

Purbeck



Registered Charity No. 1075342

November 2013

Newsletter

Designed to keep you in touch

Christmas Party 2013

Friday 6th December
from 12:30

**Furzebrook
Village Hall**

Please ...

**Bring a Plate
of Food to Share!**



Two new recruits from Carnival Day



A Summer To Remember!



Open Days, Beach Day
& Carnival Day

**A Very Happy Christmas
to All Our Readers**





From the Editor...

Welcome to the latest issue of the Purbeck U3A Newsletter – the Christmas Issue. “The Christmas Issue already?”, I hear you say! Well, yes, this issue of our Quarterly Journal will be published a few weeks before the annual Christmas Party which this year will be held on Friday 6th December at Furzebrook Village Hall.

May I extend a particularly warm welcome to all members who are new to Purbeck U3A and also thank the many existing members for rejoining for a further year. Remaining at only £16 per person per year, our membership fee has to be one of the bargains of the century!

May I also thank all the members who have been generous in their appreciative comments regarding the new layout which I now use since taking over as Newsletter Editor from the last issue which was published back in the summer heat of August.

In my capacity as Editor I have taken my camera to most of the Purbeck U3A promotional events held during the summer and have pleasure in publishing some of those images on [Page 1](#) of the current edition. I hope, for those members who were involved, that the picture montage will bring pleasant memories of the glorious weather. In particular I well remember how really hot we were on The Quay in Wareham on Carnival Day – which incidentally is where I spotted the pair of enchanting Alpacas you see on the [front page](#).

With the greater numbers of members who can receive emails these days, Purbeck U3A is actively encouraging you to read your Newsletter by downloading the PDF attachment that will accompany a broadcast email sent to you. You may also see and download the same PDF by going to our website at www.purbecku3a.org.uk

Compared with the paper copy, there are a number of advantages in viewing the electronic version of your Newsletter

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 Member:
Norma Foster

(Committee contact details on back page)

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including being able to see all the images in glorious colour; being able to increase the page size in order to see more detail in the pictures or aid easier reading of the text, and a further advantage is the ease with which you can click on web links or page links which immediately take you to the website or Newsletter page mentioned in the text. These links are always coloured **dark blue** to alert you.

Having said all this, you are of course still welcome to receive the printed version of the Newsletter if you wish and Clive Bacon, our Membership Secretary has requested that you contact him about this ASAP. He has written a short article explaining the situation lower down this page.

Don't forget to write to me with U3A news or with letters of interest to other members or if you have any ideas for making the Purbeck U3A Newsletter more useful at: newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk. I am trying to make it informative but also to include articles featuring members or groups in more depth - thanks here are due to all our contributors. I hope you will find it attractive in its new layout and a jolly good read! Please let me know if I am succeeding (or not!) at newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk

John Hale

From Clive Bacon, Membership Secretary ... memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk

As an organisation we are increasingly dependent on our website and emails for effective communications with our members. The proportion of Purbeck U3A members with Internet access is increasing the whole time and we now have over 80 per cent of our membership with an email address.

With that in mind and with a view to saving costs and being environmentally responsible we have been asking all our members who have an email address to receive their Purbeck U3A Newsletter by email. Many members have already agreed to this for which we thank you.

There are quite a few members with an email address on our records who might not be aware that we shall be discontinuing the delivery of a paper copy to them. If you fall into this category and still wish to receive a paper copy it is imperative that you contact me in the next couple of weeks. I'll be interested in knowing the reasons for requiring future paper issues and a short email message to me is all that is needed.

Please note: The delivery of Third Age Matters to those who subscribe is not changing.

Every member, where we have an email address on record, was sent both the June and the August newsletters electronically as part of our General Mailings. If you didn't receive these please check your spam folder or contact me. If you wish to notify a change of email address or to check that I have your email address correct please write to memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk.

