

Purbeck



Registered Charity No. 1075342

August 2015

Newsletter

Designed to keep you in touch



The Hills are ...



Alive with the Sound of Music!

We have a new Singing Group!

Chris Bonanni reports ...

The search is over – we have two very enthusiastic people as Group Leaders for this new group and it should be up and singing by early October.

Rod Brassington and Roger Free will be joint leaders – separate responsibilities – a lot of organisation is needed to keep the music flowing.

Rod and his wife Pauline have recently moved to Wareham and are busy rebuilding their new home – making music will be a great escape! Rod has played piano since he was five, he enjoys all types of music from classics to sing-songs round the piano (and the bar!) on more relaxed occasions. He describes himself as ‘no Gareth Malone’ but actually has quite a lot of experience working with singing groups, be it songs from the shows or barber shop style harmonies.

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Annual General Meeting Success

The 2015 AGM was very well attended with a full house and no spare seats. Congratulations to U3A members (and one non-member) for supporting your very hard working committee. Members welcomed us with a refreshing cuppa and the chatting was plentiful.



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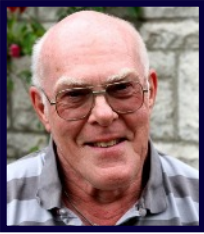
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Julie Seidel, Chairman, reported on her busy year of activities and the finances were tabled and clearly explained by the Treasurer. Membership had increased to 523 with more members from the Wareham area though the population of Swanage is larger.

The committee looked more relaxed than I had seen recently as members had come forward to join the committee and the increasing workload for this large U3A group.

The committee were re-elected as a block vote and the two new members, Chris Bonanni and Bob Day were also voted in. We are all extremely grateful for all the hard work they put into the committee over the year on our behalf. Thank you!

Following the AGM, the excellent Wareham Town Museum DVD was presented by John Hale, its Director, followed by a talk and Q&As from the Museum Curator Ben Buxton. The DVD was very enjoyable and the presentations stimulated a great deal of interest from the members. The Museum is well worth a visit from us all. *Rosalind Ham*



From the Editor...

A warm welcome to the Summer issue of the *Purbeck U3A Newsletter* – especially to new members who have joined us since our last issue: their names are listed on [Page 8](#).

This issue marks the end of one U3A year and the beginning of another. After the Summer, when most of our now well over 40 groups take a break, in September we can look forward to the arrival of some exciting new groups and one in particular: Singing.

Since poor health prevented John Almond from continuing leading his two music groups a couple of years ago, there has been a definite void in our group line-up with many members missing the enjoyment and friendship those groups engendered. So important is this development, I have headlined it on [Page 1](#), from where you can read the details and see how you can join.

On 14th May we had our well supported AGM and, as well as re-electing the existing members of the Committee all of whom were prepared to stand again, we were in a position to welcome two more. Added to this a further two members had put their names forward and were duly co-opted, making a

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

Copy acquisition:
Rosalind Ham & Chris Bonanni

Views expressed in published articles and correspondence are those of the contributors alone and are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team nor the official views of Purbeck U3A

Committee total of 12. We welcome the four new Committee members and, together with the existing eight, their photos can be seen below.

While I am in 'welcoming mode' I must mention the help both Ros Ham and Chris Bonanni have given me in producing this Newsletter. They are involved with acquiring stories, news and articles to feed to me for inclusion in the publication. They have been a great help and have also written a number of the articles themselves. This all takes time and is very much appreciated. If you have any items for inclusion in future issues, please let Ros or Chris or me have them for publication.

It's good to see that Open Days are back! The Committee has decided that they form a useful recruiting shop window and so are reintroducing them in September this year: Swanage on Monday 7th and Wareham on Tuesday 15th - see you there!

John Hale, Newsletter Editor

The Purbeck U3A Committee 2015-2016



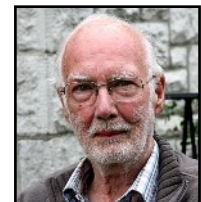
Julie Seidel
Chairman



Jim McGivern
Vice-Chairman
Group Co-ordinator



Ann Churchill
Business Secretary



Patrick Webb
Treasurer



John Hale
Newsletter Editor
Web Liaison



Clive Bacon
Membership Secretary



Sue Sides
Volunteers Coordinator



Norma Foster
Minutes Secretary



Chris Bonanni
Ass Group Co-ordinator



Bob Day
Ass Memb Secretary



Sue Galise
(Co-opted)



Yvonne Hunter
(Co-opted)



Purbeck U3A

Chairman's Report



It was good to see so many of you at the AGM in May and I am delighted that we now have a full complement of committee members. As you will be aware, this is my last year as Chairman and it is very comforting for me to know that our succession planning seems to have worked and more members were elected onto the committee.

