

the **Bridge**

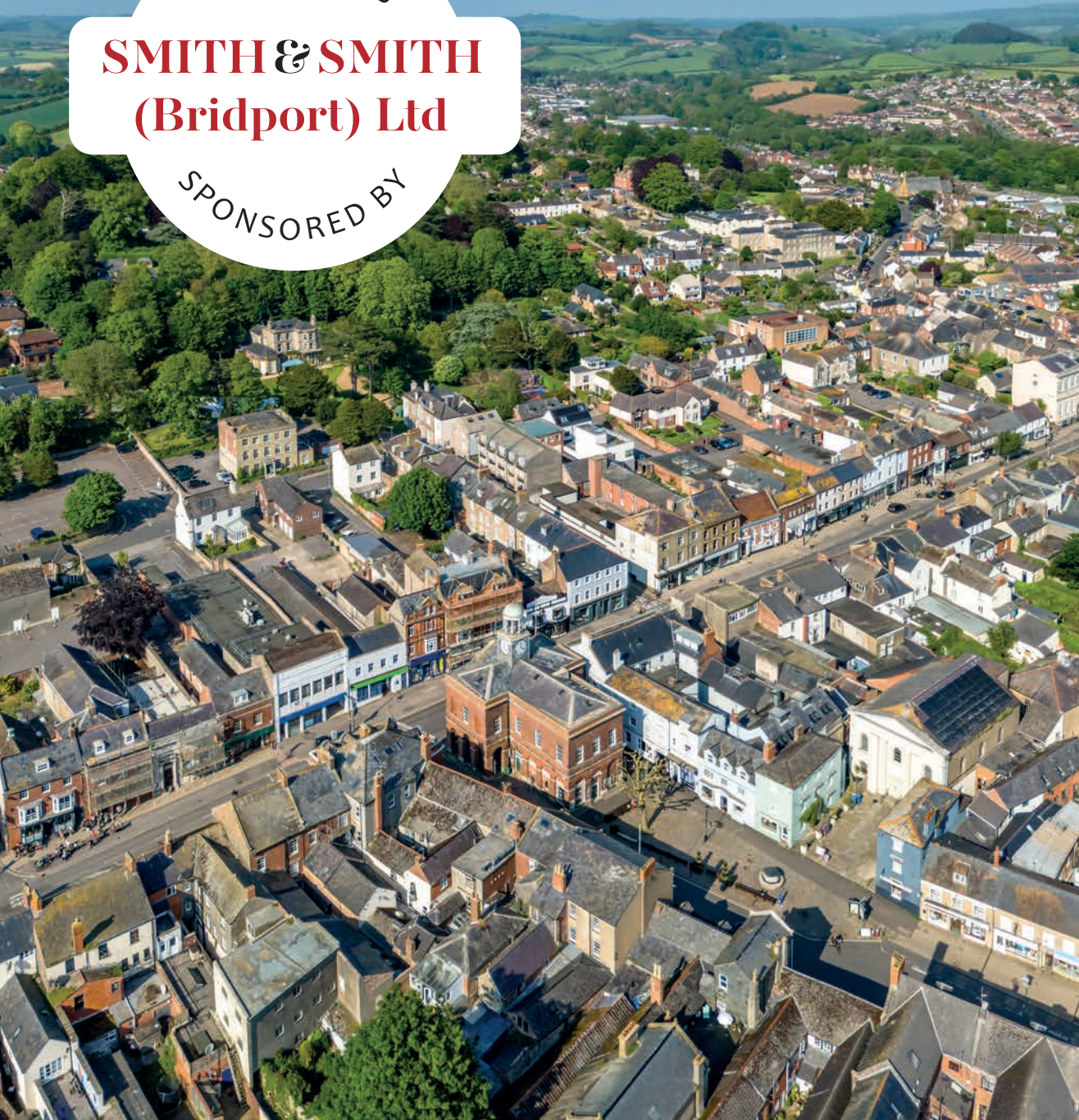
September 2024

THIS ISSUE IS

**SMITH & SMITH
(Bridport) Ltd**

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A community magazine for Bridport
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**The advertising and copy deadline
 for the October 2024 issue is
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Advertising rates appear at www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the editor. Otherwise send copy to parish editors (details in Parish Pages) at least three days before the deadline, or a week for handwritten/typed copy. We cannot guarantee to include unsolicited contributions.

Opinions expressed in The Bridge are not necessarily those of either the editorial team or the clergy. While we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the magazine's contents, we cannot accept responsibility for information given or claims made by our contributors or advertisers.

Living by the Olympic Movement's principles

I'm sure many of us enjoyed watching this summer's Olympic Games in Paris: a wonderful sporting occasion with everyone trying their best and achieving personal, or team, bests and even a medal.

Yet at the same time we have seen riots in our cities and the disquieting of our usual peaceful country. There has always been and always will be rivalry between competitors, between football teams, and so often that is what drives us as a species. It is only human to want to be the best for your team. But the disquieting disturbs us as laws appear to be broken, and innocent folk – including the police – are attacked for trying to keep the peace.

Being understood is a twofold problem. Can you explain the problem and, secondly, can the listener understand what you are trying to say? Jesus had this problem throughout his life and was not without controversy. Much of what he said he put into stories, or parables, to try and get the message over. Even his closest friends misunderstood until the first Easter.

Take for instance the time when Jesus fed the five thousand after a child had offered his two small fish and five barley loaves. No one went hungry that day, and the scraps filled twelve baskets. Jesus then moved on and the crowds followed. Did they follow because they were fed, or because they were entranced by him? Jesus then said: "I am the bread of life. Whoever believes in me will never be hungry, never be thirsty." The Greek word for bread is 'artos', which means subsistence. In The Lord's Prayer it means "Give us today enough food to eat" – not a bellyful three times a day, but enough to live on healthily.

So what did Jesus mean by "I am the bread of life"? He simply meant that by believing in him, his word, his way of self-sacrifice for the good of others, we will have

a full meaningful life, not only here on earth but afterwards in his nearer presence.

The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport, practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit. This requires mutual understanding and an ethos of



Graham Purse

*Think of others
and respect their
differences...
build up a spirit
of friendship
and peace*

friendship, solidarity and fair play.

If we follow this goal throughout our lives, we are in effect following what Jesus taught us: the building up of peace, mutual understanding, and a spirit of friendship and fair play in life. It means not being discriminatory.

A recent visitor to West Bay was having a bad day. His arm was heavily bandaged,

and I watched as after putting sugar in his coffee he tried to put the top on a disposable cup with his other hand. No joy – it went everywhere and he stormed off. My family were next in the queue. We got him a new coffee and sugar, plus our own order, then headed off after him. We found him sitting having a grumble to his wife. When he saw us with a replacement coffee, however, his face beamed, and his wife's face beamed, too. He thanked us profusely, but we just said we saw your problem and tried to help, but you walked off. Our actions helped a visitor feel welcomed, feel loved and valued as a fellow human being.

