

# Purbeck U3A

# The Bulletin

February  
2018



## From Your Chairman

*Jim McGivern, Purbeck U3A Chair.*

All Group Leaders and Facilitators were invited to a meeting to learn more about our plans for communicating with each other and the public. I regarded this as the most important event in my role of chairman and the meeting was very well attended with nearly all groups represented. Our webmaster Bob Day explained how to make use of our new website and Clive Bacon who is our IT liaison gave an overview of how Beacon membership database can help Group Leaders. This may be the final Bulletin as you know it, so please read on to find out more.

## Publicity

The new website has been designed to be both public facing and to keep Purbeck U3A members informed of what other groups are doing in the area. There is a News section and we would welcome articles from members to post here. You'll also see here details of new groups that might be starting, or details of forthcoming events. It is intended that Articles and photos that would in the past have been published in The Bulletin be posted on the website in our News section.

If you have a news item you think should be included on the website send it to:

**[news@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:news@purbecku3a.org.uk)**

## Beacon Database

Group leaders and their nominated administrators are now able to use Purbeck U3A's Beacon Membership database to maintain a group list of members and see their contact details.

They can also send out emails to their group members through Beacon. However at this stage Group leaders are unable to edit a member's record so

if they find an error or something needs amending, they will send an email to [changes@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:changes@purbecku3a.org.uk).

Within each member's record there is a field to record an individual emergency contact name and number. We hope we won't have cause to use it but it would be prudent to have it on file just in case.

Simply send an email to [changes@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:changes@purbecku3a.org.uk) with your emergency contact details and these will be put on file and available to your Group Leader(s) to view.

The information held in our database is simply your name, address, phone numbers, email address and your membership history.

We are not recording 'sensitive' information and Users are reminded that the information is confidential to U3A and only to be used for U3A purposes.

### **Purbeck U3A facebook**

Did you know Purbeck U3A has a facebook page?

It's currently being used by several groups to show photos and to record details of trips and visits they have made.

Other Groups and individual members are welcome to post suitable articles of U3A activities they have undertaken.

Simply write to [webmaster@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@purbecku3a.org.uk) and Bob Day will provide you with logon details.

Members posting articles on our face book pages must be sensitive to the fact that not everyone likes their image appearing.

### **News Editor**

Now that virtually the entire membership has an email address we can send out news alerts and information through our Broadcasts system and are able dispense with the paper copy of the Bulletin.

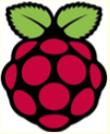
We know that several members, even those with email, prefer to receive a paper copy but we regret it is currently no longer practical or economic.

In fact if we are to continue providing any news articles we need an editor to receive articles for publication with the ability to turn it into good, concise copy for posting on the website and circulating to members.

Once we have an editor in place we can reconsider how we might handle a paper copy news bulletin.

If the role of news editor appeals to you please write to [news@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:news@purbecku3a.org.uk) and join the team.

## ● News from the Groups



### **The Raspberry Pi Group**

#### **The Raspberry Pi Group “night visitor”.**

The Group, which meets twice monthly in each other's houses, is collectively learning how to programme the little Raspberry Pi in a language called Python.

With this language you can control very inexpensive sensors external to the Pi, such as temperature/humidity probes; GPS positioner; and TV-type remote controls.

One of the group recently purchased a tiny wide angle infra-red camera, that comes with two small IR lamps, and mounted them in a plastic waterproof sandwich box.

Using Python and copying a motion detection programme from the internet, he was able to see what was visiting his garden at night.

He originally saw some tiny mice; then the next door cat; and last night a lovely fox.

If you would like some more information on the equipment, or the group, please contact us at [RPi@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:RPi@purbecku3a.org.uk)

### **Swanage Book Group**



We have the title of Swanage book club but in fact we meet at member's homes in Swanage, Corfe and Wareham and we seem to have lost some members along the way and now have space for a few more members.

We are a friendly, informal, laid-back group, and the only requirement is that we try and read one prescribed book a month, (of which we all get to choose one to recommend to the group) except in August and December, when most are too busy. We do have epic failures, when we don't finish or don't like the book, and that's okay too!

We rotate meetings in members' houses, but even that isn't obligatory, there is always someone who volunteers.....

We meet once a month on a Thursday morning.

If you are interested in joining this relaxed Purbeck Book group please contact Angela Hainsworth [swanagebooks@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:swanagebooks@purbecku3a.org.uk)



## Walking Group

We are just coming to the end of a series of walks which took in sections of The Hardy Way and the idea of a theme for the walks seemed to strike a chord. One of our walkers suggested doing some of the various barrows in the area, so the theme for the next series of walks is 'Barrows'.

