

Installing / Updating Purple Pen

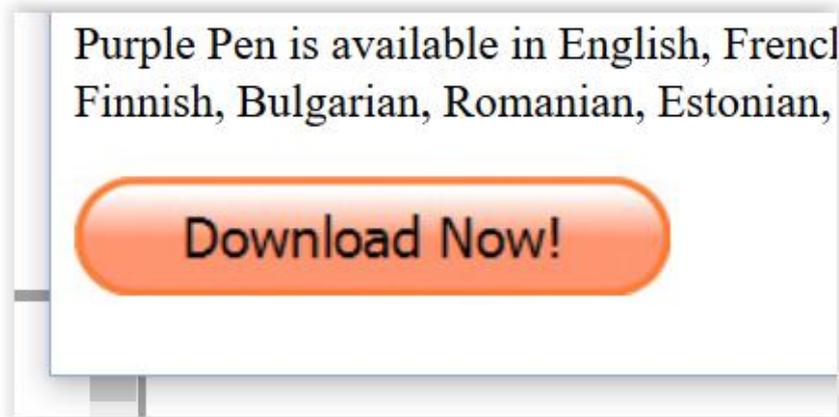
11 February 2016 10:31



PurplePen is completely free (but you can make a donation to support Peter Golde's good work).

The program is regularly improved so you should regularly check you are up to date (the program will do this for you).

Install from the website. Either search for "PurplePen" or go directly to <http://purplepen.golde.org/> Then use the big button at the bottom of the homepage.



Download the file and save. You then need to run the installer. Depending on which browser you are using this may happen automatically, or you may need to go to your download and double-click on purplepen-260.exe to run it.

You may also need to install a piece of software from Microsoft called .Net Framework to enable PurplePen to work. If you need this the PurplePen installer will download it and install it for you.

That's it! All you need is a map file and you are ready to go.

Getting attached to a Map file

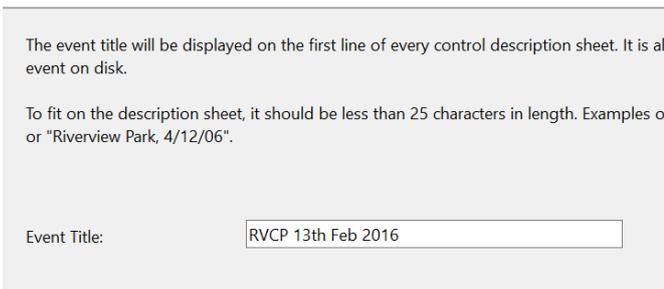
10 February 2016 14:37

- 1) Open PurplePen and create a new event

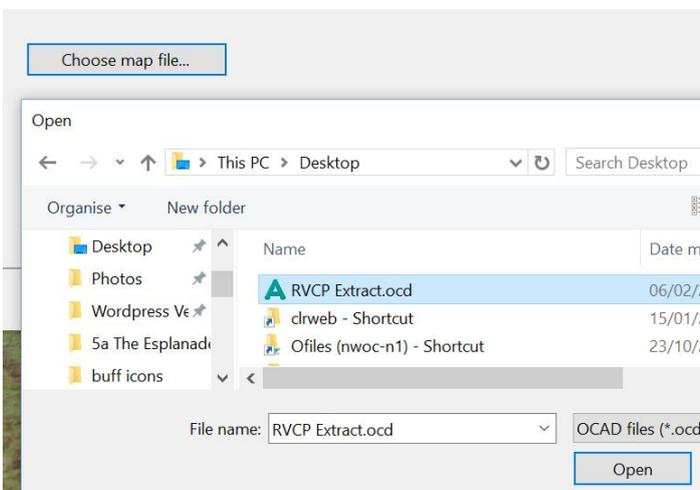


- 2) Give your event a good title - venue and date should make the id unique and save future grief!

