

Message from Purbeck U3A Chairman

You will have immediately noticed that we have replaced the Newsletter with a new publication to be titled THE BULLETIN. John Hale, the editor of our Newsletter for the past few years, has decided to relinquish this role and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has contributed both to the Newsletter and Purbeck U3A in general.

The Bulletin will be a more informal publication run by a small editorial team and will be published more frequently, probably about six times a year. The Bulletin will actively encourage editorial involvement from Group Leaders and U3A members. It will seek individuals to take up the reins as guest editor from time to time and it will encourage active feedback and constructive criticism not just of the publication itself but of Purbeck U3A matters in general. So if you would like to become involved, please contact me directly for more information on what we are seeking to achieve.

I am delighted that we are attracting new members and that our new groups are proving to be very popular.

As I write this in the middle of October, I realise that this is our last publication before the festivities, so may I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2016.

I hope to be able to meet as many of you as possible at Meeting Points, our monthly meeting which is becoming increasingly popular with members. Our recent speakers have been both interesting and amusing on a wide range of subjects. See our Meeting Points notice elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Julie Seidel

Meeting Points



November's Meeting Points is on Thursday 26th at the usual start time of 10 am and we have Hazel Hartle from Purbeck Ice Cream coming to talk about how they started and where they are today – I believe there will be samples to taste!

There is no Meeting Points in December but we resume on 28 January when Julian Sawyer, our local photographer (Purbeck Footprints) will be telling us his unfinished story about Iceland (the country not the frozen foods people!). Julian is a super presenter who has been to us before so we can be assured of great photos alongside a good story delivered with humour.

Meeting Points is the place where you have the opportunity to meet and chat to your committee. Come along, have a coffee, meet other members and listen to an interesting talk.

Julie Seidel meetingpoints@purbecku3a.org.uk

News from the Groups



Play Reading

Background: The first Play Reading group began when the Purbeck U3A was set up in 1989 and was run by Margaret Mulraine. When she moved away, I took the group over and have run it ever since.

Groups 1 and 2: Group 1 meets every other Tuesday at 2 pm at the home of Joyce Boulding in Wareham. Members have enjoyed a wide variety of plays with such relish that there are very few left! As the members waiting to join increased I decided to run another group. Group 2 now meets every other Tuesday at 2 p.m. at my home in Wareham.

The groups are very fortunate as Wareham Public Library has on its first floor an extensive library of plays which we can borrow. This is an excellent source and we have therefore been able to read English Classics such as "The Vicar of Wakefield" and "The Importance of Being Earnest", many murder plays, comedies old and new, and many international classics from Russia, Sweden and Spain. Farces are the only plays we avoid because they are so difficult to read.

At the moment, there are two vacancies in Group 2. If interested, please contact me on 01929 556206.

David Parry Jones



Poetry

Background: The group began in the mid-1990s under the leadership of the late Rev. Tony Carter and his wife Sally and was based in Wareham. Sally brought to the group her skills as a drama teacher, having trained at the Central School in London with no less a person than Dame Judi Dench. Sally now lives in Whitton in West London and the mantle of responsibility has been passed to Jim Humberstone of Holton Heath.

The group extends a warm welcome to any U3A member who loves poetry and prose. The format has changed very little over time. Meetings usually last around two hours, the equivalent of three rounds with a break for refreshments. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month between 2 and 4 p.m. with a recess in August. The venues rotate between members' homes.

Each of our sessions is devoted to a theme, for example, The Sea, or Time, or Irish Poetry, which is agreed by the group in advance. Occasionally we will focus on the work of a single poet. As an example and as a change from our usual venues, we have on two occasions conducted our readings of Thomas Hardy in his study at his home, Max Gate, courtesy of the National Trust.

What adds immeasurably to the enjoyment of our meetings are the comments of individual members after delivering their piece. As a group we feel these are very important since they give spontaneity and warmth to the proceedings. The pause after a poem has been read is seen as a valuable opportunity for readers to express their feelings about it and perhaps the particular significance it may have for them.

The group is not a large one and membership and attendance can fluctuate. Optimum numbers would be around a dozen although one or two more can be accommodated.

We regard ourselves as fortunate. Poetry is one of the great blessings and inheritances bestowed on all of us by our wonderful language. We firmly believe POETRY IS FOR ALL. This is evidenced by the wide variety of backgrounds and callings of our enthusiastic membership. Above all, our meetings are fun! So do come along and join us and see for yourself. Ring me to find out more: 01202 632577

Jim Humberstone



Nature Walking

Since early 2015 the group has evolved into somewhat of a self-help group. We may not walk very far but that is usually because of the diversity of flora and fauna that has caught our eye. Previously, Peter Orchard had led the group, sharing with us from his very extensive knowledge of Dorset Flora and Fauna. Sadly he had to leave the group but he still keeps up his website.