### **Five Marys Barrows 12th February – Leader: Barry**

Sailors' Return free car park, Chaldon Herring. Map Ref. SY790834

### **Woolsbarrow 12th March – Leader: John**

Stroud Bridge free car park, Sugar Hill, Wareham. Map Ref. SY887917

### **Flowers Barrow 9th April – Leader: John**

Tyneham Village car park. Map Ref. SY882802

### **Nine Barrows 14th May – Leader: John**

Ullwell Road layby, Ullwell. Map Ref. SZ021809

### **Rainbarrows 11th June – Leader: John**

Hardy's Cottage Thorncombe Wood car park. Map Ref. SY725921

If you are interested in this walk or others in our monthly programme email [walking@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:walking@purbecku3a.org.uk)

Details of all the walks and precise location are outlined on the group's web page.

*John Kirwin. Group Leader*

## ● **New Groups**

### **Purbeck U3A Ukulele Group - NEW !**



Some Purbeck U3A Ukulele owners are planning to start a new Uke group to meet up regularly in a hall. The group can be of mixed ability, including beginners, and they are hoping more members will join them, - particularly those with some musical experience. In addition they are seeking one or more experienced musicians who can, at least for the initial meetings, give guidance to the group on the correct way to do things.

We plan to meet weekly on Thursday afternoon, probably at Harman's Cross, commencing mid-February.

However before that there will be an inaugural meeting of prospective ukulele players on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at a venue in Wareham.

If you are interested in joining this fun new group, or can give musical instruction, please come to the inaugural meeting on 1 February - contact Maxine Bacon, Group Facilitator at [ukulele@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:ukulele@purbecku3a.org.uk) for venue details and time.



## Have you ever wanted to play Mah Jong ?



The Mah Jong group has vacancies for a few more players and is planning to run a training session for absolute beginners and improvers.

The course is being run at the end of February / beginning March with twice weekly sessions probably taking place on a Tuesday and / or Thursday afternoon starting at 2.00 p.m. in the Wareham area.

The course will cover the Rules and etiquette in playing Mah Jong and it is expected that Beginners wishing to join this course will attend for at least five consecutive occasions in order to become sufficiently conversant to play the game to a basic standard.

After this time it is hoped players will wish to join the established Mah Jong Group which meets fortnightly at Stoborough Village Hall. Many of the members also meet at each other's homes in the intervening weeks.

Experienced players are also welcome to join the group but would probably benefit from coming to one or two of these sessions to learn the Purbeck U3A enhancements to the British Mah Jong rules which we adopt and follow.

Further details about our method of play is to be found on Purbeck U3A website.

If you are interested in learning to play and/or join the Mah Jong group contact Barbara Colley, group coordinator at [mahjong@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:mahjong@purbecku3a.org.uk)

## German Conversation Group

A new group for members with some familiarity of the language is starting at the beginning of March.

See our website for further details.

Numbers are limited so don't delay Email [german@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:german@purbecku3a.org.uk) for more information or if you wish to speak to the Group Leader you may phone on: [01929 556005](tel:01929556005)



## Litter Picking

Some members have expressed an interest in Litter-Picking and activities to raise awareness and help reduce litter at source.

Are there any like-minded members out there who would be interested in forming a group?

If you are interested, please e-mail [info@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:info@purbecku3a.org.uk)

## ● Membership

A very warm welcome to our new members who have joined us since the previous Bulletin in November.

### **Bournemouth**

Susan Cutler

### **Corfe Castle**

Frances Versluys  
Ken E Versluys

### **Langton Matravers**

Marion Page

### **Lulworth**

Heather Cerullo

### **Swanage**

Maureen Andrews  
Pennie M Denton  
Naomi Duffield  
Elizabeth A Gale  
Melinda J Rider  
Louise Wall

### **Wareham**

Mary E Christopher  
Anthony Kelpie Ronda  
June Kelpie Ronda  
Catherine M Kerridge  
Alison R Quinlan  
Michael H Quinlan  
Gillian Sharp  
Judith Smith

### **Wimborne**

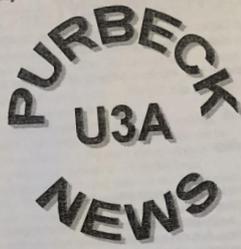
Stephen J Griffin

### **Wool**

Mia Duckmanton  
Irene Thorn  
Robin Thorn

EDITORIAL

Well, we're on our way. It's taking a while, but it's not long now to our start-up in September. Anyway we've got the summer ahead, holidays, gardening, walking, swimming, looking after grandchildren (who said that!). Your committee has had its first meeting. As you will see further on, they decided on a subscription of £12 a year, at least for this first year. In this first issue of our Newsletter you will see what else the committee has been up to, what the future appears to hold for us (it's promising!) and what we need to do to help ensure that. There's still a lot to be done. Things do look good. I'm enthusiastic. I'm sure you are. In the mean time, have a good summer, but remember - Purbeck U3A is ours. We - all of us - have a say in what happens.