I am pleased that we have new groups starting in September (details elsewhere in the newsletter) so please do have a look and support these new groups. Your group leaders work hard to run their groups and they rely on your support. With this in mind, are you 'doing your bit' to help with the running of your groups? It should not be left to leaders to do everything and no matter how little, we should all be doing something to help out. As you know, I believe that groups should be run by teams of people rather than one individual and I am pleased that more groups are realising this and are running this way.

Meeting Points is proving to be very successful and we now regularly have between 80 and 90 members attending each month. I tried very hard to book speakers on a wide range of interesting topics and the feedback I have received has been very encouraging. I just have to do the same next year! Our topic in September is 'The True Story of the African Queen'. I hope to see you there.

Full details of future presentations on the *Meeting Points* website: www.meetingpoints.purbecku3a.org.uk

Julie Seidel

MEMBERSHIP matters

A comment was made recently stating that we ask too many questions of members on the annual Purbeck U3A subscription Renewal Form. All that we should be asking a renewing member is their name and whether a subscription to Third Age Matters and/or a U3A diary is required.

I don't know if that is a general view of members but it will simplify the renewal process if we don't use the forms to gain additional member information. But for one thing we could probably do away with an actual paper Renewal Form altogether. That one thing is the Gift Aid declaration that conventionally accompanies the Renewal Form.

Many of you have already completed a Gift Aid Form and you will have read our Treasurer's article in this Newsletter (see right) where he advises that Gift Aid is a valuable contribution to our finances. In fact we gain about £4.00 per annum for every subscription where a member has completed the Form.

However there are some 200 or so current members who have not and we would like to optimise the Gift Aid we receive from HMRC by ensuring that all tax paying members in agreement have completed the appropriate Gift Aid Form.

The Renewal Process this year and next will not ask for additional information other than if a member is a UK taxpayer - in which case encourage the completion of a Form if not already done. A Form only needs to be completed once. When we have this information we can probably do away with Renewal Forms altogether - simple!

Clive Bacon, Membership Secretary

Gift Aid



From the Treasurer, Patrick Webb

A thank you to all who allow us to reclaim the tax on their subscription. Here is clarification of the rules for payments by a member and their spouse:

Gift Aid is a valuable contribution to Purbeck U3A finances and currently equates to a subsidy of £2.50 for every member. Any tax payer may complete a Gift Aid declaration to allow us to reclaim the tax paid.

In the case of a spouse paying the subscription for both parties, if they are both tax payers, the Gift Aid form should be signed by both parties or a separate form completed. If one party pays the subscription for both members and the spouse is a tax payer but has not completed a Gift Aid form, we can only reclaim the tax on the subscription for the party who has completed a Gift Aid form. Otherwise the payment for the spouse is considered as a Gift to the spouse, not the charity, and Gift Aid cannot be claimed.

Gift Aid forms may be found on our website or obtained from the Treasurer or Membership Secretary.

OPEN DAYS 2015

Swanage: Monday 7th September 10 - 12 noon
Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road

Wareham: Tuesday 15th September, 10 - 12 noon
Corn Exchange, Town Hall

Purbeck U3A is proud of the great number and variety of groups available to our members. Like most things in life however, changes happen – some groups are at risk of ceasing, sometimes sadly because the Group Leader is ill. Other leaders may have family issues to deal with, leave the area or feel that the group would benefit from fresh blood. The Purbeck committee works for all our members and we really try to ensure all the groups continue. Helping the groups with problems they face is **Jim McGivern**.

They Live On ... !

The good news is that in the past few weeks Art Appreciation, Nature Walks and Wine Tasting have been saved and are running again with a new lease of life. The Singing Group, which finished a year or so ago, is starting again in October – some very happy voices will again be heard! (See [Page 1](#)). One or two others are being reviewed – this includes Philosophy, maybe a subject that frightens off some of us. It is far more interesting than a lot of people imagine, really worth giving it a go.

We are developing a system that we feel will eliminate some of these problems: currently all groups have a Leader and usually it is just this one person who carries all the responsibility. We are introducing a system whereby each group has two or three people involved with the running, to a greater or lesser degree – no hard and fast rules, just what the group and its Leader feels is right for them. This way, should the Leader not be available for a while or not able to continue, there is someone up to speed with how the group runs and is ready to continue. We are calling this Succession Planning and actively encouraging all Group Leaders to develop this so all our amazing groups will continue and develop.