If you haven't yet used the Internet or email, have you thought about going on a course? We have our own course of Computing for Beginners and Improvers which will help you to get started. Call the dedicated Purbeck U3A helpline on 07564 937871

Contents

[Front Page](#) ... Publicity Days
[Page 2](#) ... Editorial
[Page 3](#) ... Chairman's Report
[Page 4](#) ... Technology Group
[Page 5](#) ... Walking Group
[Page 6](#) ... The Capons
[Page 7](#) ... Group News
[Back page](#) ... Directory



Purbeck U3A



Chairman's Report



What an encouraging start to the new U3A year! To date we have 387 returning members and 61 new members. I would like to give a warm welcome to all new and returning members and hope that you enjoy your membership of Purbeck U3A. I shall look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the various groups, Meeting Points or at our Christmas Lunch.

Membership renewal time has kept Patrick Webb, our Treasurer, and Clive Bacon, our Membership Secretary very busy for the past few weeks and I would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment to Purbeck U3A. As you'd expect the majority of our members come from the vicinity of Wareham and Swanage but we also attract members from as far afield as Weymouth, Dorchester, Bournemouth and all the smaller towns and villages in between.

It's good to feel a part of a thriving organisation - we must be doing something right! We are indebted to the hard working Group Leaders who keep the Purbeck U3A vibrant and stimulating. They are unpaid and yet put so much time and effort into leading their groups. It is encouraging that we now have 41 active groups (plus Meeting Points) meeting on a regular basis. I am delighted that we have three new groups (Quiz, Spanish and Philosophy) which started in September and all three have been well supported by members. I am pleased that we are able to support the volunteers who are now running Corfe Castle library by holding our Quiz and Philosophy groups there.

We have other ideas for new groups and we want to instigate Shared Learning Projects with local organisations but unfortunately, due to time pressures, I (as Group Co-ordinator) am unable to progress these ideas. Would you like to take on the role of Development Co-ordinator? You would need to be enthusiastic, on email and IT literate – do get in touch with me if you are interested.

There are also the other helpers whose efforts often go unheard and unseen - like those thirty newspaper boys and girls who have been delivering the Purbeck U3A Newsletters to your doorstep. It's no easy matter distributing these to an area as far reaching as ours and Patrick

Embleton and Connie Beasley, who organise this, deserve an easier life – especially where there are alternative means for getting the newsletter to the membership. Hence our plea for those of you with an email address to receive your newsletter via email. However if you do wish to continue to receive your paper copy then you must inform Membership Secretary Clive Bacon of your wish.

Without volunteers we are unable to function as an organisation and we have already mentioned how valuable our Group Leaders, Committee members and helpers are. Would you be able to help us in any way? No matter how few hours you have available each month, your contribution would be welcome.

Unfortunately, Julia Haworth resigned from the Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the work she did on our Publicity. I am pleased that David Knott has agreed to take over this role and I would like to welcome him to the team.

We will be holding our Christmas Lunch on Friday 6th December at Furzebrook Village Hall from 12:30 and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. If you need transport please let us know and we will see what we can organise.

As this will be our last Newsletter this year I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Julie Seidel

Points from the Committee Meeting on 23rd September

- The date and time of the Christmas party was confirmed as Friday 6th Dec from 12.30-3.30 at Furzebrook Village Hall.
- The new look newsletter was discussed appreciatively and the Editor thanked for his hard work.
- It was decided that the November edition would be the last hard copy distributed to members with email addresses unless they contacted the Membership Secretary to request otherwise, or had already done so.
- The criteria for purchasing items of equipment for U3A were discussed: the Treasurer to write a Purchasing Policy.
- The Treasurer reported that the accounts were healthy.
- Membership Secretary reported that subscriptions to date were down by 54 as some members had not yet renewed.
- The Group Co-ordinator reported that we now have 41 groups and she was finding it increasingly difficult to combine her new role of Chairman with Group Co-ordinator.
- Storage of U3A equipment was discussed.
- There was a visual induction of committee responsibilities for the benefit of new committee members. *Ann Churchill*

Sharing the Load

As you will have read elsewhere in the Newsletter we have many members who work hard to keep Purbeck U3A lively and stimulating for you. However we need more people to help out, to share the load so that it's not the same people helping out all the time.

Currently we need members to help with refreshments and hall preparation/clearing at monthly Meeting Points and for our Christmas lunch. We need someone to take on the Development Co-ordinator role as mentioned in the Chairman's report above and we also need more help with Publicity, dealing with our posters and advertising material in local halls, libraries etc. Your help in any of these roles will be greatly appreciated.

Please get in touch with the Chairman if you can help us. julieu3a@hotmail.com

On Tuesday 20th August, 15 members of the Purbeck U3A Science & Technology Group paid a visit to the Purbeck Mineral & Mining museum at Norden. *Ian Platt reports ...*

We were met by curator Dr. Clare Randall and founder-member Brian Langdown and shown round the museum. After many years of painstaking reconstruction by a small and dedicated group of volunteers, the museum opened fully for the first time in August 2013, and the first thing that strikes the visitor is the large transshipment building that has been re-erected on the Norden park and ride site. This has been converted into a display area of artefacts and video history of the ball clay extraction industry, plus an impressive walk down a slope to a simulated working face that has real ball clay *in situ* (see photo).



There is also an excellent walk around the outside of the site complete with narrow-gauge rail track and many information boards telling the story of clay and other mineral extraction activities from the 1800s until the 1970s. The quality of the clay retrieved from Purbeck in years gone by was held in such high regard that Josiah Wedgwood had large quantities shipped all the way up to his works in the Staffordshire potteries for

production of his top quality porcelain.

If you are curious about the source of the clay, it comes from the decomposition of granite rock. Granite consists of three main components, silica, mica and feldspar, and it is the latter that has been washed down by rivers to estuaries and settled on the surface once the speed of water movement has diminished sufficiently.

Science & Technology Group Report

We started the new U3A year with our September meeting, as always on the third Wednesday in the month. Over the years since it was established the group has had talks on many subjects which could be classified as Science or Technology, except for something in the life sciences or of a medical nature. A few years ago one of our committee members, John Hale, had an operation that is not now so uncommon as once it was, but of which little is known to most of us: Total Knee Replacement (in fact eventually both his knees), and he successfully persuaded his surgeon to talk to us on the subject.

As a service to our wider U3A membership the doors were open to all for this meeting, and the S&T committee were delighted to see an audience of well over 70 people. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Mr Adrian Harvey gave an excellent presentation of the procedures and technology involved and will have helped all those in the audience who may be facing a similar problem with their knees or hips. Indeed S&T Member John Tutt underwent Mr Harvey's knee replacement surgery on 30th September. He is doing well and we send him best wishes for a steady recovery over the coming weeks. *Ed*

In a rare feat of programming our 'speaker secretary', David Harris, who has been the recipient of a medical procedure on his hand, has now managed to obtain his surgeon to talk on Hand Surgery for our November meeting - so we are in for more orthopaedic knowledge.

For our October meeting we were given a talk by James Fradgley, a speaker who has already given us an insight into the science of Tides. This time his talk was on something that

is forever in the news now, namely Climate Change. However, although having a view on the effects that mankind is having on planet Earth, he took an astronomical and geological view to explain the effects that have affected our climate over the millennia. It was little comfort, as we appear to be doomed in the long run, if not in the short.

We now have the November meeting coming up on the 20th on the Surgery of the Hand, Wrist and Elbow and for December 18th the talk will be on a subject of vital importance to us all - the History of the Toilet, by Jeff Kirby. This should put us into the festive spirit and if all goes as in previous years we shall have mince pies as well!

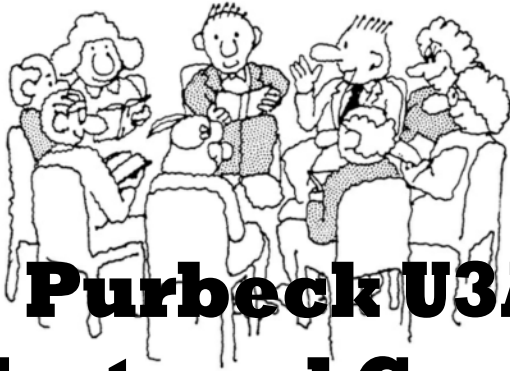
Into the New Year we will have at our January meeting on 15th a double bill of two short talks on Heat Transfer in a Nuclear Reactor by Colin Wintle and from David Harris an account of his experience as A Physicist at Large

All details of the group can found on our dedicated group website at www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk We expect to be entertained and informed and our group to thrive through the next year and hopefully well beyond. *John Churchill*



Unfortunately no Letters or Emails have been sent to the Editor for inclusion in this issue

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



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!

By
Group Leader
David Gerry



davidgerry@talktalk.net Phone: 01929 421409

See walks schedule [Page 7](#)

The Purbeck U3A walking group was started in about 2000 by Michael and Rita Wardle and were some times called Wardle's walks or Michael's Meanders or Rita's Rambles. They set a pattern that we still continue, but because I don't have the equipment I have discontinued the refreshment break at the end of a walk.

If we could add up all the steps that U3A members have walked during the last 13 years it would now total many thousands. The walks have always been enjoyable sociable occasions

Notes for Prospective and Existing Walking Group Members:

We meet on the **second Monday of each month at 9-50am** at places detailed in the Purbeck U3A Newsletter. Our meeting place will always be close to a place where cars can be parked safely. We endeavour to start the walks from places where car parking is free, but this is not always possible - so make sure you have suitable coins in your pocket. Some of our members do not have their own transport, so please will car drivers try to help by picking up people who would otherwise have difficulty in coming.

Walks are four or five miles long and will finish back close to the car park at about midday.



Please bring sound footwear: i.e. no high heels or flipflops! The leader reserves the right to refuse to take people who have unsafe shoes. Walking boots may be preferable, if not essential, especially in wet weather. You may find sticks or walking poles helpful and rainwear is essential except when you are absolutely confident that the weather is going to be good.

Even if the weather is dubious the leader will **always** turn up, but if he is the only one there by 10:05 he will return home.

Sorry but dogs may not be taken on our walks. I know that your dog is wonderfully well behaved but some farm animals take exception - and the fields belong to them!

The committee ask me to keep a record of those attending and I shall ask for your membership numbers. Of course you may bring a friend with you and she/he will be covered by our insurance **once**. However, if they like us and would like to come again then they are expected to join U3A. Members of other U3A branches are always most welcome to join us too.

I like to think that our walks are one of the U3A social events of the month and your only expense for the pleasure will be your travel costs and if you share cars then expenses are not large.

Here in Purbeck we are so lucky to live in such a wonderful paradise for walking. Do come along and keep fit the easy way.



Founding Members of Purbeck U3A ...

Tony & Shelagh Capon
By Ann Churchill



After many years of involvement, Tony and Shelagh Capon have decided to step back from leading their French group and in this edition of the *Purbeck U3A Newsletter* we would like to acknowledge their contribution to getting Purbeck U3A off the ground some years ago.

I first met Tony and Shelagh when I joined their French Intermediate Group. They made an excellent double act with plenty of good humoured banter, sometimes even in French! It was only later that I became aware that they were founder members of Purbeck U3A back in 1998. Of course some of the long term members will already be aware of their efforts and indeed may well have been involved themselves as Tony and Shelagh readily admit they had a great deal of help. However, many of the newer members may not know how it all started here in Purbeck.

Tony and Shelagh first moved to Oxfordshire on their retirement but the lure of the sea became stronger and they settled in Dorset where they became friendly with a committee member of Poole U3A and attended a few meetings in Poole. From this arose the idea that there might be a demand for something similar in the Wareham area. They advertised a meeting in Wareham Parish Hall on March 10th 1998 and forty people turned up eager to find out what it was all about. Some knew about the U3A and some did not, but by the end of the meeting they were nearly all keen to join. Volunteers were thin on the ground ('twas ever thus) but they managed to get a small enthusiastic band together to plot the way forward. Tony told me that The Third Age Trust and members of already established branches of U3A were extremely helpful, as were local organisations. They had no funds to start with of course, but they received a start up grant from the Trust together with £50 from Purbeck District Council and they applied to any organisation they could think of which might offer a grant or help in any way.

By May 1998 they had a list of a hundred potential members and set the subscription rate at £12 a head. Tony was confirmed as Chairman and Shelagh became the Hon. Secretary. Everybody was brimming with ideas about the groups they would like to attend but the problem was as ever, trying to get enough leaders to run them. The aim was to be up and running with as many groups as possible by late September 1998, a tight deadline for a timetable of groups and venues. At the time, they were allowed to use the vacant Electric House in West Street, Wareham, free of charge and many of the preliminary group meetings were held there. (Electric House is now occupied by a dental practice). They achieved their objective and started in September 1998 with about ninety members in thirteen study groups, such as English Literature, Music Appreciation, Archaeology and French - many of



which are still in the programme today. They were getting enquiries from other parts of Purbeck and people were travelling from Swanage to attend groups in Wareham so Tony put publicity material in local libraries and contacted local media and the BBC with the aim of taking U3A across Purbeck as was originally intended.



Tony & Shelagh in the 1950s

As well as study groups, there were social get-togethers (the forerunners of Meeting Points), Christmas parties and trips out, many organised by Shelagh, including a trip to France. Tony remained as Chairman for five years and Shelagh was secretary for even longer. When he stepped down, the membership stood at around three hundred and of course has continued to grow. When Tony handed over the Chairmanship to his successor, the membership at the time showed its appreciation of the efforts of Tony and Shelagh by awarding them Lifetime Membership of Purbeck U3A.

I asked Tony and Shelagh what they thought they had gained from their long involvement with Purbeck U3A, both as committee members and group leaders, and they were unanimous in saying they thought it was a good use of their time in retirement and they had enjoyed imparting their own knowledge and also learning from others in a friendly atmosphere, meeting like minded people and the camaraderie of working with others to set up the organisation.

We are lucky to have Purbeck U3A, especially for newcomers who may arrive knowing nobody and find a warm welcome awaits them from existing members.

It is thanks to people like Tony and Shelagh whose hard work began it all.



News from the Groups

The Latest News & Updates

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

Outings

As so far only 10 members have expressed an interest in outings or visits, it is not viable to organise our own coach outings.

We propose to use Crossways Travel, who already work with Weymouth & Dorset U3As, with pickups in Swanage, Corfe Castle, Kingston (Scott Arms) and Wareham.

Typical outings include:

- Buckfast Abbey & Steam Railway
- Dawlish & Teignmouth.
- Shepton Mallet Antiques & Collector Fair
- Dorset Explorer
- Watermouth Castle (Ilfracombe)
- Trago Mills Shopper

We hope to arrange a behind the scenes tour of Poole Lighthouse (Arts Centre) in the near future. The cost would be £5 for a morning tour and members will have to make their own way to Poole, possibly sharing a car or on the bus. Will update registered members by email of planned outings and by telephone to those without an email address.

Patrick Webb Purbecktreasurer@aol.com

Art Appreciation & Poetry Reading

In 2001 Shirley Mansell took over the **Art Appreciation** group from Margaret Mulraine, the founder. Shirley writes:

We meet at our house on alternate Tuesday mornings throughout the year and we have a celebratory lunch at New Year. In the early days we occasionally had guest speakers but today we watch DVDs and make twice yearly visits. In the past we have been to stately homes as far afield as Waddesdon Manor and Wilton House and we have made several visits to London – to the Queen’s Gallery, the National Gallery and the Royal Academy - to see keynote exhibitions of work by such artists as Titian, Raphael, Van Gough and Leonardo da Vinci. Our studies have ranged from Medieval Glass through the various “schools” to some of the strange “art” of today but undoubtedly our favourite period is the Italian Renaissance taking us back to the sights and scents of Tuscany. Our Group consists of about fourteen members, some of whom have been with us from the start, but vacancies are unfortunately rare at the present time.

Shirley also leads a **Poetry Reading** group on alternate Tuesdays. The group meets at Shirley's house and read aloud and discuss a number of poems which can be on any theme of the reader’s choice. Since several of our members have moved out of the area in the past year, we would welcome anyone who would like to join us. Call Shirley on 553959 if you are interested.

Painting Club

Please note that this group now meets fortnightly on Fridays in Harman’s Cross main hall at 10 am - noon
Spring Term: 10th January to 4th April

Discussion Group -

Understanding Contemporary Affairs in their Historical Background

Meetings held monthly on Thursday afternoons 2.30 to 4.30 pm at 64 Victoria Avenue, Swanage BH19 1AR

10th October: “If Women ruled the World...” Hazel Pepperell

14th November:

“Is Democracy the ideal form of Government for everyone?”

12th December:

“Discussion on the EU” with an officer from an MEP’s office.

9th January:

“The Dr/Patient relationship - has it changed?” Dr John Challis

13th February: “The less they see us the more they will like us- Why has this lesson regarding Afghanistan not been learnt?”

>> To join phone Diana Morgan on 01929 423929

French Improvers

This group has been led by Shelagh and Tony Capon for a number of years but they have finally decided to take a well earned rest. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and enthusiasm. They have given us enough confidence to continue and we have started in the Autumn term as a self help class. We are a friendly group interested in improving our French language skills and learning a little about French culture along the way and we welcome new members. The format will now consist of individuals taking it in turn to prepare an outline plan for each session with everybody contributing ideas.

Venue: Harman's Cross Village Hall

Day: Weekly on Wednesdays

Time: 10.30 am to 12 pm

Contact numbers: 01929 555084; 01929 556944

Creative Writing

The venue for the Creative Writing group will now be Wareham (not Wool) and will still be home based, monthly on Tuesday afternoons.

Walking Group - 2nd Monday in each month:

November walk:

Meet outside No 38 Prospect Crescent, Swanage

December walk:

Meet at the Encombe car park reached by going to Kingston and keeping the church on your left, travel out of the woods and on to the second car park.

January walk: Meet in the RSPB car park at Arne.

Note: All walks are subject to change at short notice due to adverse weather conditions.

Contact David Gerry: 01929 421409 & See [Page 5](#)

Welcome New Members

Swanage: Perry Barnes, Heather Bell, Ros Bellis, Phil Blenkarn, Betty Carter, Leonard Coling, Pam Jolliffe, Ian & Romilly Killick, Eddie & Rose McEwan, George Pitman, Ann Prophete, John & Hilary Thraves, Martin Tomes, Pauline Windle, Gwenda Yeomans

Wareham: Janet Andrews, Michael & Sarah Benton, Joy Constantinides, Bob & Liz Day, David Francis, Sylvia Jervis, Jo Sawyer, Rik Sturdy, Wendy Wheeler

Bere Regis: David Knott, Hillie Montgomery

Corfe Castle: Jan Blight, Ann Richards

Creech: David Williams

East Burton: Nickie Johnson

Harman's Cross: Hilarie Lewis, Dina Palfrey

Langton Matravers: Linda Hertog, Mary Pike, Rachel Timings

Lytchett Matravers: Tony Clayton, Steve Drew, Arthur Haddon, Pete Nicholls

Ridge: Dee Grace, Yvonne Hunter, Don Hunter, Rosemary Phillips

Sandford: Margaret Day, Arthur Edmonds, Veronica Ryder, Meg Speer, David Stacey

Stoborough: Evelyn Dubery, Sue Minshall

Studland: Elaine Brook

Upton: Diana Marchment

West Lulworth: Anne Jones

Wool: Barry & Annette Dyke

The Purbeck U3A Committee 2013/14

Name	Position & Duties	Contact Details
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Charles Miller	Vice Chairman; Publicity	cam@pampru.org
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Clive Bacon	Membership Secretary	memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk
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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
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Early May	15 th April
Early August	15 th July
Mid November	31 st 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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