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

THE COMMITTEE MEETS

An important element of the first meeting was the appointment of principal officers. Tony Capon is continuing as Chairman, Michael Wardle has agreed to prop him up as Vice-chairman, Shelagh Capon has accepted the role of Hon. Secretary, Grace Benoy has volunteered to look after the money and a small group of five will, with your help, be sorting out the various courses and activities for committee approval before we start in early to mid September. Other welcome members of the committee are Peggy Boyd, who has offered to look after the social events and get-togethers, Myra Gomes-Maria, Victoria Harding, Peter Hardyman-Jones, Margaret Mulrairie, Lauren Oughton and Charles Patterson. In line with other U3A groups, Purbeck U3A will have a formal constitution, which will be approved at the next committee meeting on July 29. On becoming signed up as members of the Third Age Trust Purbeck U3A will be entitled to various services from them and, importantly, will be covered by their public liability insurance.

About the money

We have received a start-up grant from the Trust and grants have been applied for from Purbeck Parish Council and Dorset Community Action and we will try for a grant from the National Lottery. There is also the possibility of a loan from Wareham Town Trust. Attempts are being made to obtain sponsorship from suitable organisations and commercial undertakings and like other organisations we will need to raise funds. Ideas and offers will be welcome. Purbeck U3A now has its own bank account and signatories should be £12, payable on enrolment before the year begins in September. This should include the capitation fee of £2 payable to The Third Age Trust and would also cover up to four courses, and some possible additional activities. Note was taken of the need to provide for interested people in other parts of Purbeck, allowing perhaps for "satellite" groups in Swanage or towards Wool and Lutworth. More publicity and investigation would be needed before this was followed.

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PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT.....

Four committee members - Tony Capon, Shelagh Capon (secretary), Margaret Mulrairie and Laurie Oughton met on May 2 with the permission of the whole committee to develop a programme of study groups. It was decided (based on responses already received) that the core subjects on offer would be:

- Birdwatching
- English Literature
- Music Appreciation
- Archaeology
- French
- Art appreciation
- Chess
- Natural History
- History
- Needlecraft
- German
- Playreading
- Italian
- Bridge

Other activities as under would be optional additions to the study groups: Walking, Theatre visits, Garden visits, overseas trips. Additionally there would be quarterly get-togethers, each with a short period for interchange of views. There would be a speaker at each of the Spring, Autumn and Winter meetings and the Summer meeting would either be a trip out, a garden party, a barbecue or other outside event. The list above (related to demand and offers of leading) possibly omits some subjects/activities that you favour. Keeping it this short at this stage enables us to get off the ground with a manageable load, stand a better chance of getting sufficient leaders, check out potential accommodation problems and reduce the pull on our finances, before extending our programme. Included in this Newsletter is a record form. On it, please identify up to four subjects you would like to study. Some of them may be among those listed above, others may not. In that case, still put them down. If you can get a group together to follow one or more new subjects all the better and if you or a friend can lead it, there's really no reason why sooner rather than later it should not run. We have talked about later subjects before - a lot - but this is the crunch and will be the basis of our programme and our records.

GROUP LEADERS

If you are prepared to lead a group that is listed or one that isn't, please enter your name and the subject in the relevant space. It is intended to hold a meeting of leaders before the new U3A year starts. Finally, if you have regular standing engagements which mean that you will not be able to take part in activities on certain days please say so in the space provided.

These facts - subject/activity choice, leadership, and your availability - will be of value to the course co-ordinators.

..... and some more

Our programme is the foundation of our continued existence. Inevitably we have to talk about it a lot in these early stages, so here's a bit more!

**Birdwatching and Natural History.** These two could be merged. We live in an area rich in necessary material. - Arne, Studland, Hartland Moor, the heaths, Wareham forest. If you'd be prepared to mastermind a programme on this subject, let the committee secretary know. English Literature. Assuming we have enough leaders we will be calling a meeting of those interested in this subject, which covers a lot of ground, almost from Chaucer to Pinter, in order to divide up into satisfactory groupings. Please state your form what element you favour. History. The same goes for History. The periods suggested are many so we must divide up into smaller groups - again, providing we can get the leaders. Please indicate the period you are interested in.

The first Purbeck U3A newsletter published in May 1998.

At the first committee meeting, chaired by Tony Capon, annual subscriptions were set at £12.

With a possible membership of 100 the following were suggested as possible Groups - Birdwatching, English Literature, Music Appreciation, Archaeology, French, Art Appreciation, Chess, Natural History, Needlecraft, German, Play reading, Italian, and Bridge.