More news will go out shortly to all the Leaders and we look forward to working closely with them. We welcome comments and suggestions from members, please forward them to Jim, the Groups Co-ordinator at jmcgivern02@hotmail.com

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New Singing Group



Roger has been an active member of Purbeck U3A for a while. He is a retired headmaster and has had a lot of enjoyment developing school choirs – quite often conducting from a BBC Home Service Schools programme all clustered round the big brown wireless!

Working together, Rod will play keyboards and plan what will be sung and, of course, lead the singers in developing each piece. Roger will be responsible for sorting and distributing the music, planning together with Rod the programme and dealing with all the very necessary admin – quite a task in a fair sized, very participative group. He finds singing to be beneficial in lots of ways, the social aspect of working together, good for your memory and it leaves you feeling refreshed and relaxed after the meeting plus the sense of achievement as a new piece comes together.

The venue will be Carey Hall, Wareham, on the first and third Wednesday of the month, starting on 7th October, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. An email broadcast has already come out to all members to confirm this.

So members of the past group, plus all of you who have thought of giving it a try, spread the word – bring a friend! Please register your interest in the group to give us some idea of numbers.

Just email Roger Free at: singing@purbecku3a.org.uk for full details of this exciting new group.

We want to hear the Purbeck hills alive with the Sound of Music!

Did you know?...

Hire of a Car in the UK or Europe

From 8th June 2015 you will need a code from the DVLA as the paper version of the UK driving licence, which shows any penalty points, is being replaced with an online system. To obtain the code (which now lasts 21 days), you will need your National Insurance and Driving Licence numbers and to be able to access the DVLA website www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence ... or alternatively ring 0300 790 6801.

Car rental companies in the UK are legally required to check your full Driving Licence but this does vary in Europe. Remember this applies in both the UK and Europe so don't be caught out when you own car breaks down! *RH*

Garden Group Visit Mapperton

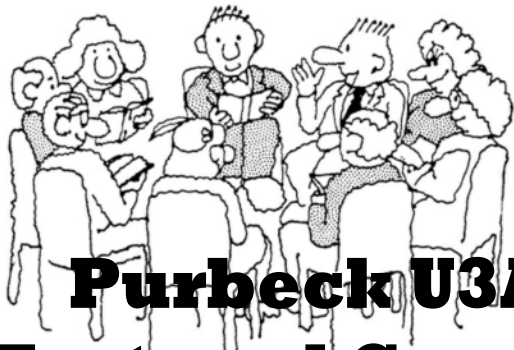
In May the Garden Group filled a coach for a visit to Mapperton. This is a delightful Dorset house and garden which recently featured in Far From The Madding Crowd. The house has a fascinating history and the garden is set in a valley – topiary, an abundance of spring flowering shrubs and woodland, well worth a visit.

We are going to Westonbirt Arboretum on Thurs 22nd October – stunning autumn colour. A few seats are available for other U3A members.

Details: Chris Bonanni chrisbonanni@hotmail.co.uk



Mapperton Magic



Purbeck U3A Featured Groups

Collated by Ros Ham

In each Issue we feature one or two of the Purbeck U3A Groups, with background supplied by Group Leaders
Group Leader contributions to:
newsletter@purbecku3a.org.uk please!

There are currently six language groups in the Purbeck U3A (German - Beginners and Intermediate, French - Conversation and Intermediate, Italian - Beginners and Improvers). In this edition of the newsletter, we are focusing on two of these groups. One is well established and the other is relatively new and looking for new members.

Intermediate French

Parlez vous français? Un peu.



Group in Study Mode

The Intermediate French Group consists of people who are not complete beginners in the language but who would like to improve their skills, particularly in spoken French. We are a self help group and everybody contributes ideas and exercises. We meet every Wednesday morning at



French Meal & Quiz Evening

Harman's Cross Village Hall from 10.30 to 12 noon during term times. Our maximum number is 20 but usually we have an attendance of about 16 members. Our resident expert is Sue Sides who kindly puts right our many mistakes as we attempt to converse on any topics that take our fancy.

We use the text book, *Facon de Parler 2* with its accompanying CD and this helps with grammar and

pronunciation. We also read such books as *Le Petit Nicolas* by Sempe and *Goscinny* of Asterix fame, plus occasional articles about French life and culture - in fact anything French is grist to the mill.

We are a sociable bunch and always start with coffee and a chat, sometimes even in French! We have been out for a celebratory French meal (see photo, left) to practise our menu translation skills (at least that was the excuse!) and generally try to enjoy ourselves while hopefully preparing to understand and be better understood next time we visit La Belle France.