A few in the group are very knowledgeable but, except for one, none would call themselves experts. Rather, we venture out for 2 hours armed with a few books, binoculars and suitable footwear to see what is in our path. The group is very sociable and we enjoy each other's company while on our forays into Purbeck.

Our July 2015 walk started along the Saxon East Walls of Wareham. In 40 minutes we had only progressed 300 metres but that was because the Walls were covered in summer's offering of wild flowers. One of our group has a book which notes the historical use of wild flowers, their seeds and roots. So now we know where to go for an alternative cure for toothache! Down onto the water meadows, we were besieged by butterflies and then damsel flies, dragon flies and all sorts of plant life in and along the edge of the stream. Later, a female sparrowhawk obligingly posed for pictures at close range.

The pictures are from our September 2015 walk when we were looking for fungi. We did find some King Alfred's Cakes, Agaricus and Blushing Bracket but, unfortunately, the walk did not deliver many "edibles" for the following morning's breakfast! The dry spell had reduced our chances but, after a good walk (and an ice cream) on the way back to the car park we found a Fairy Ring Champignon – Marasmius Oreades, to be precise – you might say, the icing on the cake. Earlier, we had passed about 15 Sika stags sporting fine sets of antlers, with their frisky owners dashing around in the next field, as in preparation for the coming rut.

Our future walks will feature another fungi foray, general nature walks and, hopefully, a shoreline and rock pool walk. Perhaps you will join us!

David and Lynne Willis naturewalks@purbecku3a.org.uk





Computer for Beginners

This group is for those people who would like to improve their computer competence in a friendly and helpful environment. The group meets on the first and third Friday of each month at the Harmans Cross Village Hall from 9 to 10 a.m. for Beginners, then tea/coffee/biscuits with Improvers going from 10.15 to about 11.30 a.m.

For more information contact **Paul Lurie** by phone (01929 439028) or email:

computerbasics@purbecku3a.org.uk



Archaeology

Following the recent Open Days, the Archaeology Group is now FULL.

For group members' information, the upcoming talks are listed below:

27 November 2015 The Rise and Fall of the Villa at Druce Farm

22 January 2016 Aviation around Poole Bay

26 February 2016 To be confirmed

There is no meeting in *March*

Connie Beasley archy@purbecku3a.org.uk



Singing

Pleased to announce that a brand new Singing for Pleasure group now meets fortnightly at Carey Hall, Wareham, under the direction of Rod Brassington. About 40 members so far – with others eager to join.

Thanks to funding from Purbeck U3A, Rod is leading us on a fine new electronic piano, and this term's chosen pieces have wide-ranging appeal. Interested? You will be welcome to drop in, make yourself known and listen to us. Meetings: 2 p.m. on 4th and 18th November, 2nd and 16th December. Any questions, contact Roger Free on singing@purbecku3a.org.uk.



Mah Jong

The Mah Jong group started in 2010 and moved to Harmans Cross Village Hall in June 2013 when the number of players got too large to continue as a single integrated house group. Since that time, we've been playing at Harmans Cross twice a month and the group has grown to around 22 members of very different skill levels. We have around 12 – 16 players at each meeting and, in keeping with U3A self-help ethos, we share the load by having a rota where two of the group open up the room, set out the tables and serve refreshments. During September and October we had some training sessions solely for Beginners and Improvers and I'm pleased to report that these players will be joining the established group and playing at Harmans Cross. We still have enough room to accommodate a few more experienced players so if you are interested please get in touch.

Clive Bacon, Group Leader: mahjong@purbecku3a.org.uk

WHAT'S MISSING?

Purbeck U3A now has 40-plus groups covering a myriad different interests. However, there may be something you would really like to be part of. This could be Chess or Backgammon, Cribbage or Scrabble. How about Film Appreciation, Beginners' Bridge (or even bog-snorkelling!)? What about Architecture – and wouldn't it be great to revive the Geology group? Let us know!

We can build on suggestions and help a new group get up and running. Just contact: groupcoord@purbecku3a.org.uk or groups@purbecku3a.org.uk.

Westonbirt in all its glory!



In October, the Gardening Group went to Westonbirt National Arboretum. The maples were on fire Stunning day enjoyed by all. More trips are planned. Come and join the group on the 3rd Monday of each month.

Contact: chrisbonanni@hotmail.co.uk



POINTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

- The Treasurer reported that Gift Aid income has risen compared to last year. When outstanding renewals are received it is anticipated the Association will break even. Purchases of a printer for the Membership Secretary and a keyboard for the Singing Group were reported.
- The Membership Secretary reported that there were 428 paid up members to date. A new combined database for Membership Secretary and Treasurer is being developed by National Office and is being examined for suitability for use by Purbeck U3A.
- The Groups Co-ordinator reported that two new groups, Singing and Astronomy, had been set up.
- A new Handbook for Group Leaders, which has been put together by a sub-group, has been shown to the Committee. It is hoped the final version will be introduced by November.
- It was decided not to hold a festive celebration this year due to lack of interest by the majority of members.
- Open Days were generally successful in raising the profile of Purbeck U3A but Group Leaders would need more notice in future.