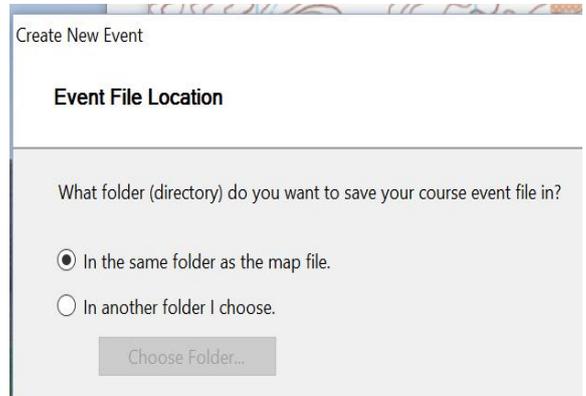
Event Title



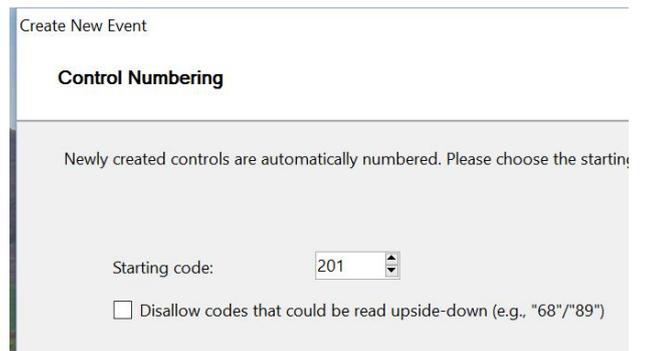
- 3) Link to your map file. You can use any graphic as a base map (PDF, jpeg etc.), but OCAD files will work best and should ensure your course lengths are calculated correctly! NB you do not need to have OCAD to use OCAD files with PurplePen



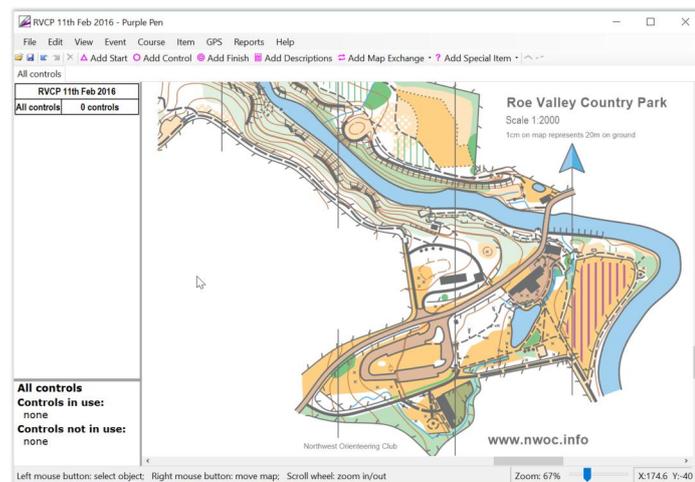
- 4) Tell the computer where to put your new event file. Keep it simple - keep it together with your map.



- 5) Control numbering - PurplePen will allocate control numbers automatically in sequence, So make life easy - use a range of consecutive numbers and tell PurplePen the lowest



- 6) Click through to your New Event.



Finding Your Way Around

10 February 2016 15:18



"undo" and "delete" here

"Tabs" to jump to each Course. "All Controls" is there by default

Short Cuts to useful stuff

The screenshot shows the Purple Pen software interface. At the top is a menu bar with options: File, Edit, View, Event, Course, Item, GPS, Reports, Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with buttons for 'Add Start', 'Add Control', 'Add Finish', 'Add Descriptions', 'Add Map Exchange', and 'Add Special Item'. A sidebar on the left displays a control list for 'RVCP Feb 2016' with columns for 'Orange' and '0.8 km'. The main area shows a topographic map of 'Roe Valley Country Park' with a scale of 1:2000. Five control points are marked on the map with numbers 1 through 5. A detailed view of 'Control 248' is shown in the bottom-left corner, including its location coordinates (276.2, -470.4) and text description 'Stream bend'. The bottom status bar shows 'Zoom: 63%' and mouse control instructions.

