

Purbeck



Registered Charity No. 1075342

May 2015

Newsletter

Designed to keep you in touch



Photo: Ken Turner of Wadhurst U3A

HILLIER GARDENS VISIT

Report [Page 6](#)

Purbeck U3A

Annual General Meeting

Refreshments
from 1.30 pm

Thursday 14th May at 2 pm at Harman's Cross Village Hall

This is a **FREE** members' only event - Tea and Coffee will be provided

Plus ...

The Treasures of Wareham Town Museum Revealed

A New Museum Video presented by
its Director and the Museum Curator

At the AGM the new Committee will be elected.
This is your U3A and only functions with help
from you, the Members!

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

If so, please download a Nomination Form from
our website: www.purbecku3a.org.uk

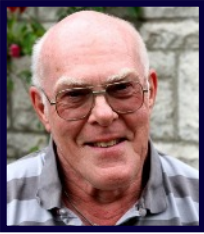
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Leonard's Quiz Corner

1. Which is the world's highest continent?
Asia, Antarctica or the Americas?
2. What name is given to the female part of a flower?
3. Place names including the word 'Hurst' indicate what?
4. A breakdown of government/rule of law/political
confusion is known as what?

For Answers: Turn to [Page 7](#)



From the Editor...

John Hale

With this issue of your Purbeck U3A Newsletter comes the invitation to all members to attend our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 14th May. The AGM itself will start at 2 pm in the large hall at Harman's Cross Village Hall. Refreshments will be available. This is your chance to find out what's going on and ask questions as well as perhaps to consider joining the friendly Committee. Although most Committee Members put in many hours of their own time to keep Purbeck U3A running smoothly, to be a Committee Member doesn't necessarily have to be onerous. The important thing is to represent the views of other members and share your own in a democratic way in order to ensure the future of the U3A in Purbeck.

If you look at [Page 6](#) you will see I have included a block 'advert' in the bottom right corner headed "65 + Men". A short while ago a member pointed out to me that a simple scan for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) is available to men over 65 and this was confirmed when I looked at the website of our Doctors' Surgery here in Wareham.

Statistically about 4 in 100 men (and about 1 in 100 women) over the age of 65 have an AAA. It becomes more common with increasing age. However, most people with an AAA are not aware that they have any aortic enlargement. If the enlargement is 80mm or greater, there is a 50/50 chance of rupture within the year – and rupture could be fatal.

COMPUTER CAKE CELEBRATION SURPRISE

At the beginning of March, our Beginners and Improvers Computer Group celebrated their third year of meeting. The Group caters for all skill levels, from those that do not know how to use a mouse, to those that are good enough to be asked to help their fellow learners.

To date we have covered a wide range of topics, from attaching photographs to emails to learning how to bookmark favourite websites. We have even seen how to make a grumpy person smile in a photograph using free photo editing software. (*Obviously not a U3A member! - Ed*)

We also work on topics requested by members, from learning how to buy a kettle online at Amazon using a gift voucher, to discovering how to best use the Windows search facility to find all the hidden photographs on your computer.

On this occasion (see photo above), Paul Lurie, the Group Leader, bought a special surprise balloon-iced jam sandwich cake to celebrate in style. In the photo you can see four of the original group, Madge, Edna, Jane and Janice, with Paul and Clive Bacon, before the cake was cut.



Many of the Group continue to come to each session, on the first and third Friday of the month, with their thirst for knowledge and, even though they have learned so much, they do not really want to stop coming to the meetings as, in the words of one of the group, "We love our group!"

If you are struggling with your computer and feel like throwing it out of the window, why not join our friendly and helpful group to learn about computing? But perhaps first try a "taster session" to see if it is for you.

Paul Lurie and Jane Kirwin

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

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

Committee Members:
Jim McGivern; Norma Foster
Sue Sides

(Committee contact details on last page)

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

Salisbury NHS are organising the ultrasound scans for Dorset and, if you are male and over 65, you are invited to ring the number given in the ad for an appointment. You may have to leave a message but the friendly staff will ring you back (well this happened to me anyway!). You then make an appointment on a convenient day which will be at a local surgery, but may not be your usual one. By the time you read this, I will know the outcome of my AAA scan (you are told the result immediately), so wish me luck!