Twenty years later there is a membership of 573, 44 groups and an annual subscription of £16.

A real success story!

insurmountable. Another problem, but far from None of us will be at the same stage of proficiency, so please indicate on your form - beginner, intermediate, advanced. We have the county stock of play-copies at Wareham now. We have a leader prepared to go ahead. All looks good. Chess. We have a leader who will take beginners. The optional additional activities - walking, theatre visits, garden visits, overseas trips can be taken in addition to the study group subjects. Walks Arrangements, including duration etc. will be made later. The others will need to be charged for and might be undertaken in hand with other local groups and art clubs. Local archaeology is also catered for. We have offers to lead a general discussion group on various topics, a group on genealogy, a group on "health and fitness" studies, of cookery studies, of involving Hardy literature study with walks on the Herdy Way.

The final choice of study groups and activities will be for approval at the July committee meeting and will be announced in the August U3A News which will follow soon afterwards

Committee Report (fr. pp.1)

Collection of subscriptions will be arranged from the next meeting of the committee on July 29 and membership cards will then be issued. There will be news of this in our regular newsletter, (would anyone like to run that, by the way?)

What we get

The capitation fee of £2 referred to in the Age Trust in London is being payable to the central organisation, which provides us with a necessary insurance cover; safeguards our charity status; carries out the central activities of what, by any standards, is a large organisation; is involved with Saga in the magazine, Third Age News, ensures the availability of certain learning materials, provides a structure for the national subject Executive Council and our annual conference. A good two quids' worth!

APRES LE SUCCES FOU DU MARCHÉ FRANÇAIS, QUOI? You must surely have a view how we build on this. Your opportunity to put it forward comes on May 12 at 7.30pm at a WAREHAM AHEAD WORKSHOP in Wareham Town Hall

Always remember, we are an open organisation. Everyone has a say. If you have a question, ask it. If you think something needs doing, then you have the right to volunteer to do it. That's democracy!

The Beginnings.....

The University of the Third Age began in France in 1972 at the University of Toulouse as "L'Université du Troisième Âge" and was soon followed by others in France, leading to the development of an international movement. At this point interest was being taken in this country following a Cambridge University study of "the Education of the Elderly in Britain". A meeting to explore the idea was held in Cambridge in 1981 and a broadcast the next day led to more than 400 calls seeking further information. Now there are 364 groups in the UK. Theirs was closely related with the universities and teaching was - and is - by academic staff. Our system enables us to keep costs down and run our ship - an important factor for retired people with limited incomes. In the relaxed approach we favour study if that's what you favour. It remains to be seen in which direction Purbeck U3A goes!

IMPORTANT!

Please read the report of the sub-committee meeting on the development of our programme of courses and activities on pp. 2 & 3 before completing the form below. Deliver it then, preferably by MAY 31 by hand to Electric House in West Street, Wareham, or by hand or post to Michael Wardle, 17 Pound Lane, Wareham. This will enable us to sort out study groups and locations in time for the start. If you have any queries, please address them to any officer or committee member. Where a household has more than one potential member, please complete the form on plain paper.

PURBECK U3A ACTIVITY SELECTION

Name: Address: (+postcode) Phone

I wish to take part in the following study groups: 1. 2. 3. 4.

I am prepared to lead a group or groups in:

I would like to join in some of the following optional activities (please tick) Walking, Garden visits, Theatre visits, Overseas or other trips I am not available on the following weekdays and pm: (e.g. first Thursday in the month; Tuesday meetings, Monday afternoons etc)

## ● Meeting Points

Our next **Meeting Points** is on Thursday, 22 February 2018 from 10am until noon.

<b>22 February</b>	<b>Tim Battcock</b> <i>Dementia - An update</i>
22 March	Stuart Rhys-Williams <i>Hearing loss; Vocal problems in older people</i>
26 April	Philip Browne <i>The Unfortunate Captain Peirce and the Wreck of the Halsewell, East Indiaman</i>
24 May	Jennie Spiers <i>Art Appreciation: An introduction</i>
28 June	Brian Freeland <i>The View from the Wings</i>

### Secretary

Sue Galise

[secretary@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@purbecku3a.org.uk)

### Chair

Jim McGivern

[chair@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@purbecku3a.org.uk)

### Vice Chair & Membership Secretary

Gill Calvin Thomas

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### Group Co-ordinator

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Bob Day

[bob.day002@gmail.com](mailto:bob.day002@gmail.com)

***Please send your NEWS—***

**TEXT IN WORD and PHOTOS AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS**

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General Enquiries [info@purbecku3a.org.uk](mailto:info@purbecku3a.org.uk)

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