Click on a control circle and its description "lights up".

Click on a control description and its Circle "lights up".

Double click on description box to change it.

Control 248
Location:
 (276.2, -470.4)
Used in courses:
 All courses
Text description:
 Stream bend

Left mouse button select object Right mouse button move map Scroll wheel: zoom in/out

Zoom: 63%

You can also zoom by dragging here - useful if you don't have a wheel mouse

"Left Click" to select and move

"Right Click" to push the map around

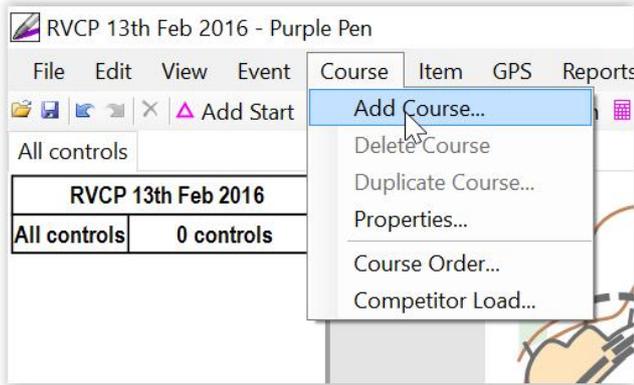
Use a mouse with a scroll wheel - makes zoom control "wee buns"

The text here will always summarise your options - really handy - keep an eye on it!

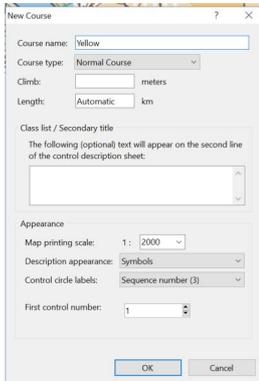
Entering your Courses

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- 1) It is easiest to add your controls as you plan each course rather than adding them to "all controls" in advance. So start by adding your first course:

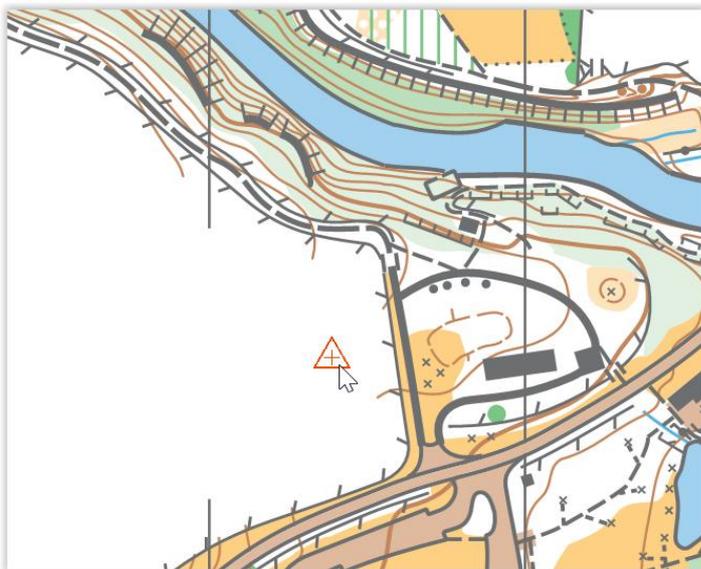


- 2) Name your course - leave all the other properties as they are - you can change them later.



- 3) Start with a start (pick it off the short-cut bar), move the cross hair to the correct position and click. Now add a control in the same way - it will be labelled "1" automatically. Repeat for "2" and keep going. Finally add a finish. You can click the X for delete or back arrow for undo at any time. Also the scroll wheel will let you zoom in and out at any time and right click will let you push the zoomed map.

The next item (usually a control circle) will always be added after the previous selected item and joined automatically with a straight line. So, for example, to add a control; between 2 and 3, just click on "2" to select it and then click on "Add Control" and an extra circle with the correct number will appear.