Ann Churchill Course Leader/Co-ordinator
french@purbecku3a.org.uk

Introduction to Italian



This is a relatively new group which started in September 2014. It is a group for absolute beginners to the Italian language, so no previous experience is required. Most of the group members have been in Italy several times in the past, some have been during the term and most plan to travel there again to practise the language they have learnt.

The group gathers weekly, every Wednesday at Wareham Library between 10.00am and 12 noon. This year the group will continue to meet during the summer too.

The format of the meetings is informal and the group follows the BBC course books (*Buongiorno Italia* and CD) with emphasis on vocabulary and conversations with an introduction to grammar. It plans to continue with the current books and CD in the next U3A year.



The group started with 10 members and with losses and gains the membership number now stands at seven so there is room for new members. The group is continuing throughout the summer holidays and anyone who wants to join should check with Kate Hawley the co-ordinator regarding the schedules.

Co-ordinator: Kate Hawley-Mathewson
beginnersitalian@purbecku3a.org.uk



Textile Group Thanks

By Kathleen Doyle, Group Leader

The Textile Group members would like to thank everyone who supported their raffle for Julia's House.

A total of £365 was raised - this seems only a small drop in the annual bill of four million pounds. But, as Jo Desborough explained, the large donations are important but it is these smaller ones which fund the day to day running of the hospice.

Jo Desborough, who kindly came to do the draw was a founder member to Julia's House.

National U3A Information

Collated by Ros Ham

The website www.u3a.org.uk has a great deal of interesting information, including a Noticeboard area, which can be available to every member once they have signed in and subsequently logged on. You will need a user name and password and up to date Purbeck membership.

Current information includes:

- ▶ Subject Advisers are listed on the national website which is of interest to Group Leaders and those members planning to start a new group.
- ▶ The National Executive committee discussed paid tutors at their meeting in February this year. Guidelines are now being produced.
- ▶ Shakespeare's Globe tailors visits for U3A groups of 15 or more people which include their exhibition, costumes, theatre tour, Bankside & Rose tour. The tours are run mornings or afternoons on set dates and cost £19 per person. (see [website](#) for details)
- ▶ UCL research project looking at ability of people with dementia in which to participate CBT(cognitive behavioural therapy). They are looking to recruit a healthy control group of people aged 65 and above to compare performance. Questionnaire and interviews will take approx 1- 1½ hours in total. Travel expenses and £10 vouchers are available to participants. Contact: Eleanor.chadwick.14@ucl.ac.uk
- ▶ The U3A Science Network Annual Seminar is taking place on 10th to 13th August in Harper Adams University, Telford. The interesting programme is available on the web site and includes the History of Margarine, Nuclides, Asthma, Cosmology & Stainless Steel history.
- ▶ The 2015 U3A Summer School is now full so if you are interested for future years, keep an eye on the website for information.

Group Leaders' Meeting on 30th April Addressed by Jim McGivern Group Co-ordinator



Photos: Tony Smith



New ...

Dorset Alert

... website

Dorset Police are encouraging residents to sign up to this new service.

The new website provides access to the interactive tools including messaging and information facilities. It is a free service that enables residents of Dorset to engage with Dorset Police and Neighbourhood or Home watch.

Register online at www.dorsetalert.co.uk or forms are available from Wareham Police Station in Worgret Road.

Points discussed at the Committee Meeting on 1st June 2015

By Ann Churchill

- The newly elected committee members were welcomed.
- The Chairman reported a successful AGM and thanked John Hale and Ben Buxton for an interesting film and talk about Wareham Town Museum.
- Membership Secretary reported current membership of 522.
- There was a discussion about the possibility of using an integrated database to help Treasurer & Membership Secretary.
- Group Co-ordinator reported that he would convene a small group of committee members and group leaders to develop some of the ideas that came out of the Group Leaders' Day, including the updating of the Group Leaders' Manual.
- Group Co-ordinator hoped to be able to get the Art Appreciation Group restarted.
- A newcomer to the area had expressed interest in reforming a Singing Group and the idea was being taken forward.
- There was a discussion about a date and venue for a festive celebration sometime in January as opposed to December.
- Dates and venues for Open Days in September were discussed.



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

To Infinity and Beyond!

We have an astronomer! Graeme Nash worked for the Open University for several years and is very experienced lecturer. Since retiring he has run courses for many of the U3As in the area. We plan to start this fascinating programme in September. Meetings will be in Carey Hall, Wareham every Thursday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm.

For full information and to register your interest, please contact Jim McGivern: jmcgivern02@hotmail.com. We need a rough idea of numbers ASAP so we can book the appropriate venue.