I would once again like to thank the members and Group Leaders who have kindly taken the time and trouble to submit articles and photos for publication in this Issue and I hope you will agree that their input makes the Newsletter both informative and entertaining and, most of all, a jolly good read! With more input we could be even better!

See you at the AGM – enjoy the summer!



Purbeck U3A

Chairman's Report



As this is the last Newsletter before the AGM on 14 May, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to this important event in the Purbeck U3A calendar. Come along to support your committee and hear what's been going on.

If I am elected onto the committee and if the committee then elect me as Chairman, this will be my last year in this position as I am only able to hold this post for three years. Succession is a great concern of the committee and to ensure the future of Purbeck U3A we need more members to step forward to take on important roles to help with the running of PU3A, hopefully join the committee or maybe help out an existing committee member.

An organisation like U3A relies on volunteers and our ethos is one of self help. As you are aware I regularly ask members to give an hour of their time to help with the running of their group or help in some other capacity but could you give more time and get more involved? With a

membership of around 520 the workload becomes greater for the few of us on the committee and we need more volunteers NOW! We promise not to make it too onerous! Please contact me for more information.

We are holding a Group Leaders' meeting at the end of April where we are hoping to share ideas on how to overcome the challenges of running successful groups and meeting the needs of our varied membership whilst also looking at succession for group leaders and the committee. I hope to be able to report on our findings at the AGM.

I hope to see you at Meeting Points on the fourth Thursday of the month and at our AGM on Thursday 14th May.

Julie Seidel

MEMBERSHIP matters

Subscription Renewals

Although only early May, this will be the last Newsletter opportunity to remind you to renew your subscription for our new year starting in September 2015. Renewal Forms accompany the paper version of this newsletter and are also available for download from our Website. If you have already registered for Gift Aid you need not complete the form again. However if you are a tax-payer and have not registered for Gift Aid, why not do so now?

The future ...

I have been Membership Secretary for five years now and the increase in membership of about 50% during that period has placed significant extra demands not just on me but my fellow officers on the committee.

The committee has been running under strength for all the time I have been in office and in my view is getting near to breaking point. The committee has spent some time pondering over succession planning but it's a bit futile if members aren't coming forward to offer their services. In addition to maintaining membership records I have been very much involved in the compilation of mailing lists and the sending of Broadcasts – it doesn't sound much and on its own it isn't, but it would mean so much to me to have a volunteer to join the

committee and take on the handling and coordination of Broadcasts and to provide back up on membership matters – I'll be more than happy to provide support.

If that's not your thing then how about providing support to our Treasurer - or our Newsletter Editor – or our Groups Coordinator - or make us more efficient on IT matters – whatever your skills please make use of them for the benefit of the committee and help keep Purbeck U3A a dynamic organisation that doesn't fear for its future. Please contact me before our AGM on 14th May if you would like to know more.

Whilst on the subject of the AGM the increase in our number of members means a greater number of attendees are required to form a quorum – currently 52 – I do hope you will come along to show your support for Purbeck U3A.

Clive Bacon memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk

Shirley Mansell

Very sadly, Shirley Mansell died suddenly on 13th March. For at least ten years Shirley had led an Art Appreciation and a Poetry Group on alternate Tuesdays in her home, with care and efficiency - the Art Appreciation Group including visits to Art Exhibitions, Stately Homes etc.

At coffee time one of the joys of the group was to look out at the ducks on the pond in her lovely garden and, if we were very lucky, to see several deer, who sometimes came up to the patio to be fed.

Encouraged by Shirley, real and lasting friendships have been made in the groups and she will be greatly missed by us all.

Margaret Mulrairie (on behalf of everyone in U3A who knew Shirley).

Walking Group

By John Kirwin

The weather has not been especially kind to the Walking Group since my last piece appeared in this Newsletter last August but, apart from the October walk which was completely washed out, our intrepid walkers have turned up in good numbers and been duly rewarded for their efforts.