- 4) Now move on to your next course - create it from the course menu in the same way as before. You will see you no longer have a blank map - there are "ghosts" of all the controls (and starts and finish) which you have already created. The start triangle will already be selected and when you click "Add Control" you can either click on a new site to create a new control, or click on a "ghost" to reuse the control already there.



- 5) Plan remaining courses.
- 6) You can now review each course paying particular attention to legibility. If a control number is obscured and hard to read, just select the circle and you will find you can then select and drag the number into a clear space.

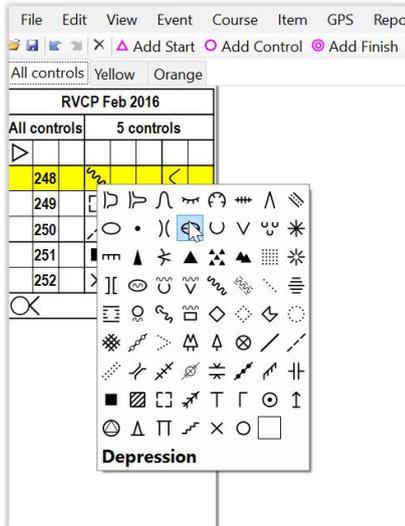


Adding Control Descriptions

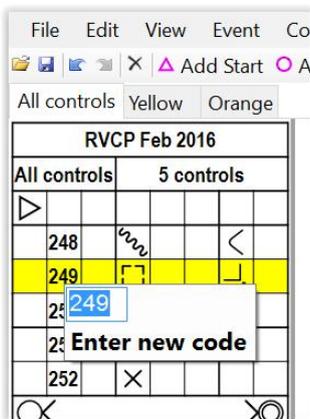
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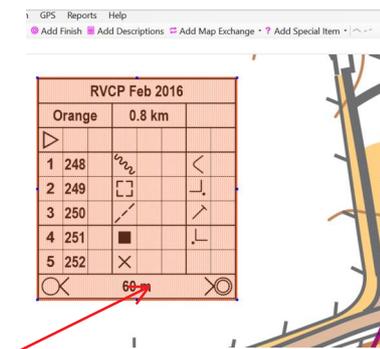
1) Control descriptions can be added / modified at any point simply by double clicking on the box you wish to change. It is probably best to do this from the "All controls" tab so you don't miss any controls out. As you point to each symbol an English description is also displayed. The symbols shown are those allowed for the column in question. You don't have to use all columns - just add what is useful to the competitor.



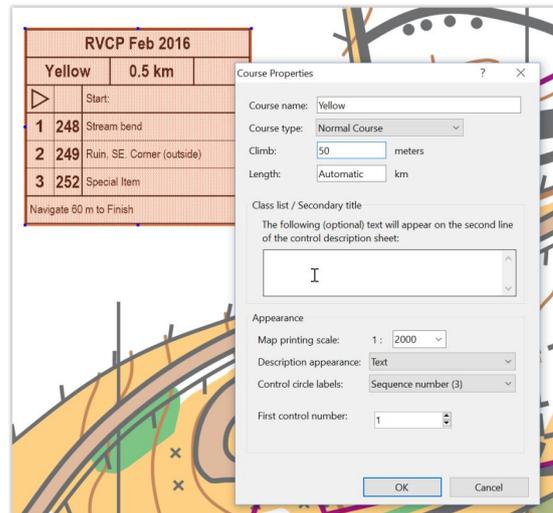
2) You can change a control code directly - if really necessary. Perhaps if one of your sequence has a bad beep and you decide not to use it. Be careful - changes and errors often go together!



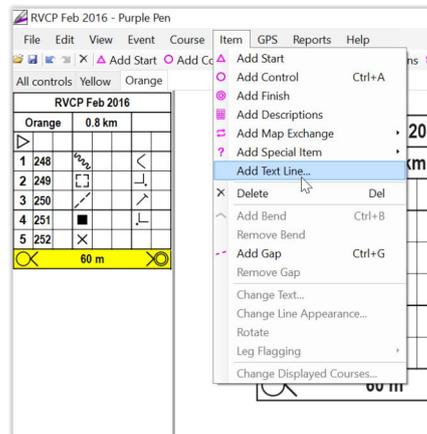
3) Place your on-map descriptions by selecting from the "short cuts" and drag out a box in a suitable blank map space.



