking at both day trips and two, three and five day tours. One of the difficulties in arranging Outings is in communicating possible trips to the membership as they are likely to be in between publications of the Newsletter and often need to be confirmed at short notice.

Therefore any possible outings would be notified to those members who have joined the group and only booked if sufficient numbers express interest. Then if time allowed, would be offered to the rest of the membership either as an email broadcast or in the Newsletter.

If you are interested please contact me at:

purbecktreasurer@aol.com

... or any member of the committee.

Patrick Webb, Treasurer

Raspberry Pies

Dear Editor

Everyone knows the pleasures of PYO strawberries and raspberries. But have you heard of the Raspberry Pi? This is a small credit-card size computer board that can be bought for £32. You have to supply your own display (TV), keyboard and mouse but there is no limit to what you can do with it - programme it, play music tracks, design graphics, surf the web and play games (which you can design yourself!). The possibilities are endless
See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raspberry_Pi

This is an open invitation to anyone in Purbeck U3A who might be interested in forming a group to configure and programme a Pi to carry out tasks. My particular interest is data logging and digital control using an input/output board. Somerton U3A, near Yeovil, already have a group that's working on controlling a robot arm with a Pi

<http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=123&page=24608>

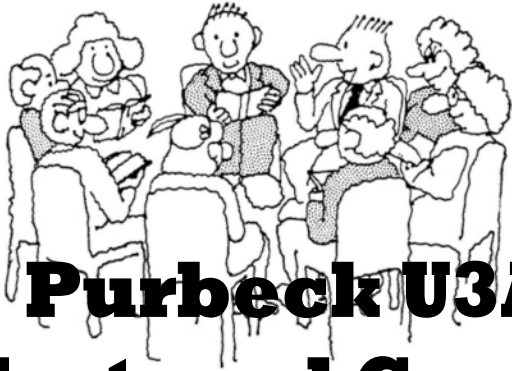
If you are interested in working with others on this do get in touch with me at swanboots@macks.org.uk or perhaps see me at the Open Days?

Ian Mackenzie (Swanage)

Can You Help? By serving refreshments at our

Open Days: 21st and/or 28th August

Please contact a committee member if you can



Purbeck U3A Featured Group

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!

In This Issue: Creative Photography

By Group Leader Tony Smith



Digital photography has opened the doors for everyone to become a photographer, and to discover, enjoy and record the world around us. The ease, fun, and satisfaction of truly instant digital photography have made us all photographers. In fact, most of us nowadays carry a camera in the form of a mobile phone or tablet. Point, shoot and share!



However, few of us take full advantage of the amazing range of possibilities that digital photography has to offer. The jargon of digital photography can be off putting and it is tempting to leave the camera on the fully automatic setting. However, if you spend time getting to know your camera's controls and experimenting with the various settings, you'll quickly see an improvement in the quality of your images.

Although digital photography has simplified the technical aspects of taking photographs, it has done little to help us in the composing of photographs. The ability to see the potential for a strong picture and then

organise the graphic elements into a compelling composition is a key skill in making photographs. This skill can be learned through practice and looking at the work of other photographers. For creative images, with maximum quality, you will also want to use basic (or more advanced) image-editing software that will enhance your images considerably.

- Are you photographically challenged?
- Are you sometimes/frequently dissatisfied with the quality of your images?
- Do you wish to move beyond 'point and shoot'?
- Do you wish to take creative control of your camera and produce compelling, powerful and beautiful images?

At the Creative Photography group (meetings third Tuesday monthly at Harman's Cross Village Hall) we aim to explore the various technical and artistic aspects of digital photography

through talks, workshops and projects. Members are encouraged to explore the potential of their cameras. Submitting selected images for group discussion is a valuable way to advance our photographic skills. New members are most welcome. Come and join us on our photographic journey.

For full details take a look at our website at: www.photography.purbecku3a.org.uk

Some Creative Photography Group Photos ...



Photos by (left to right):
John Hale, Colin Barber,
Tony Smith & Sylvia Tennant

NEWSLETTERS

We currently have a membership of around 492 people of whom approximately 410 have access to email. However we have been printing and delivering around 260 copies of our Newsletter. This obviously is costly in both funds and time for other members to deliver them.