In **November** we had thunderstorms in the night, and it didn't look promising at the start in Corfe Castle. It was dry for the most part and we even had some sun, however we did get quite wet towards the end, but everyone enjoyed it.

In **December** we'd arranged for the RSPB to give us a tour of areas not open to the general public at Arne. It was a very cold morning but the sky was blue, the sun was shining, and the highlight was access to the WWII gun emplacement.



In **January** it was Winspit Quarry at Worth Matravers, where the 1979 Dr. Who feature *Destiny of the Daleks* was filmed (no steps on this route!). Again not a promising start: misty with rain threatening. However, it never came and after the spectacular view of the crashing waves at Winspit we visited St Nicholas church and saw the grave of Benjamin Jesty, who in 1774 introduced the Cow Pox by Inoculation for the first time.

In **February** it was cold and misty and didn't bode well for the anticipated views from Swyre Head, which must surely rank among the best in the world. Swyre Head is known as a "Marilyn"* and is one of two in the Isle of Purbeck, the other being Nine Barrow Down. The views were better than expected as the mist began to clear, but any walk is not just about the views. Most of the walk was within the Encombe estate which has an interesting history.

* A mountain or hill with a prominence of at least 150 metres (492 ft), regardless of absolute height or other merit. The name was coined as a punning contrast to the designation Munro, used of a Scottish mountain with a

height of more than 3,000 feet (914.4 m), which is homophonous with (Marilyn) Monroe.

The Encombe Estate

The land was given in 948 A.D. to the Abbess of Shaftesbury by King Edred. It seems to have remained the property of successive Abbesses until the reign of Henry VIII who dissolved the Monastery. In the middle of the sixteenth century the land was bought by Robert Culliford of Devon who built a house on the site of the present one. The Cullifords only prevented Oliver Cromwell from confiscating the estate by providing some men to help with the destruction of Corfe Castle. The family owned it until 1734 when it was sold to George Pitt of Stratfield Saye, a distant relative Pitt (the elder & younger), who gave it to his younger son John.

John Pitt demolished the house and built the present one. His son William Morton Pitt sold the house and the surrounding land in around 1807 to John Scott, 1st Earl of Eldon, who was then the Lord Chancellor, for £56,000. In 2002, Charles McVeigh an American merchant banker, purchased the estate for £16 million from the Scott family and in 2009 it was sold to James Gaggeros who owned Gibraltar Airways (sold to EasyJet) for £20 million. Richard Branson and Kylie Minogue are reported to have been interested. In past times there have been two air crashes on the Encombe estate:

The loss of RAF Swordfish Mk 1 K5985 on 18th March 1938

On the afternoon of Friday, 18th March 1938, a student on the torpedo course at the Torpedo Training Unit at RAF Gosport took off with two passengers "along for the ride" at 2.15pm in a Mk1 Swordfish K5985 on a training cross-country flight to Roborough, near Plymouth.

They seem to have encountered low cloud approaching the Purbeck Hills and tried to duck under it, passing low over Orchard Hill Farm at 2.45pm, then clipped the top of the trees in Polar Wood - leaving sections of the aircraft in the tree tops - and nose-dived into the steep hillside some 300 yards away. The Bristol Pegasus engine detached and rolled further down the valley. All three on board were probably killed instantly, despite the brave efforts of a local people who tried to get near to the wreckage but were beaten back by the heat.

The loss of RAF Liberator Mk IX RY-3 JT985 on 15th June 1945

On the morning of Friday, 15th June 1945, with the war still raging in the Far East, the unarmed Liberator JT985 of No 232 Squadron took off from RAF Holmsley South in the New Forest on the first leg of its long flight to Palam, India. The first refuelling stop was scheduled to be at RAF Castel Benito, near Tripoli in North Africa. There were five crew and 22 airmen being sent out as urgently needed ground crew at Palam. At 7.45am, shortly after crossing the coast outbound, the aircraft reported a loss of fuel pressure and the crew were turning back to carry out a precautionary landing at Holmsley South.

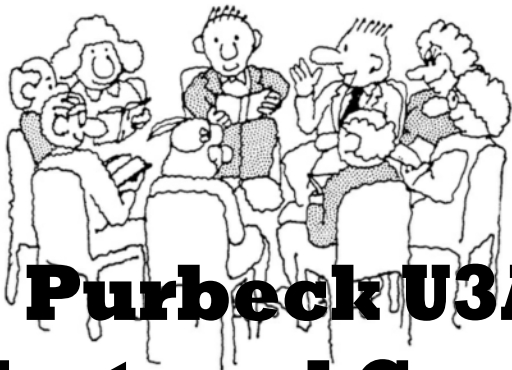
At around 8.15am the owner of Encombe House, Sir Ernest Scott, and a dairy worker saw the aircraft, which was obviously below the height of the hills, crash. The wings were ripped off and the engines detached and thrown forward towards Orchard Hill Farm, one wing coming to rest on the footpath (not a public footpath) in Polar Wood leading from the top of the ridge to the farm. There were no survivors. This was the worst-ever air crash in Dorset.

For the **March** walk, we had gained permission to include the grounds of Knoll House Hotel at Studland in our route. However, localized flooding prevented this, so our route took us past Fort Henry at Redend Point where in 1944 Winston Churchill, King George VI and General Dwight D. Eisenhower met to watch the the Allied Forces preparing for D-Day. Then on to the top of Handfast Point overlooking the Old Harry Rocks, up onto Ballard Down, then back down to Studland Village via the Glebelands estate, which itself has an interesting story.

As its name implies, the land was church property. When the church decided to sell it, the Bankes family agent was instructed to go to London to purchase it. He missed his train and it was sold to a property developer. As we returned to the car park, the rain began!

For more information on future walks, please see the itinerary on the [Group News](#) page and also the Walking Group web page, which you will find by selecting the GROUPS tab the Purbeck U3A Website at:

www.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!

Creative Textiles

Kathleen Doyle



The Creative Textiles group meets at 10am on three Tuesday mornings a month (not the second Tuesday) to share their enthusiasm and knowledge of creating things in textiles.

During a typical morning one could see such skills as tatting, embroidery, knitting, dress-making, patchwork, cross-stitch, beading or applique being used. Individual members display a wide variety of skills from 'just learning' to membership of The Guild of Embroiderers'.

Everyone is happy to pass on their knowledge to help solve problems and to appreciate one another's work. If you want to learn a new skill there is usually someone who can help. At a recent workshop we learnt how to make Dorset Buttons and at the next we will discover the secrets of Felting.

A wide variety of objects are made. So far this year these include table cloths, bags, necklaces, toys, quilts, pictures, cardigans and church vestments. Some are for individual use whilst others contribute to the needs of different charities. One of our members makes quilts for the Linus Project which provides individual quilts for very sick babies, children and teenagers. Another member has just completed a set of vestments for St. Mark's Church in Swanage. A number of projects find their way to Christmas Fêtes or other fund-raising events. Together we have just completed a quilt (see left) which will be raffled for Julia's House. (Tickets will be on sale at £1 each.)



Last Summer we were invited to create a display for Lady St Mary's Flower Festival. This was to reflect the needlework that was necessary for the welfare of soldiers at the front.

In making socks, gloves, nurse's uniforms, nightshirts and 'sweetheart' pincushions we tried to be as authentic as possible by using patterns and techniques of the period.

(American Red Cross asked for a million pairs of socks as in the trenches socks only lasted four days!)

Some of our members have displayed their work at The Dorset Arts and Crafts Annual Exhibition, where awards have been given, and also at the West Country Embroiderers' Exhibition.



It's absorbing work!



We are a happy, welcoming and sociable group - why not join us?



For more information contact Kathleen Doyle at:

k2k2doyle@talktalk.net

GARDENING GROUP OUTINGS By Chris Bonanni

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey



Early February saw our group going on the first garden visit. A full coachload visited Hilliers Arboretum near Romsey. These gardens are beautiful all year round but their Winter Garden is rather special, it shows so much colour at a time of year when you would imagine gardens could be boring. The tour round the gardens was very worthwhile, it generated a lot of ideas and *oohs* and *aahs* about winter gardens.

It rained the day before we left and it rained the day after, but the sun shone on us! It was also a rather special, if not unique, occasion: While booking the group entry, Hilliers told us that another U3A group was visiting on the same day! U3A Wadhurst were delighted to hear from us and we all met up on arrival (see photo [Page 1](#)). Greetings and a lot of social talk was a great start to an interesting and thoroughly enjoyable day.

More Garden Visits Planned

So successful was the Hillier event that we have several more planned. The next visits to take place are to Mapperton (near



Beaminster) on Monday 11th May and later to Mottisfont, the National Trust property near Romsey, famous for its roses. At the time of going to press we have not yet set a firm date for Mottisfont but it will be mid to late June when the roses are at their best. We may have a few seats available for other U3A members. Details of the Mapperton visit are deliberately scant as we should be fully booked by the time this goes to print, however it might be worth giving it a try. We also plan to visit Abbotsbury and Wisley this summer: the dates will be confirmed shortly.



Please contact Patrick Webb at Purbecktreasurer@aol.com if you would like to join us - it will be on a first come, first served basis.

The Gardening Group is very sociable, very informative and enjoyed by all. As well as seasonal gardening talks we have other events – the Plant Sales and garden trips to mention just two. We meet on the third Monday of each month at Corfe Village Hall, and there is still room for a few more members. If you are interested, please see me at Meeting Points or email me at: chrisbonanni@hotmail.co.uk

Group Visit to Mapperton

The next outing is to Mapperton (near Beaminster) on 11th May – a very pretty garden and amazing landscape. We may have a few spaces available as before and it will be first come, first served. Please register your interest by email to Patrick Webb at: Purbecktreasurer@aol.com and hopefully you will be able to join us.

65+ Men

A simple scan can tell you if you have an abdominal aortic aneurysm

This is an enlargement of the main blood vessel in the abdomen and if left untreated it can be fatal

Men aged 65+ are most at risk

NHS screening invitations will be sent to men aged 65 this year and those over 65 can request a scan

To request your scan please ring Salisbury NHS on: **01722 336262 Ext 2640 or Ext 2539** or email AAAscreening@salisbury.nhs.uk

The ultrasound scan will take a few minutes and will take place at a NHS surgery near you.



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



Just Desserts Pudding Group

The Just Desserts Group meets once per month on the last Friday of the month at 2 pm in

each other's homes. We each cook a pudding or cake, and bring it plus a copy of the recipe. We try a small slice of each pudding and discuss the things to do to get the best out of the recipe. At most we have had 10 puds at one meeting, where we ensured we only tried a tiny slice of each. We now have a vacancy. Why not come for a "taster" session, and see if you enjoy the good puds and excellent company. If interested, please email Puddings@PurbeckU3A.org.uk

Walking Group

All walks start at 10:00 am, 2nd Monday in the month
Starting points for coming months will be:

11th May: Spring Street Wool, behind Black Bear pub.
8th June: NT car park at the top of the cliffs at Ringstead.
13th July: Langton House car park Langton Matravers.
10th August: Sika trail car park in Wareham Forest.

For more information on the above walks, see the Walking Group web page, which you will find by selecting GROUPS from the Purbeck U3A Website at www.purbecku3a.org.uk

Book Group 1 (Swanage)

The Swanage Book Group is now full as under the new library rules they will provide only 10 books.

Intermediate Cycling Group.

We meet every Tuesday usually at a Café/Pub with a car park, at 0945 for a 1000 departure.

Every member of the group takes turns at designing and leading a ride usually between 10 and 16 miles, mostly on quiet roads or tracks. The target is a duration of two or three hours followed by refreshments and a chat at the starting point. We welcome new members: our group was started for people who felt the 'softies' group was too short/slow, but the senior group's rides were too long/tiring.