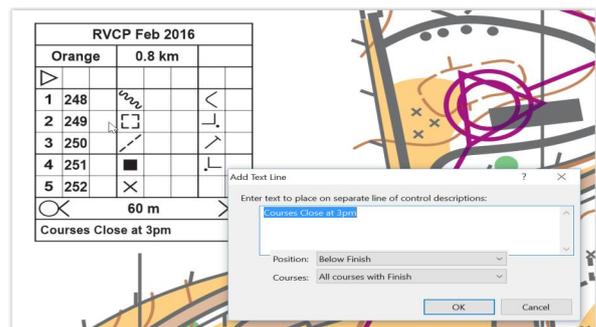
4) Text descriptions and course climb. You can now refine you descriptions by selecting text for junior / beginner courses, adding climb details or other text. Just select the "Course" menu and "Properties" to bring up the box below, for each course.



5) Add Courses Close Time! This is important - it tells struggling runners when to give up and lets organisers start collecting markers at a sensible time without incurring competitor wrath! To access - click on the last line on any on the control description list (it will turn yellow) - now go to menu "Item" and select "Add Text Line":



6) Now enter your text making sure that "Below Finish" and "All Courses with Finish" options are selected.



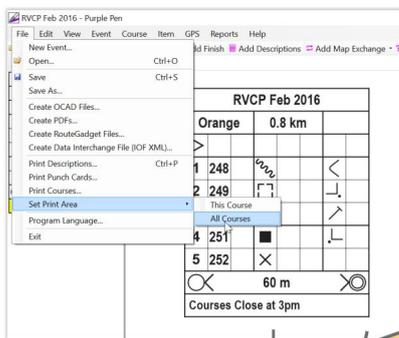
Printing Your Courses

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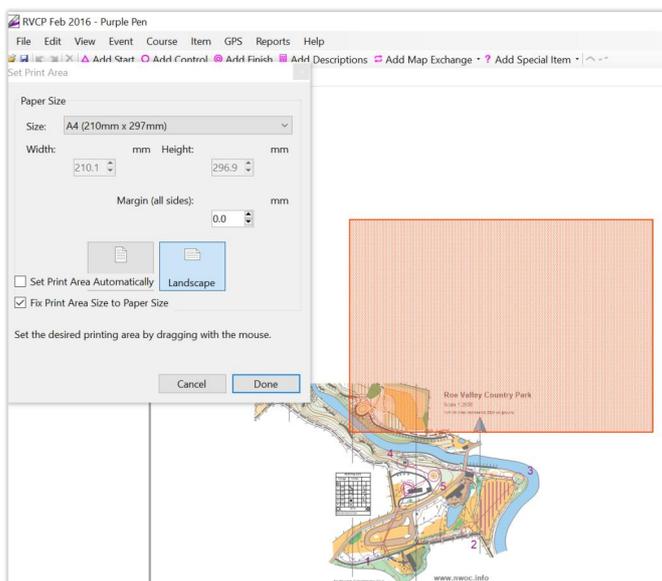


For bigger events the printing will be done professionally so all you have to do is to email your (very carefully checked and controlled) PurplePen file AND the map file it was linked to, to the printer. For smaller events you will print on an A4 inkjet or colour laser printer - so you need to make sure the map fits. It is important therefore to test this early on.