Whatever you do in life, think of others and respect the ways in which they are different from you. Have empathy with whoever you meet and build up a spirit of friendship and peace.

Graham Purse

Find out more about the Christian faith this season

The Revd Cally Burch, Pioneer Team Vicar, will be running an Alpha course this autumn and winter, starting on Wednesday 11 September.

The course outlines the core principles of the Christian faith that all denominations agree on and gives participants an opportunity to engage in discussion and be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sessions will be on Wednesday evenings at 7pm from

11 September. For more details contact Cally on 07746 561144 or pioneervicar@parishofbridport.org.

Cally and the Revd John Rees are also planning to set aside an hour on the first and third Thursdays of the month (3.30–4.30pm) from September for open prayer in each of our six churches in rotation. All welcome. A list of venues and dates will be circulated via pew sheets and the parish website, www.parishofbridport.org.

Bridport is Dorset's 'Town of Culture' 2024

Bridport, the inaugural Town of Culture in Dorset, is enjoying an extraordinary six-month celebration of creative community collaboration and artistic expression with a myriad of events.

Running until December, it is an initiative spearheaded by Bridport Town Council in partnership with Bridport Arts Centre, Bridport Youth and Community Centre, Bridport Museum, the Lyric Theatre and many of the town's independent makers, creatives, businesses and artists.

Bridport 24's programme of events launched over the first weekend in July, featuring performances in Buckydoo Square, the return of The Portrait Challenge, kite-making sessions by Kites for Schools and a night of music and dance from reggae and dancehall label Greensleeves that literally made the Arts Centre vibrate.

Over the summer a range of fine art and exhibitions celebrated the heritage and culture of the town and surrounding countryside. The George Biles 'King of Signwriters' exhibition was hugely popular and brought memories flooding back for many. Sladers Yard's annual summer print show will continue until mid-September, and the Small World Festival, a brand-new event, will take place in the Arts Centre and the Community Orchard on 14 September. Banners and flags celebrating the cultural diversity of Bridport have been installed across town.

A key focus is a skills development programme for young adults to ensure their voices are represented and their perspectives amplified. There is a core team of 12 young adults now working together as the Town of Culture Initiative for Young Adults (TOCIYA). These young people, who have very different lived experiences and backgrounds, are linked with individual experts and organisations on a bespoke basis to enable their personal and professional development.

TOCIYA performed at the opening event and have since installed the Piano of Joy in the foyer of the Arts Centre. They have a programme of events including dance, street art, spoken word and visual arts, performances at St Michael's Vintage Markets and a two-day takeover of Bridport Arts Centre planned for



The Asker Meadows pavilion under construction

November. One of the participants, Lily, says: "Being part of TOCIYA has led me to feel more confident in myself and my passions."

In Asker Meadows a pavilion has been constructed by young people using locally sourced and reclaimed materials under the creative auspices of Common Practice, a Bridport design studio that works to reconnect people to the productive landscapes around them. The pavilion is available until the end of September both as an informal and bookable gathering space. After that, the seating – made using rammed earth and planks from the Foundry Lea felled trees – will remain, but the higher frame structure made from locally grown Douglas fir will be removed and reused.

A central ambition of the Town of Culture programme is to increase collaboration between creatives, artists and cultural organisations and allow them to come together to share ideas and build a community of support. Bridport's Culture Cafe – a space for anyone involved in the creative sector – will be launching in September in the cafe space at Bridport Arts Centre. It's free to attend with no set agenda and will take place 7–9 pm on 19 September, 24 October, 21 November and 19 December.

Email townofculture@bridport-arts.com for more information about any of these initiatives and events. *Caroline Pearce, Rosie Russell & Michael Armstrong*

Welcoming the new parish safeguarding officer

Wendy Thorogood has joined the Parish of Bridport team as its parish safeguarding officer (PSO). This vital voluntary role is central to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults within the church community and its activities.

Wendy has had a long career in nursing and child protection. She writes: "Safeguarding adults and children is everybody's business. We all have a role to play in ensuring that everyone in our community is treated with dignity and respect, can make informed decisions about their lives without being subject to undue pressure, and will be protected from harm and abuse wherever possible. In my role as PSO I am here to help and guide you through your concerns.

"I moved to Bridport 13 years ago to take up the role of designated lead nurse consultant for safeguarding adults and children across Dorset. This was a position I had held in Kent and nationally, and as a director for the Association of Child Protection Professionals I still work on peer reviews and investigations nationally.

"Safeguarding has been woven through my career. I trained at Guy's Hospital in London, then specialised in intensive care as a cardiac nurse. I married and moved



PSO Wendy Thorogood (centre) at St Mary's Bridport with Lesley Hill (left) and Diana Wright

to Kent where I worked on a special care baby unit. This led to a deeper interest in safeguarding and a master's in child and adult protection. Over the years I have been part of policy, training and staff development for the NHS. I'm now retired, although I have continued doing various reviews, training and supervision.

"Safeguarding means early help and prevention. When working with vulnerable people, you can change their lives for the better with the right early help and support. I have many good news cases! Don't get stuck in the process, always ask for help, and remember: it takes a village to raise a family."

Bell celebrations continue at St Mary's Bridport

This year is the centenary of the recasting of the bells at St Mary's, and the church is continuing its celebrations into the autumn.



The next tower open day is on Saturday 7 September, 10am to 12.30pm. This is a chance for members of the public to visit the tower and even ring the bells. Coffee and cake will be served in the church.

On Thursday 3 October at 7pm there will be two fascinating talks about Bridport history. First, Richard Balson will present 'The butcher and the bells of Bridport'. This talk will take listeners on a journey from 1515 to the present day, describing how life and butchery have changed, and how England's oldest family business has survived plagues, fires, floods, wars, recessions and health scares over 509 years – and is still here serving the good people of Bridport.

Afterwards, ringer and retired academic Alastair Forbes will trace the story of the St Mary's bells in the context of the history of the church, town and nation.

Tickets for this evening event are £5 from Balson's Butchers, 9 West Allington, or on the door.

Three more events are planned for next month. On Saturday 12 October at 12.30pm, the ringers will ring a full peal to repeat the first full peal rung on these bells in 1924. This promises to be a very special occasion.

On Wednesday 16 October at 7pm, there will be celebratory bingo in Bridport Youth and Community Centre, Gundry Lane, and on Saturday 19 October at 2pm there will be a free concert by the Wessex Women choir. More details in the October magazine.

Ragtime meets Boogie!

**Sunday 20 October at 3pm
St Swithun's Church, Allington**

Four hands, one piano – Ragtime meets Boogie
International blues and boogie woogie star Julian Phillips joins top ragtime pianist Mike Denham at the grand piano to explore these two remarkable styles, which together shaped 20th-century music.