Please contact: Andrew Thomson (Group Leader)

andythomson@btinternet.com

Tel: 426773 or Mob: 07775 620415

History Group - Summer Programme

1st May: Napoleon; 15th May: Charles II and his passions

29th May: TBA; 5th June: King George III's Weymouth

19th June: TBA; 3rd July: The Plimsoll Line

Fridays fortnightly 10:00am to 11:30am

Wareham Methodist Church Hall. Contact Wendy Adams:

Tel: 552299 or email: jwadams@talktalk.net

Painting Group

Monday meetings 10 am to 12 noon:

18th May – Holme Nursery; 15th June – Ridge, Wareham

13th July – Bere Regis (until 2 pm); No August meeting

7th Sept - Restart at the Mowlem

Details: painting@purbecku3a.org.uk

Science & Technology

Third Wednesday in Wareham Parish Hall

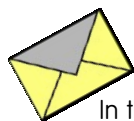
20th May: The Earth's magnetic field and its reversals

17th June: The Science of Paper versus Screens

15th July: The Living Sea – Marine Conservation

Points from 13th April Committee Meeting

- Treasurer reported a healthy financial position.
- More members were agreeing to Gift Aid on their subscription.
- Chairman reported that the numbers attending Meeting Points had steadily increased.
- Group Co-ordinator said that he was continuing to visit groups to see how they were working. He also reported on the success of the Yeovilton trip.
- The Membership Secretary reported that membership now stands at 521. The minimum number for a quorum at the AGM would have to be 52.
- John Hale offered to show the latest film he has made, after the AGM. It is an introduction to Wareham Museum and would be followed by a short talk by Ben Buxton, the Curator.
- There was ongoing discussion about succession planning for the Committee as well as in various groups.
- Newsletters would go out in the usual ways and there would be a few copies in local libraries and at Meeting Points as part of our publicity to attract new members. The Editor said he would appreciate more articles from members.
- The Creative Textiles Group has made a quilt which it plans to raffle in aid of charity.



Letter to the Editor

In the editorial you ask for opinions on advertising other organisations in the newsletter. I entirely agree that this newsletter should be for U3A news and events and should not become another place to advertise other events. There are plenty of other regular publications which fulfil that need. I want to read about U3A in this newsletter and about Purbeck U3A in particular.

I applaud your priority list.

Kind regards, Alan Green

Leonard's Quiz Corner

Quiz Answers to Questions on [Page 1](#):

1. Antarctica; 2. Pistil; 3. A wood; 4. Anarchy.
Leonard Coling is looking for new members for his Quiz Group that meets at Corfe Castle Library between 2 and 3 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Welcome New Members

Bere Regis:

Angela & Ray Jones

Harmans Cross:

Brian Engel

Holton Heath:

Di Joyce

Langton Matravers:

David Chambers

Yvonne & Roger Free

Puddletown:

Marie Little

Ridge:

Terri Simmons

Swanage:

Ann Davis

Swanage (contd)

Fran Aldous

Gill Benwell

David Blakeley

Ann Davis

Ann Seedall

Jackie & Malcolm Todd

Gill & Stephen Williams

Wareham:

Pam Bowyer-Davis

Liz Burne

The Purbeck U3A Committee 2014/15

Name	Position & Duties	Contact Details
Julie Seidel	Chairman; <i>Meeting Points</i> Organiser	Julieu3a@hotmail.com
John Hale	Vice-Chairman; Newsletter Editor; Web Liaison	u3a@greenacre.info
Ann Churchill	Business Secretary	churchillannp@gmail.com
Patrick Webb	Treasurer	purbecktreasurer@aol.com
Clive Bacon	Membership Secretary	memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk
Jim McGivern	Groups Co-ordinator	groupcoord@purbecku3a.org.uk
Norma Foster	Minute Secretary	normafoster@live.co.uk
Sue Sides	Volunteers Co-ordinator	volunteers@purbecku3a.org.uk

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Membership enquiries: Email: memsec@purbecku3a.org.uk

General enquiries: Phone mobile 07564 937871

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
Late April	5 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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