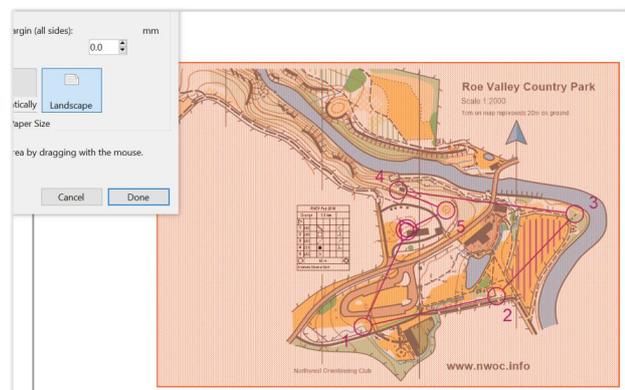
- 1) Set Print Area. You will find this option on the "File" menu. Normally you will set for all courses.



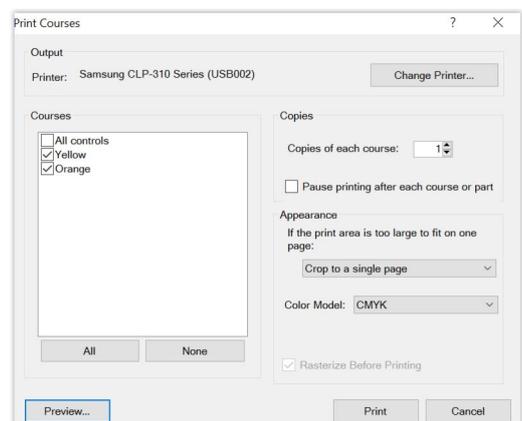
- 2) Unless you are very lucky and the map is already nicely lined up for A4 printing at the correct orientation, you will need to position the print rectangle to match the map bit you need (this can be only part of the map - as long as all your courses fit on it).
To do this zoom right out (scroll wheel or zoom slider) to get the big picture. The orange rectangle shows the current print window location:



- 3) Make sure Size is set to "A4". Checking "Set Print Area Automatically" may be all you need to do. However if your map shape is more tricky you may need to drag the rectangle and possibly click on the "Landscape" toggle to switch between landscape and portrait.
- 4) Click "Done" when you are happy with the fit.



- 5) Go to File / Print Courses and select which courses and how many of each to Print. Remember to print several "All controls" for putting out, collection and for use with disqualification queries.



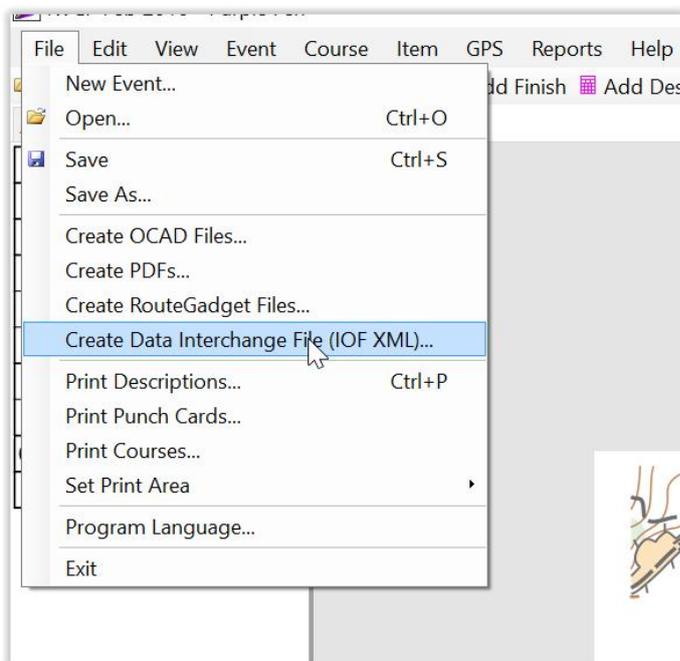
- 6) "Loose" Descriptions can be printed from File / Print Descriptions in a similar way.