Full details in October's Bridge, but if you'd like more info now, please ring Yvonne on 459587.

CHURCH SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2024						
Date	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
Sun 1 <i>14th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC	4pm CC (hall)		10am Parish HC service		
<i>Mon 2</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tues 3</i>				2.30pm HC		
<i>Wed 4</i>	2.30pm HC					
<i>Thurs 5</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 8 <i>15th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am HC
<i>Mon 9</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 12</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 15 <i>16th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist 3pm Battle of Britain service	11am HC	9.30am HC		11am Morning Praise
<i>Mon 16</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 19</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 22 <i>17th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am HC	11am Morning Praise
<i>Mon 23</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 26</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Sat 28</i>						6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
Sun 29 <i>18th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am All-age Morning Praise		
<i>Mon 30</i>						10am Morning Prayer

HC = Holy Communion / BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CC = Contemplative Church

Star-studded lineup at this year's BridLit

Tickets for this year's Bridport Literary Festival (3–9 November) are now on sale.

Among the star-studded lineup are gardener Carol Klein, war correspondent Lindsey Hilsum, bestselling author Andrew O'Hagan, nature writer John Lewis-Stempel, novelist and spy's granddaughter Charlotte Philby and archaeologist Bettany Hughes.

Damian Lewis will be talking about his new biography of Paddy Mayne and the SAS; Daisy Goodwin will be in conversation about her novel, *Diva*, based on the life of Maria Callas; and politician Dr Liam Fox will discuss *The Coming Storm: Why Water Will Write the 21st Century*.

The festival, known affectionately as BridLit, is now in its 20th year and the main sponsors are again West Dorset law firm Kitson & Trotman. It takes place in venues around the town and features writers

from many genres – fiction, children's books and non-fiction, including politics, nature writing, history, art, poetry, memoir and the environment.

There is also a special event in September in advance of the festival. Number one bestselling author Victoria Hislop, known for her historical fiction set in Greece, is coming to the Electric Palace on Wednesday 18 September at 2.30pm to talk about her latest novel, *The Figurine*, which came out in paperback on 1 August (see ad overleaf for details).



ROYAL AIRFORCES Association

Battle of Britain service: Bridport and Lyme Regis Royal Air Forces Association Group will host the annual Battle of Britain service at St Swithun's Church, North Allington on Sunday 15 September at 3pm. All welcome.

Calling all pianists!

We now have a **Grand Piano** and so, on two Saturdays:
7 September and 12 October

10.30am till 12 noon, the church will be open to receive pianists in short slots of up to 15 minutes each



No matter whether you're a complete beginner or concert pianist, young or old, **ALL are welcome!**

Not a performer? Come and listen, and be the audience

PLEASE BOOK Tel: Charles 07814388327

St Swithun's Church Allington

ORGAN Recitals

27 October
Introduction to the organ and recital with Bruce Upton

3 November
Organ recital with Peter Lea-Cox

10 November
Organ recital with Paul Cheater

1 December
Organ recital with Richard Godfrey and students

VENUE:
St Swithun's Church
North Allington
Bridport DT6 5DU

FREE parking & entry
retiring collection
for church funds

Sunday afternoons at 3pm

BRIDPORT 2024 Literary Festival

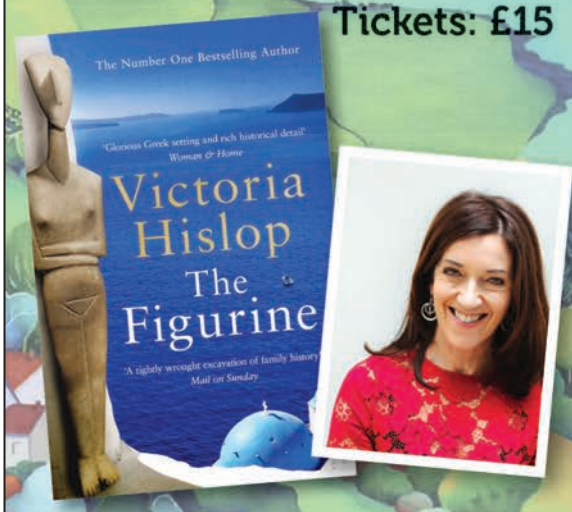
The Twentieth Anniversary

**A very Special Event
for all Book Clubbers
and Book Lovers**

VICTORIA HISLOP
*in conversation with
Sally Laverack*

**Wednesday 18 September
at 2.30 pm
Bridport Electric Palace**

Tickets: £15



**Tickets from the Box Office
(allocated seating):
01308 424 901 or
electricpalace.org.uk/theatre**

**Books at 10% off from:
The Bookshop
South St., Bridport**



**Bridport Forget-Me-Not Dementia
Support Group**

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month!

No Need to book, Just drop in
@ Bridport Youth & Community Centre,
Gundry Lane DT6 3RL 1.30-3pm, £2.50pp

Join us for activities, guest speakers, games and a warm
welcome.

Age UK North South & West Dorset is a registered charity no 1142519

St Swithun's Church Hall, Allington

FUN QUIZ Friday 20 September
6.30pm for 7pm start

Teams of six (max) • £5 per head (cash please)
Coffee & cake included • BYO nibbles & drinks
Raffle in the interval • **Book on 07859 803734**

BRIDPORT & DISTRICT U3A invites you to
Come and sing with us

Our u3a Singers Group meets again on
Thursday 5th September. There's plenty
of space for new members and all voices are
welcome (no audition). Termly fee about £19 – most
music provided. See listing on p30 for contact info.

The poster for Quiz Night at Beacon Church Bridport features a large yellow speech bubble with the words 'QUIZ NIGHT' in bold. The background is dark with lightbulb icons. Text includes 'PRIZES | BRING YOUR OWN DRINK', the date '14 SEPTEMBER', and the start time 'Start at 19:30'. The church name 'Beacon CHURCH BRIDPORT' and address 'Beacon Church Priory Lane DT6 3RW' are also present, along with the website 'www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk'.

Mayoral charities 2024–25 include Home-Start

Home-Start Wessex is delighted to have been chosen as one of the Bridport mayor's chosen charities for 2024–25.

Cllr Anne Rickard's election as the mayor of Bridport was confirmed at the 'mayor making' ceremony in June, and she has since picked three local charities to support during her tenure.

Anne says: "I have chosen Home-Start Wessex as one of my charities because it puts a focus on our young people. The charity fits perfectly with our town's Rights Respecting Status, written into Bridport Town Council's modus operandi since 2018. Still the only Rights Respecting Town in the country, we are keen to ensure all rights are respected, and in this case, of course, the very important Rights of the Child. Home-Start embraces this so well, and I am very pleased and proud to support it."

Kathy Fryatt-Banks, CEO of Home-Start Wessex, says: "We are incredibly grateful to the mayor of Bridport for choosing Home-Start Wessex as one of her charities. Fundraising is a constant challenge, yet our service is in more demand than ever. This year, we supported over 500 families in Dorset, Hampshire and



Cllr Anne Rickard, Mayor of Bridport, with Debbie Phillips-White, Communications and Fundraising Co-ordinator, Home-Start Wessex

Wiltshire, 100 families more than last year, which was already a record year for us. This fundraising support will make a huge difference, enabling us to continue to help families going through major crises – because childhood can't wait."

Since 1995, Home-Start Wessex has helped over 3,500 local families and supported over 10,000 children. Their reach covers the Purbecks, Swanage, Weymouth, Dorchester, Bridport, the whole of the BCP Council area, including Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch, across the borders of Hampshire and Wiltshire,

going as far north as Cranborne and Fordingbridge and as far east as New Milton. Their volunteers offer friendship, practical support and advice to families who are facing difficulties, including poor mental health, depression, disability, domestic abuse, bereavement, isolation and multiple births.

The charity is always looking for new volunteers, as well as fundraising donations. If you can commit to giving two or three hours each week to help, please contact heidi@homestartwessex.org.uk.

Turn to page 13 for our interview with Anne Rickard

Age UK restarts its local dementia support group

Age UK North, South & West Dorset has reopened its Forget-Me-Not dementia support group.



This ongoing gathering on the second and fourth Thursday each month aims to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. The group will work alongside the Alzheimer's Society memory cafe on the first and third Thursdays to provide a dementia support provision for the community across the whole month.

The friendly, welcoming environment will encourage participants to come together, share experiences and encourage peer support while enjoying refreshments, activities, games and guest speakers.

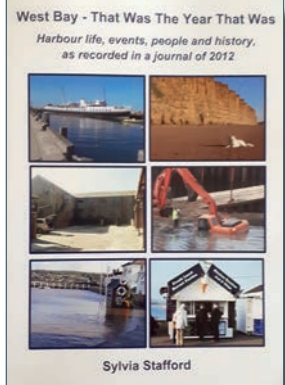
See advert on the opposite page for more details.

West Bay: That Was the Year That Was

Local author Sylvia Stafford's new book is an illustrated journal of a year – 2012 – in the life of West Bay.

Sylvia recorded activities and meetings with residents, workers and visitors against the background of county and national events. And 2012 turned out to be a great choice, with a royal jubilee and the London Olympics as well as the usual calendar of local activities.

The book is available now from The Book Shop, the Tourist Information Centre and Waterstones in Bridport, and West Bay Discovery Centre, price £15.



An update on Christian Aid Week 2024



During this year's Christian Aid Week (CAW), Bridport and District Churches Together raised £3,505.68.

This includes £430 raised by Holy Trinity Bothenhampton's '70K in May' walkers, who covered 914km (all the way from Bridport to Aberdeen!) plus the proceeds of a well-attended coffee morning at Holy Trinity Bradpole, a Christian Aid stall at the popular St Swithun's car boot sale and a soup lunch at St Mary's Bridport.

The money raised will fund Christian Aid's work in Burundi, helping farmers like Aline Nibogora, who

sells avocados and peanuts.

Something as simple as having a bicycle to transport her produce was the catalyst for a series of achievements that transformed her life. With such targeted support and her own determined efforts she was eventually able to build a home on her own land for herself and her three eldest sons.

Organiser Jill Henderson says: "Thank you to everyone involved for your sterling efforts in putting on this year's CAW events. And thank you, Bridport, for your generous response – an increase of just over 20% on last year in what has been quite a challenging time for many.

"After 40 years of working for Christian Aid, sadly I have decided the time has come to hang up my red badge. Next May will be my last Christian Aid Week as organiser, and I hope someone else will be inspired to carry on this worthwhile work. Please do get in touch with me if you'd like to discuss this."

Anyone interested in finding out more can contact Jill on 07970 685665 or jillpetrina13@gmail.com.

Bridge lessons

Are you interested in learning bridge?
Or just need a refresher?

Bridport Bridge Club
is starting a new course
for beginners and returners
at Bradpole Village Hall

Mondays 2–5pm starting on 28 October
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on 14 October

To find out more, contact Martin
on 01308 861120 or email
bridportbridgeclub@gmail.com

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Let's reduce our reliance on single-use plastics

During September the Parish of Bridport is taking a look at its use of single-use plastic.

Plastics have been around for only 60–70 years and have transformed our lives. Light, durable, versatile and cheap to produce, plastic is all around us. It's in the products we use, the clothes we wear, wrapped around the food we eat and in items that some of us may not even be aware of. There are downsides, however. Plastic production uses chemicals derived from oil, natural gas or coal, and is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. And plastic takes hundreds of years to decompose, ultimately turning into microplastic particles that never fully disappear.

Clearly much bolder action on plastic pollution is needed at all levels. There is no time like the present to commit a month to going 'plastic free', discover ways to reduce our personal plastic consumption and even advocate for policies to reduce plastic pollution globally (consider, for instance, the UK ban on free single-use plastic bags, which led to a 98% reduction in use).

However, despite widespread efforts, much of our plastic waste is simply dumped. Every year the UK produces 2.5 to 5 million tonnes of plastic waste,



over 50% of which is exported. Once overseas, plastic waste continues to cause harm. In March 2022 the governments of 175 countries agreed to start work on a landmark global treaty on plastic pollution. This treaty would cover the full lifecycle of plastics, from the extraction of oil and gas through to plastic production, design, use and waste management. Negotiations will conclude by the end of this year, so this is a critical opportunity to encourage the new Labour government to champion this crucial treaty.

If we take seriously the instruction to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31), the action of sending 'our problem' elsewhere must be challenged. Our global brothers and sisters not only face the greatest impact of climate change, they are also suffering directly from the effects of our overconsumption of plastic. Banning the export of plastic waste would force UK bodies to take more dramatic steps and necessitate a reduction in the reliance on single-use plastic.

Locally there are several ways to reject single-use plastic. We can buy many things without packaging, take bottles to be refilled with liquid products and even take our own containers to some shops to fill with loose food items such as pasta and rice. But there are still many barriers to changing our shopping habits, and the greatest of these is possibly how we think.

For September, please take another look at your own consumption of plastic. You'll be surprised how easy it is to find a small change that you can make. Once you have made the first step on your pathway of plastic reduction, the next one will usually be much easier. There are lots of ideas on how to get started on these three websites:

www.friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics/living-without-plastic • www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/ocean-friendly-living/reducing-your-plastic-footprint • www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/2020/09/07/plastic-free-bridport

Help local water voles

Water voles (misnamed 'Ratty' in *Wind in the Willows*) have declined nationally by about 95% since the 1990s. This is mainly due to habitat loss and predation by mink.