Play-reading Group Two

Play-reading Group Two currently has two vacancies. Interested? Phone Parry Jones on 556206.

History Group

Self-led group meets fortnightly in Methodist Church Hall Wareham.
2nd Oct: John Moreton a local man

who rose to power during War of the Roses

16th Oct & 30th Oct TBA

6th Nov: Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder Plot

20th Nov: Thomas Hardy

4th Dec: Countess of Caernarfon –

The real Duchess of Downton Abbey

New members welcome. Please contact Wendy Adams on 552299.

Creative Writing Group

Small friendly group, home based.

Meets first Tuesday of the month.

New members welcome please contact Janette Nourse 554690.

Science & Technology

Third Wednesday in month 10 am to midday
Wareham Parish Hall

16th Sept. - The Story of Coal

21st Oct. - The History of Heathland

18th Nov. - La Palma - Isle of Dark Secrets

See: www.technology.purbecku3a.org.uk for details

Archaeology group

Sandford Community Hall; Monthly 4th Friday 10-12noon
Archaeology group is going strong with more than 50 members this year! It's informative, it's sociable and you don't need to be an archaeologist to join us. U3A members welcome to one talk before deciding if they would like to join.

25th September: Picking Darcy's Pocket by Gordon Le Pard.

23rd October: The Dorset Historic Environment Record by Claire Pinder

27th November: The Rise and Fall of Druce Farm Roman Villa by Lilian Ladle

Intermediate Cycling



Photo: Andrew Thomson

The Intermediate Cycling Group is going strong with 2½ hour rides every Tuesday. Contact Andrew Thomson for info on 426773

Wine Appreciation Group - vacancies

We meet on the third Monday of each month (excluding July and August) at the Harmans Cross Village Hall, 7-9pm. We have some vacancies for next season – first come, first served! Our aim is to taste and learn more about wines, and to enjoy the company of members who share similar interests. No expertise in wines is needed and beginners are most welcome.

Members are asked to suggest topics and may, if they wish, lead one or more sessions.

We ask members to pay a small amount to cover the cost of the wines. Payment: as a lump sum in advance, or on the night.

For further information please contact Gordon MacPherson at: wine@purbecku3a.org.uk

Walking Group

All walks start at 10:00 am,
2nd Monday in the month.

Starting points:

14th September: Worth Village car park nr Square & Compass.

12th October: Studland Knoll Beach NT Car Park.

9th November: Lulworth church.

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



Photo: John Kirwin

Computer for Beginners & Improvers Group

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

For more information please contact Paul Lurie by phone on 439028 or email computerbasics@purbecku3a.org.uk

Intermediate Computing Group mothballed

Having run for six successful years, first in Sandford Community Hall and latterly in Harman's Cross Village Hall, the Intermediate Computer Group has been mothballed for a year during which time it is hoped that it will be re-branded under new leadership.

The current Group Leader, John Hale, commented:

“I was hoping a small committee of members could carry IC forward to build on its past success, but only a couple of members showed some interest. While there was much praise for all that we have achieved over the six years we've been running, it is thought that the group should be mothballed for a year by which time a new leader may surface and 'rebranding' of the group could take place. So, after many successful years, and with sadness, I feel Intermediate Computing has run its course – its website at www.computing.purbecku3a.org.uk will, however, remain as a good reference source.”

**Welcome
New Members**

Lytchett Matravers:
Viv Nicholls

Ridge:
Ron Heath
Swanage:
Angela & Rees Cox
Sharon & Ian Mateer
Fraser Shaw
Dee Smith
Wool:
Allison Ford

Wareham:
Alan Hathway
Frank Morris
Deana & Alan Turner

Worth Matravers:
Mari Larthe de Langladure

The Purbeck U3A Committee 2015/16

Name	Position & Duties	Contact Details
Julie Seidel	Chairman; <i>Meeting Points</i> Organiser	Julieu3a@hotmail.com
Jim McGivern	Vice-Chair; Group Co-ordinator	groupcoord@purbecku3a.org.uk
Ann Churchill	Business Secretary	churchillannp@gmail.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
Sue Sides	Volunteers Co-ordinator	volunteers@purbecku3a.org.uk
Chris Bonanni	Assistant Group Co-ordinator	chrisbonanni@hotmail.co.uk
Bob Day	Assistant Membership Secretary	amemsec@purbecku3a.org.uk
Co-opted Members: Sue Galise & Yvonne Hunter		

Publicity: David Knott - Email: publicity@purbecku3a.org.uk

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
Mid 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.

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