Exporting Ready for AutoDownload

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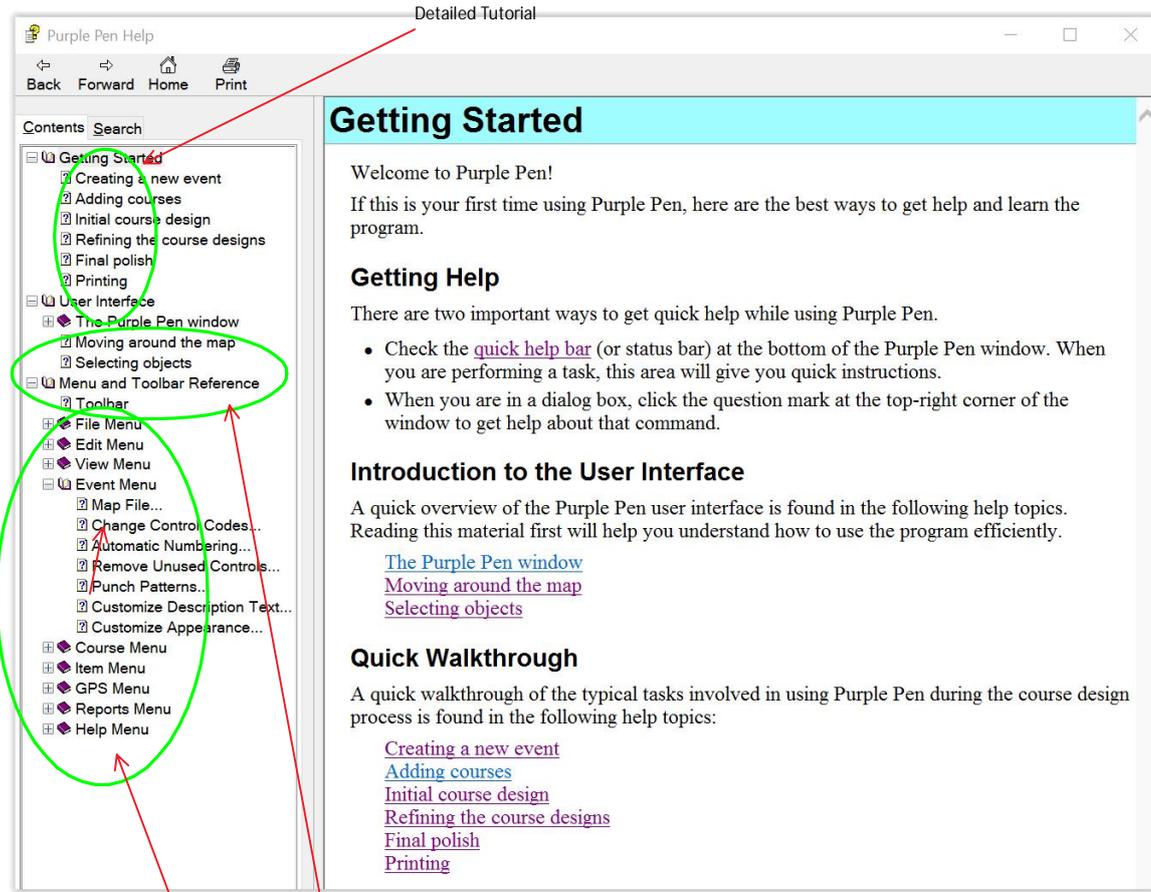
- 1) Once you are happy with your courses, their legibility and have added all relevant additional information you can save a final version.
- 2) Ensure that this version is used both for printing courses and for export to AutoDownload - beware of late changes.
- 3) Now go to Print / Create Data Interchange File (IOF XML) and save your XML file to an appropriate location (eg. memory stick) to load into AutoDownload.



Help!

11 February 2016 09:13

1) The Help in PurplePen is excellent - almost anything you may need should be there. So the best place to find out about Help for Purple Pen is the PurplePen Help Screen below!



"Everything you wanted to know about PurplePen but were afraid to ask!"

User Interface - driving the program

3) The "Quick Help Bar" will keep you on track. Eg. adding a gap to a circle below:

2) Don't forget to Search. Not sure which menu / feature to use - just search help. Suppose you want to add a gap in a control circle to improve legibility. Go to Help, click the search tab, type "gap" in the box, click "list topics" and then click again on the topic you want:

