

THE PURBECK SOCIETY was set up in 1855 as a semi-learned society for the study of local matters in the fields of history, natural history, local industries, architecture and associated subjects in the Isle of Purbeck. The Society, now as the civic society for the area, as well as campaigning on its own account supports other such appropriate organisations concerned with the preservation of Purbeck's heritage.

The Society is affiliated to the Dorset Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and as such it seeks to forward the aims of the CPRE. These are broadly to preserve the countryside as it develops, from abuse or disfigurement or any injuries to its amenities and, with this in view, to seek the co-operation of local authorities, landowners and others concerned.

Membership of the Society is open to anyone interested in furthering the Society's aims and objects; currently the Society has over 350 members. The Society is managed by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting held in the spring. There is a Sub-Committee set up to deal with conservation matters and planning issues and spearheads the Society's campaigns against perceived threats arising from unsympathetic development proposals affecting Purbeck's heritage and the unique environment of our towns, villages, countryside and coastline. The Society is a consultee on all planning applications in the whole Purbeck District area, although its main concerns focus on the historic Isle of Purbeck, i.e. that area south of the River Frome. It does, however, keep an eye on development proposals in Wareham due to their possible impact on the Isle of Purbeck.

During the winter, the Society organises monthly lectures and in the summer season, arranges field trips to historic sites and places of heritage interest as well as those that illustrate the special quality of our environment. We hope thereby to encourage a greater interest and awareness amongst our members and, that in turn, they will actively support the Society's efforts to prevent the despoliation of the heritage passed down to us.

The Society has its own Library which, in addition to its archive, has over 100 books and publications, mainly about Dorset and the Purbeck Area. Access to this is available to members on prior application to the Secretary.

The Purbeck Society Membership application form

Annual membership - £10. Please complete the details below and return the form with payment to:

Mrs Linda Hernandez, Hilltop, 13 Bon Accord Rd., Swanage, BH19 2DN. If you have any specific queries, Linda can be contacted on 01929 427116 or by email linda.hernandez@tiscali.co.uk

Please make cheques payable to "The Purbeck Society". Let us know if you wish to set up a standing order. We look forward to welcoming you to the society and will issue you with your membership card as soon as possible.

Name /s _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

email _____ Amount paid _____

Paid as (cheque etc.) _____

Specific interests _____

Suggestions/requests for talks/visits _____

Do you think you can volunteer or have skills or experience relevant to the society? _____

Age 16-25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46 – 60 _____ 61 + _____

We thank you for the information which helps us regarding the arrangement of activities, events held and the future development of the society. The information proffered is confidential and will not be shared with other organisations or businesses