Now that we have our new-look Newsletter which is double the previous size and in colour too, our plan is that if we have your email address then you will receive your Newsletter as an attachment to one of our regular Broadcasts. This will enable us to maintain a low subscription rate for as long as possible. However if you wish to continue to receive a black & white hard copy please email Clive Bacon at: memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk.

As previously, the Newsletter will be available to view on the website and those with no access to email will receive their Newsletter as usual.

U3A K9 Walks

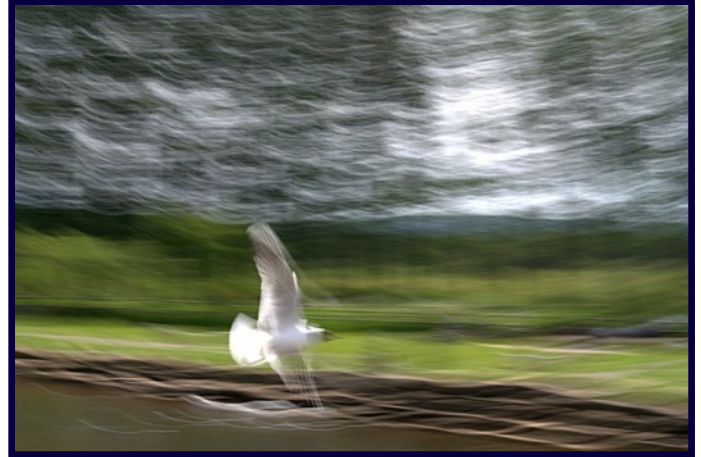
We are a group of walkers with dogs (currently approx 9) who like to walk and socialise on a monthly basis (third Thursday morning in each month starting again on September 19th). We walk for approximately 1½ hours between 10am and 12 noon from a good parking area where we can unload our pets in safety and try to walk where there are few farm animals and well away from cliffs. This is not always possible so the dogs should have good recall and be well controlled! We sometimes park in an area with a café and often stop for a coffee during or at the end of the walk. Good walking boots, sticks, leads etc are required. We circulate the walk in advance via email to the group.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Ros Ham 01929 555295 or rosalind.ham@talk21.com.

BROADCASTS

We will be depending more and more on emails and our website to keep in touch with members and we hope that you have appreciated receiving the Broadcasts we have been mailing you this past year.

Everybody with an email address should have received these Broadcasts but if you have not received them please check to make sure they haven't ended up in your spam folder. To be certain of receiving these Broadcasts and the Newsletter in future please add noreply@purbecku3a.org.uk to your address book or 'white list'. If you would like to check that the Broadcasts will reach you send an email to noreply@purbecku3a.org.uk with the subject line ACKNOWLEDGE and we'll carry out some checks.



CONGRATULATIONS to Christine Bridson-Jones, a member of our Creative Photography Group, who had her photograph *Capturing Movement* (shown above) published in the June edition of U3A Sources Magazine.

*Welcome
New Members*

Mrs. Pam Fraser
from Church Knowle

Mr John Elsmore from Sandford

Mr. Douglas Addison from Harmans Cross

Mr Eddie & Mrs Rose McEwan from Swanage



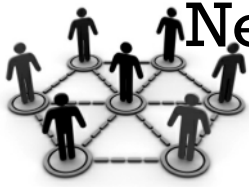
Picture Quiz from Page 1



Some members of the **Photography Group** (seen on [Page One](#)) took their cameras outside the Harman's Cross Village Hall meeting room in order to take photos of the steam train 34028 Eddystone which passed through Harman's Cross station at 1130 on Tuesday 21st May.

< Photo: John Hale

You can see more of their pictures on the **Project pages** of the group website at: www.photography.purbecku3a.org.uk



News from the Groups

Latest Updates

Science & Technology

Website: www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk
20 August (NB: Tuesday) – Summer Visit to the Purbeck Mineral & Mining Museum
18 September – Mr Adrian Harvey - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon: Knee & Hip procedures

French Improvers

New venue: Harmans Cross Village Hall
Every Wednesday 10:30am - 12pm from 11 Sept

Intermediate Computing

Website: www.computing.purbecku3a.org.uk
Note: This group will be meeting at Harman's Cross Village Hall from September

Meetings: 4th Wednesday in the month (not July, August & December), at 10:15am

Purbeck U3A Cycling Groups – new group

There will be an additional cycling group starting in September 2013. There is already a **Cycling for Softies** group, starting 10th September which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday morning of each month at 10am for approximately two hours of gentle sociable rides in the more flat areas of the Purbecks. An intermediate group **Leisure Cycling**, for people who want greater challenges, will start on 3rd September then the first and third Tuesday of each month starting at 10am, again for approximately two hours (approx 15 miles). The original group **Cycling for Fun and Fitness** also meets every Tuesday to do rides of 20-25 miles.
Contact: Ros Ham for Softies and the Leisure groups: Email softies@purbecku3a.org.uk and David Sansom/Peter Smith for the Fun & fitness group: Email: cycling@purbecku3a.org.uk

History Group

Start Date 20th September
Venue Methodist Church Hall Wareham.
Fortnightly meetings 10:00am to 11:30.
Topics chosen and presented by group members.
1st session 20th September: History of Ireland
2nd session 4th October The Turberville Family
3rd session 18th October Mediaeval England.

Computing for Beginners and Improvers

Group has moved to the main hall at Harman's Cross, and restarts on 6th September with new beginners being especially welcome.

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

Walking Group

This year walks will be on the **2nd Monday of each month**, starting on **9th September**. You don't have to enrol for the Walking Group, just turn up, but it will help if you have your membership number with you. Please wear sensible footwear and bring gear for adverse weather conditions. With considerable regret I ask you not to bring dogs.

Walks will always start from a place where cars can be parked but do try to double up to save space and help those without private transport.

Walks all start at 10:00 am sharp so, allowing for changing time for boots etc, **please aim to arrive at about 09:50 am.**

The first walk is on **Monday 9th of September** and starts from outside St. Mary's church in Wareham.

The next walk on the **14th October** will be from the car park in West Street, Corfe Castle;

The **11th November** walk will start from outside 38 Prospect Crescent, Swanage. **David Gerry**

Sunday Lunch Club

Marion Morris would like to thank all her friends in the U3A for the cards and good wishes following her car accident back in May.

The next Lunch Club will be on Sunday 29th Sept at the Halfway Inn at 12:00 for 12:30 pm.

Would members intending to come kindly let Marion know beforehand on 554433.

Book Group 2

Wanted: Keen readers for Book Group based around Wareham. We have seven meetings a year reading worthwhile fiction (classics and contemporary by well-regarded authors). Books are provided by Wareham Library. We have a Christmas dinner and meet in each other's homes. It is enjoyable, sociable, exercises the brain and worthwhile, i.e. what a U3A group should be!

We meet first Thursday of the month 10am -12pm.
Contact Theresa Cook 07890 895681 (leave a message and I will return your call)

Meeting Points – 4th Thursday monthly:


26 September: Kimmeridge Fossil Museum team

24 October: Fracking. Charles Miller

28 November: Royal Navy presentation

Details: www.meetingpoints.purbecku3a.org.uk

Meet your new Committee ...

	Charles Miller Vice-Chairman		Patrick Webb Treasurer		John Hale Newsletter Editor	
Julie Seidel Chairman		Ann Churchill Business Secretary		Clive Bacon Membership Secretary		Julia Haworth Publicity

Not present at photo session: Norma Foster (Minutes Secretary)

The Purbeck U3A Committee 2013/14

Name	Position & Duties	Contact Details
Julie Seidel	Chairman; Group coordinator	Julieu3a@hotmail.com
Charles Miller	Vice Chairman, Publicity	cam@pampru.org
Ann Churchill	Business Secretary	ann@churchillje.plus.com
Patrick Webb	Treasurer	purbecktreasurer@aol.com
Clive Bacon	Membership Secretary	memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk
John Hale	Newsletter Editor; Web liaison	u3a@greenacre.info
Norma Foster	Minute Secretary	normafoster@live.co.uk
Julia Haworth	Publicity	juliahaworth@talktalk.net

Membership enquiries: Email: memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk
 Newsletter Distribution: Wareham: Patrick Embleton | Swanage: Connie Beasley

Newsletter Deadlines and Publication Dates

Copy to: newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk Please ask for a copy of *Guidelines for Contributors*

Publication Date	Copy submitted by
Early February	15 th January
Early May	15 th April
Early August	15 th July
Early November	15 th 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

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