The full version of the Minutes is always available from the Business Secretary.

Purbeck U3A Committee

Name	Function	Email
Julie Seidel	Chairman	julieu3a@hotmail.com
Clive Bacon	Membership Secretary	memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk
Chris Bonanni	Assistant Groups Coordinator	groups@purbecku3a.org.uk
Ann Churchill	Business Secretary	churchillannp@gmail.com
Bob Day	Memberships Advisor	amemsec@purbecku3a.org.uk
Sue Galise	Assistant Secretary	admin@purbecku3a.org.uk
Yvonne Hunter	Web Liaison	webliaison@purbecku3a.org.uk
Jim McGivern	Groups Coordinator and Vice Chairman	groupcoord@purbecku3a.org.uk
Sue Sides	Volunteers Coordinator	volunteers@purbecku3a.org.uk
Patrick Webb	Treasurer	purbecktreasurer@aol.com

Membership Matters

It's amazing since the start of the new term we have enrolled a record number of 60+ new members, many of whom signed up at the Open Days held at Swanage and Wareham. A list of these new members is on page 4. Several members who left us a year or so ago when the singing group closed have rejoined. 15 members wrote to me advising that, for a variety of reasons, they weren't renewing their membership this year. However at the end of October there remain some 80 members from 2014 who have not renewed their membership for reasons unknown to me. If you are uncertain whether you have renewed your membership (£16 per person) or would like to know your membership number simply ask your group leader - all of them have been provided with an up to date list of members' names and numbers.

If you're not on the list or don't have a membership number commencing with 5 then you're probably one of the 80, so do please contact me or any committee member and we'll help you rectify the situation.

Thank you

Clive Bacon, Membership Secretary

memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk

A very warm welcome to our new members – We hope you have a good year ahead and look forward to your contribution to our activities

Bloxworth	Poole	Swanage	Wareham
John Day	Derek Vout	Ann Bannister	Chrissie Apperley
Briantspuddle	Ridge	Sue & David Chalcraft	Trevor Botterill
Lindy & Philip Ventham	Rhonda Walker	Dave Duckworth	Rod Brassington
Coombe Keynes	Sandford	Sarah Ede	Mike Brown
Janet Mitchell	Graham Comber	Simon Groves	Mary & Harry Bryden
Corfe Castle	Mary Holding	Ann P Johnson	Eddie Burrows
Alison & Charles Hatton	Kerry Marshall	Fran Rennix	Francine Collison
Anjelika Seik- Ford	Alison Ross	Fay Ryan	Rose Couse
Lorraine & Graham Ward	Stoborough	Christine & Peter Seale	Ian Mogford
Corfe Mullen	Caroline Chalk	Jan Walters	Cyril Palmer
Pat Dade	Jackie & Neville Richardson	Hazel Warner	Dennis Podger
Denise & Colin Fuller	Studland	Mary Zuckerman	Mabel Rawlings
Harmans Cross	Virginia Morris		Julie Rowland
Lynda Hollow	Wimborne		Carolyn & Robert Speedy
Giselle Nunn	Trisha Dumas		Jean Stewart
Donald Palfrey	Wool		Grenville Williams
Langton Matravers	Isabel & Francis Van Millingen		Bridgit Young
Richard Cottrell	Worth Matravers		
Mike Greanleaves	Colin Nunn		
Martin Hanley	TBA		
Sue Inge	Doreen & Frank Nicholl		

NATIONAL U3A INFORMATION

The National site has both a public and a membership area. The membership area is available once you register. The following information is from the members' site currently.

Notice Boards

General Board – This is there to share questions, ask for advice etc. between U3A members and groups. For example, Fleet U3A has started a Health and Wellbeing group and the co-ordinator is asking for advice and recommendations from any similar group.

Research Board – There are currently three universities asking for help through questionnaires/surveys and the links are on the site:

1. How people have their blood pressure measured during routine GP appointments is a question being asked from Oxford University through two short surveys.
2. University of West England asks "What motivates people to do exercise when they have osteoarthritis?" through a questionnaire.
3. University of Worcester is exploring what people know and understand about cognitive impairment.

Look on the National U3A site if you can help with this research.

Resource Centre

Subject list holds many resources (books, DVDs and Videos) and the current DVD of the week is 'Attenborough in Paradise and other Personal Voyages'.

Would you like to join
our enthusiastic and motivated team
producing Purbeck U3A's new

“BULLETIN” ?

Use your skills

Become involved

Lots of fun and teamwork

No interview – no appraisals – no salary

Contact: julieu3a@hotmail.com or any committee member

The Editorial Team will welcome your comments or letters and articles for inclusion.

Write to bulletin@purbecku3a.org.uk
or hand in your copy at Meeting Points

Purbeck U3A

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