A project funded by Dorset National Landscape (formerly Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) is now laying the foundations for the restoration of water voles to the Brit catchment.



There is still a colony at Asker Meadows and project organisers hope to find them elsewhere.

Volunteers are urgently needed to cover more of the River Asker. They will work in pairs to walk about 1km along the river and its streams in both autumn 2024 and spring 2025 to assess suitability of locations for water voles. Each walk would take about two hours, on any day that suits. No prior knowledge is required.

A meeting on 2 September in Askerswell Village Hall will give volunteers more information and a simple reporting system. Email Howard Atkinson (hj_askerswell@btinternet.com) to get involved.

Are you looking for something fun, local and inclusive?



Are you interested in expanding your social network, improving your memory and wellbeing, and generally feeling good? Then come along to **Bridport Choral Society** and meet our friendly singers!

Christmas may seem a long way off but we are looking forward to December! Rehearsals for the season start on Monday 9th September at 7.30pm.

We welcome everyone without audition – enthusiasm and commitment are more important – so join us in the United Church Hall, East St, and sing with us for two weeks free to see if it's for you.

Questions? Phone Bob on 425987, find us on Facebook or check out the website.

We look forward to seeing you!
www.bridportchoral.wordpress.com

www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising



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for film details

**Make a difference • Get involved •
Contribute to your community:
Volunteer trustee positions with
Bridport Area Development Trust**

Volunteer Trustee

Building Services & Maintenance

The Literary and Scientific Institute (LSi) in Bridport is a vibrant community hub providing cultural, social and educational opportunities in an innovative charitable and commercial partnership with a leading high-tech crowdfunding business.

An imposing Georgian grade 2* listed building, the LSi was rescued, renovated and repurposed by Bridport Area Development Trust (BADT), a group dedicated to preserving great buildings and spaces, helping to create jobs and supporting the local economy.

As this exciting project develops, BADT is looking to recruit a buildings specialist to join its tight-knit team. We would welcome interest from someone with expertise and experience in some, or all, of the following areas: building maintenance, operational systems, procedural documentation, compiling reports, anticipating structural and technical issues and repairs, engaging contractors and liaising with our tenants and property management agent.

For more information, please email BADT at mail@bridportadt.org.uk, attaching your CV and a covering letter, and we will provide a job description and a trustee recruitment pack. If you would prefer a preliminary chat, send us your phone number and we will get back to you.

***Volunteer Finance Trustee (mostly working from home 2/3 hours per week).
Help preserve great local buildings and spaces, create jobs and support the local economy.***

You understand accountancy and general finance, are familiar with spreadsheets, online banking and small/medium-sized organisations, and prepared to roll up your sleeves when required. Experience in the voluntary or charity sector would be useful, as would an interest in giving something back to the local community.

Bridport Area Development Trust has been responsible for two major renovation and refurbishment projects: the LSi (see above) and the West Bay Discovery Centre, a former Methodist chapel and now an award-winning visitor centre.

If you are interested in this role, please send your CV with an email explaining why and what you have to offer to mail@bridportadt.org.uk. A trustee recruitment pack and job description are available on request. If you don't have a current CV, send us your number so we can call you for an initial chat.

Rights Respecting: Anne Rickard is Bridport mayor for the second time



Earlier this year Cllr Anne Rickard was elected mayor of Bridport for the second time, and confirmed at the ‘mayor making’ ceremony in June.

Now she has settled into her role, we got together with Anne to hear about her interesting life and her hopes for the year ahead...

The Bridge: Anne, you’ve been mayor once before, in 2017–18. Has anything about the role changed since then?

Anne Rickard: The role itself hasn’t changed at all. It’s very special and a lovely position to have. My mayoral routine varies but on average I go to about three events a week. I have my own secretary who looks after my diary and organises events with back-up from the town council staff. They all work well together – it’s a great team of people who love their jobs. Everyone’s doing it for the town and nobody’s on their high horse!

TB: The town council itself has changed, though, with the absorption of the former parish councils and creation of new ‘wards’. What does that mean for Bridport residents?

AR: Yes, the new council is twice the size! The new structure just makes sense and will draw us all closer together. My husband Dave [also a town councillor and former mayor] and I have lived in Bothenhampton for 18 years and have always felt we were in Bridport, never a village or separate parish.



I understand that some people are unhappy about the increase in the precept element of their council tax – it’s always been higher in central Bridport, and that rate now applies across the board – but overall this change is absolutely fair and the right way to go. We should expect to share the costs of running the town we all use and love.

Bridport Town Council has paid staff, and much of the parish work was done by volunteers, who were often not elected for lack of people coming forward. An election confirms that your electorate have put trust in you, and I also think prospective councillors should make their political affiliation and views clear, as it gives voters some idea how their representatives are likely to react to various issues. I’m very pleased to be part of our fully elected council.

We have a really good set of councillors now. We’ve lost a few through age or ill health, so new people have replaced them, bringing new ideas. There’s always a bedding-in period, but the council looks exciting, with some very clever people who are keen to be active and make a difference.

TB: In your first term as mayor you declared Bridport to be a Rights Respecting [RR] Town – the first in the country. How did this come about and what does it mean?

AR: The idea came from pupils at Colfox School who were fed up with the assumptions people were making about them because of their age – they would often be refused entry to shops, for example. Many schools across the country are RR, and it has a really positive effect on young people’s behaviour and attitudes, as they consider the responsibilities that go hand in hand with their rights. Our young people went a step further and asked the council to consider widening the RR approach across the town. Now, in every process and every project, we all ask ourselves: Does this ‘feel’ RR? It’s very important to me.

TB: You’ve chosen three local causes as your mayoral charities for the year. What are they and why are you supporting them?

AR: Two of the charities – Bridport Youth & Community Centre (BYCC) and Home-Start – benefit young people, something that’s close to my heart. Their work reflects the town’s Rights Respecting ethos, too. Home-Start supports families with young children, while BYCC provides activities, events and clubs for young people. My third charity is Read Easy, which helps adults improve their literacy skills. I used to be a Read Easy reading coach until I just got too busy, and I have so much respect for the important work they do. I wanted to support all three of these excellent causes. →

Anne Rickard is Bridport mayor again *continued*

TB: What are the biggest challenges facing the people of Bridport today?

AR: There are multiple challenges – energy price hikes, the housing shortage, climate change... we need the whole system to start working together. Now we have a different central government, as well as a Lib Dem-led Dorset Council and town council, I hope things can change.

One example is the planning laws: our old buildings need insulation and better windows, and there need to be fewer restrictions so this can happen. Also, it's hard to get new homes built when there's more money in retirement properties and homes for elderly people. We need young people to live here and run things, but so many either can't afford it or can't find a suitable place. We're facing a dearth of opportunities for young people to stay in their home town. The new government will impose housing targets, which gives me hope. We need to be able to make things happen, although it won't be quick or easy.

I'd like to add that the town's surveyor, Daryl Chambers, and our town clerk, Will Austin, have for a long time managed to make things happen despite some tricky planning obstacles. They're part of a very strong team and do really well.

TB: How did you come to settle in Bridport and get involved in public life?

AR: I'm from Sidcup, Kent, and Dave grew up in London. We lived in the South East for years, near the M25, and we knew we'd like to move to a different area at some point. When our circumstances changed we took a leap and moved to Martinstown, where we lived 'the good life' in a very special old house. We kept chickens, pigs, orphan lambs – it was a big adventure! My older son and daughter had already left home but this was a wonderful place for our younger son, Chris, to grow up.

It was music, and the lack of a motorway, that first drew us towards Dorset, and after those fruitful years in Martinstown, we realised Bridport was calling. Chris had got himself a job in a computer shop, and then got into the music scene. He loved it – he's an ace keyboard player, even if I say so myself – and the older musicians were very welcoming and encouraging. We discovered the heart of this town and just had to move here. We felt the eccentricity, differing opinions, sense of humour, sense of never being afraid to be slightly bonkers and the freedom to just be yourself would suit us

well, and we felt welcomed from the start. The local Lib Dems wanted Dave to stand as a town councillor, and in the end I got involved too.

TB: Do you have any passions outside local government and improving people's lives?

MC: Definitely music, although I don't perform so much now. I've always loved singing and I sang with Orpington Junior Singers when I was young – we did concerts, festivals and even some radio and TV appearances. That was my life from the age of 12 into my 20s, and after that I always found it difficult to join another choir. When Dave and I got together, he introduced me to the folk scene. What an eye- (or ear-!) opener this was! We performed in several different line-ups, all over the country and even made several recordings – we had so much fun.

When we came to Dorset, I was asked to join an all-female trio, Dangerous Curves, and we ended up performing together for 12 years including a trip to the USA. We sang close harmony with lots of comedy. All this gave me so much confidence and to be honest I think it made me a different person.

Music is definitely a lifelong passion, even though I don't perform now. Dave and I still jive!

The Mayor's Blog is online at www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/category/mayors-blog. There's more info about Home-Start on page 9.

Pictured: Anne with Angus Campbell CVO, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, and Harmony staff and volunteers at the opening of the charity's new centre this summer



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ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967
 Director of music – Tim Linsley
 07830 308701
 Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

At this time of year, it is good to pause and reflect on what happens at St Mary's apart from church services...

The churchyard

The stunning display of wildflowers and flax recently hit the headlines in the Bridport News. This is a remarkable transformation as the space where they now flourish was previously home to a rather large and not very attractive sprawling shrub that had become the focus of antisocial behaviour. Many thanks to the St Mary's Gardening Group for making this happen.

Tots Time Bridport

Tots Time is a welcoming space where parents and carers can meet with others and where their children can learn to socialise, develop skills and grow in confidence, all through play. During the past year we have welcomed 59 adults – mums and dads, grandparents and childminders – and 64 children ranging in age from a few weeks to four years.

Sessions take place in St Mary's Church House Hall every Thursday during school term time, 9.30–11am, and cost £1 per adult and 50p per child.

Once the buggies and the scooters have been safely parked and fees paid, there are hot drinks and toast and a range of play equipment and craft activities, which change each week. In the summer we use the outside play area with the sandpit and water play. Every session ends with a short singing time.



Life+Line

The Life+Line bereavement support group provides a safe, confidential space where you can talk about your bereavement, make new friends and know that others will understand a bit about what you are experiencing.

Here is a reflection on the work of Life+Line from one person's experience: "Life+Line is such an asset and in my opinion deserves to be more widely known and spoken of. In time of need I found it to be a real support. I was very low and feeling over-burdened



The stunning display of wildflowers in St Mary's churchyard appeared in the Bridport News recently

by the seemingly endless official and financial affairs that my husband had always looked after – accounts, bills, pensions, income tax and so forth – so to come each month to a friendly group, meeting in pleasant surroundings and with a welcoming tea/coffee and the knowledge that nothing said would go beyond that room, was such a help. Everybody listens and respects what you have to say. Tears are acceptable too, with tissues to hand. I would certainly recommend giving it a try if you are struggling. Say it all there and give your family and friends a break. I shall always be grateful for this facility."

See page 31 for more details and contact information.

Bridport Food Bank

For the past 13 years there has been at St Mary's a service for local people who are experiencing food poverty. Initially called Cupboard Love, it is now an independent charity and known as Bridport Food Bank. Every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm about 45 people come to collect food: enough for three meals a day for three days, including fresh bread, eggs and vegetables. Additional support is available from the Bridport Clothes Bank, First Point (for housing advice) and Citizens Advice. There is an additional session at the Bridport Youth and Community Centre on Mondays from 5 to 7pm.

How can you help? The food bank needs tinned meat, fish, soup, veg, tomatoes, fruit, and rice pudding, pasta sauce, breakfast cereal, coffee, UHT milk, jam, and toiletries and hygiene products. At present we have plenty of baked beans, pasta, tea and toothpaste.

Please help by donating food at local supermarkets and drop-off points. Details of how to donate money are online at www.bridportfoodbank.org. Your generous support makes a real difference, so thank you!
Peter Wright

Bridport Town Council CENTRAL WARD

Ward clerk – Will Austin 456722
enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

Bridport's Central Ward councillors held their most recent public meeting on 24 July, chaired by Cllr Dave Rickard. Among the topics discussed was the recent introduction of a 20mph zone across the town centre.

Councillors welcomed the scheme but would like to see some more signage to highlight the lower speed limit. The meeting also heard about a potential licensing application for premises at St Michael's Trading Estate, with the applicants outlining a possible food and small event venue. Councillors welcomed the pre-application engagement and offered advice on how to proceed.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included a proposal from Churchill Retirement Living for a development at the JC Phillips site off South Street. The council's planning committee had considered this



at length and members recognised the need for wide community involvement when a planning application is submitted. There is more information online at www.consultwithyou.co.uk/churchill/bridport.

There was disappointment that, for the second year in a row, town centre weeding promised for early July hadn't yet been carried out. Dorset Council member Cllr Sarah Williams undertook to pass on councillors' displeasure to the Dorset Council Highways team.

There was a request from local residents for the town council to get involved in a land ownership issue adjacent to Back Rivers Lane. More information is being sought on this subject.

Councillors recognised that the disused phone box on West Bay Road was in a poor state and unlikely to be capable of being restored for community use. BT would be asked to remove it.

The next ward meeting is on 18 September at 2pm and members of the public are encouraged to come along to hear and speak about issues affecting the centre of Bridport. Councillors will also be holding regular 'surgery' events for one-to-one conversations. You can find them at Bucky Doo Square from 11am to 1pm on the following Wednesdays: 4 September, 6 November, 15 January 2025 and 12 March 2025. If it's wet, signs will direct you to an indoor location nearby.

Details of the Central Ward councillors are online at www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/councillors-2024.
Will Austin

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

Parish editor – Barbara Ffooks 423122
Children & youth worker –
Jean Mitchell 422127
Director of music – vacancy

From the parish editor

The pet service on 14 July was a happy and informal occasion with eight dogs being the centre of attention. The service included appropriate hymns such as All Things Bright and Beautiful and All Creatures of Our God and King, and each owner introduced their dog, telling the congregation why their pet was so special to them. There were also photographs of a childhood pet in Australia. Each animal received a blessing and was given a treat. They were all extremely well behaved and got on well together with no squabbling! There has

been a request to repeat this service next year.

There was another happy occasion in Holy Trinity during the summer. It was a joy to have a wedding in the church on 27 July, and we wish Tom and Tiffany much happiness in their life together.

There will be no coffee morning in September, so the next one will be on Saturday 5 October, 10am to 12 noon in the church. Come for tea and coffee, cake stall and chat. There are also books and a raffle.

The Ride + Stride event is on Saturday 14 September. Participants are sponsored to ride or walk to as many churches as possible, and their sponsorship proceeds are divided between the Dorset Historic Churches Trust and their own church. Holy Trinity will be open but we are not able to run a special event this year and the church will not be manned.

If you enjoy a cream tea, come to the village hall on Sunday 8 September when the hall committee will be serving teas at 3.30pm.

Cost £5 per person. →



HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

Now the summer months are past and we are coming into autumn, we welcome the return next month of the luncheon club, which starts on Thursday 10 October. Come for a delicious hot meal in the village hall cooked for you and served in the company of others. There will be more details in the next issue.

The next working party to tidy up the Old Churchyard is on Saturday 12 October at 2pm.

There will be a concert by Parnham Voices in Holy Trinity on Saturday 19 October. More details to follow.

The October parish service will be at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton on Sunday 6 October at 10am. The

following week, on 13 October, we shall be celebrating harvest and this will be at our usual time of 11am. At the end of the service a ploughman's lunch will be served, then we will finish by singing a harvest hymn.

Film evenings are continuing during the autumn with a new selection of films to choose from.

Barbara Ffooks

FILM NIGHTS in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 28 September – title to be announced

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5

Refreshments available

Please book by emailing lenc2413@outlook.com

ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725
walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Ann Ayling on 424896

Parish service at Walditch

July's combined Parish of Bridport service took place at St Mary's Walditch. Although there is a parish service every month, it is only held at Walditch once a year, so it was a special occasion. The preacher was the Revd Cally Burch and the celebrant was the Revd Ann Ayling.

The theme was 'Those whom God calls and blesses', based on the Old Testament account of the patriarch Abraham and his journey to the Holy Land, and there were appropriate Bible readings. The congregation sang three hymns quite enthusiastically – Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer, A New Commandment and Great Is Thy Faithfulness – and Annie Gordon gave a moving testimony about her journey to the Christian faith.

There were refreshments afterwards in the village hall (special thanks to those who helped with this) where Wendy Carnell had set out question cards on the tables on the theme of 'Setting out into the unknown and trusting God as Abraham did'. This stimulated a discussion, and colouring and crafts were available, too.
James Craddock

Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our meeting on Thursday 26 September at 10am in the village hall. We meet on the last Thursday each month for seasonal topics and garden discussion

Right: Ipomea 'Morning Glory' Heavenly Blue.
Below: Dahlia Bishop of York (yellow) and Bishop of Llandaff (red)



with tea/coffee and biscuits. We look forward to welcoming you. For more details phone 07810 110461.

Jane Mowatt

September gardening jobs:

Gather your harvest of fruit and veg and start planning your garden for next year; clear autumn debris to prevent pests and diseases overwintering; clean the greenhouse in preparation for winter; plant out spring cabbages and sow winter lettuce; finish planting new strawberry plants (keep watered); pot up herbs in a cool light place for use in winter; collect seeds and beans for sowing next year; clear crops once they've finished and fork over; plant new trees, shrubs, climbers and perennials; move evergreen shrubs; begin dividing overgrown perennials, lifting tender species to bring under cover; take hardwood cuttings from roses; plant spring-flowering bulbs, plant out spring-flowering biennials and plant up containers with spring bedding; sow hardy annuals to flower next year.

Featured plant of the month: helenium

Helenium is a hardy, herbaceous, clump-forming perennial with daisy-type flowers. Mainly in flower from late July often into early October as long as dead flower heads are removed. Easy culture, given a sunny position in moist, well drained and preferably alkaline or neutral soil. It's attractive to bees.



There are several varieties, some of which have received an RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM). Perhaps the most popular is Moorheim Beauty, with reddish orange flowers, and the variety pictured above is Sahine's Early Flowerer. Both of these are AGM. These and most varieties are approximately 3ft in height and do not normally need a stake, though this will be required for taller varieties.

Plants die down in the winter and are best lifted and divided in the autumn or early spring every three or so years. Generally pest and disease free.

Thelma's hymn notes

We Plough the Fields and Scatter

This is perhaps the best-known harvest hymn – many will remember singing it during childhood – and it has a jolly refrain after each verse. The opening verse sets the scene: *We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand. He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine and soft refreshing rain.*

The late-18th century hymn was written by German poet and journalist Matthias Claudius, then translated into English by Jane Campbell in 1861. Miss Campbell, a vicar's daughter, was an accomplished linguist and singer who translated many German hymns into English. In 1878 she was tragically killed in a carriage accident on Dartmoor.

The melody was written in the 1790s by Johann Abraham Peter Schulz, a composer and conductor. *Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch*



Bridport Town Council BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH WARD

Ward clerk – Jo Hughes 07398 171955
bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

The first Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward public engagement session took place on Wednesday 24 July at Bothenhampton Village Hall with the newly elected ward councillors: Anne Rickard, Bridget Bolwell and Andy Holdridge.

The session was very well attended and ward residents raised several issues and concerns, including:

- 20mph speed limit for Crock Lane/Bothenhampton
- Pedestrian crossing for Sea Road South
- Flooding on Spinners' Lane, Walditch
- Dangerous height of trees at the John Gundry play area
- Dangerous state of the high pavement on Hollow Way.

Ward councillors are addressing the issues raised and updates will appear on our Facebook page (search 'Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership').



Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership



Please email me (bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk) if you'd like to be added to the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward mailing list and receive regular updates and information on ward matters.

The next drop-in public engagement session is on Tuesday 17 September, 5.30–6.30pm in Walditch Village Hall. All residents are very welcome to come and speak with councillors on any matter relevant to the ward. Meanwhile, if there are any ward matters you would like to raise, please contact me as above.

Jo Hughes

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232
douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com
 Tower captain – Janet Robinson 07913
 549946 / *htbrabells@parishofbridport.org*
 For pastoral or personal issues, please
 contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644
 (Wednesday is her day off)

Congratulations to the Reeses!

On 2 July, during a parish service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne, licensed the Revd John Rees as an associate priest and commissioned his wife Anne as a lay worship leader in the Parish of Bridport. All are pictured right with Canon Deb Smith, Rector of Bridport. It was a joyful occasion – congratulations to both of you!

Fifth Sunday of the month

On Sunday 29 September at 9.30am we will be having a 'breakfast' church service for all the family, with pastries and tea or coffee. There will be activities, Bible stories and some songs. All welcome.

The Friends of Holy Trinity

The Friends held a strawberry tea on Saturday 13 July when 36 people came along to enjoy a relaxed afternoon chatting and listening to their favourite tunes played on the piano while enjoying sandwiches, strawberries and cream, meringues, scones and cakes (pictured below). Thanks to people's generosity, the event raised more than £120, which will help with the cost of general repairs to the church building.



Pictured left to right: Canon Deb Smith, Rector of Bridport; the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne; the Revd John Rees and his wife, Anne

Tots@Ten

Pre-school children are welcome to join others, with parents and carers, normally every Wednesday during term time in the church where there is lots of space and toys to play with. Refreshments are served. The new term will start on 18 September.

Village Lunch Club

Do come to The King's Head for a social and reasonably priced lunch. The autumn lunches will start on Tuesday 10 September. Please let Daphne King (427552) know if you will be coming so she has the numbers for catering.

Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet on Tuesdays and the Knit & Natter Group will meet on Thursdays in September. Please contact Daphne King as above for details.

Bradpole Buzz Group

The group would love some support with the following:

- Practical help with planting
- Offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden
- Suggestions and general support

The group will be meeting on Wednesday 11 and Saturday 21 September, 2–4pm.

Please phone Rose Van den Akker

on 01308 425756 or email bradpolebuzz@gmail.com.



Pictured left: there was a magnificent display of cakes and other treats at the Friends' strawberry tea in July

The Friends of Holy Trinity Bradpole present a

'Castaway Choices' evening

With a guest castaway!

Friday 4 October at 7pm

Bradpole Church

£10 per person to include a cheese platter • Drinks by donation

Bookings 01308 420716 / wendycarnell@btinternet.com



Bridport Town Council BRADPOLE WARD

Ward clerk – Sandy Goldsmith

07944 523084

bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

Bradpole Ward councillors Ian Bark, Nigel Amor, Rob Casey, Anna Killick and Paddy Mooney held their first public meeting on Monday 8 July at 7pm in Bradpole Village Hall.

Cllr Bark welcomed everyone to the meeting before the councillors introduced themselves. All said they were looking forward to working closely with the community.

The meeting was well attended by residents and representatives from Seal's Cove. The main topics for discussion were: dangerous parking and excess speed in Jessopp Avenue; the licence variation application from Seal's Cove; and flooding in the ward.

Residents from Jessopp Avenue voiced concerns about the dangers caused by vehicles parking near the junction with Sea Road North and close to the bend over the bridge. They would like Dorset Council to consider further traffic calming measures, double yellow lines and a 20mph speed limit. They asked the ward councillors to look at this matter and see if they can progress any actions with Dorset Council.

Councillors explained the procedure around further traffic calming measures and said they would discuss how they might be able to help.

Representatives from Seal's Cove spoke about their licence variation application, reassuring councillors and members of the community that they would take great care to avoid causing any inconvenience to residents. They also spoke about their future regarding



the use of the paddocks that back on to Happy Valley.

Also discussed were Bradpole residents' concerns over recent flooding, particularly in Caley Way and Lee Lane. The main issue was that drains and gullies had not been regularly cleared. Residents would like Dorset Council to be more proactive than reactive.

Councillors discussed the Flood Warden Scheme with residents and encouraged them to consider becoming a flood warden for their area. Anyone wanting more information can contact me.

Throughout the meeting there were constructive comments from residents and many issues raised for councillors to consider.

The next public meeting will be on Monday 16 September at 7 pm in Bradpole Village Hall. The agenda will be posted on the ward noticeboards, the Bradpole community website (www.bradpole.org.uk) and Bridport Town Council website (www.bridport-tc.gov.uk) at least five days before the meeting.

Sandy Goldsmith

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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Verger – Graham Williams 07969 826430
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Festival cream tea in July

The bunting was put up (lots of it) in glorious sunshine, ready for the St Swithun's cream tea – but this being St Swithun's, of course it poured with rain on the day itself! Did it make a difference, though? Not a bit! In fact, it's just possible that the 130+ people who turned up were encouraged to eschew the beach for a brass band and cream tea! As it was very wet, the St Swithun's band set up in the newly created space in the church. They were delighted that the front pews had been removed as it gave them a wonderful space to perform. We were treated to two sets of rousing music, from James Bond theme tunes to traditional band marches. As they practise every week at St Swithun's, they feel at home in the church and hall.

Following the band was the Lyric School of Dancing, led so ably by Teresa Grinter. The boys and girls were aged from three years to early teens and were a delight to watch. We know Teresa well and she is a very versatile talent, often leading our quiz nights in the hall. There were also stalls offering homemade produce, cakes and flowers alongside the children's tombola and a splendid raffle. We believe 90 scones were consumed because we had catered for 90 and, by 4pm, there were none left! It was a wonderful community event.



Pictured: the St Swithun's band (top) and pupils from the Lyric School of Dancing provided entertainment at the church's festival cream tea in July

All of this was beautifully rounded off on Sunday when Canon Deb Smith, the rector, celebrated our patronal festival. St Swithun (sometimes spelt Swithin) was the bishop of Winchester from 852 until his death 10 years later. He is now best known for the rhyme about the summer weather:
 St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
 For forty days it will remain
 St Swithun's day if thou be fair
 For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.
Mandi Sturrock



Happy birthday, ladies!

The summer months saw some joyful birthday celebrations among the St Swithun's community. Longtime parishioner Cunha Warne (left) celebrated her 100th birthday in July with family at the care home in Poundbury where she now lives. And both June Goodburn (near right) and Verena Doyle (far right) turned 93 in late June. They are both former wardens at St Swithun's and still going strong!



Wild & Messy Church in July...

By stilling the storm, Jesus opens the pathway to Christ's presence and peace. This was the theme of the Messy Church event on 11 July, so it was appropriate that it took place during a time of summer storms.

The children heard the relevant New Testament passage and considered what it meant for them today. Later activities explored how nature can bring focus, and how through stillness we all can connect with Christ's peace. Using our God's Green Acre survey, the group also thought about ways to be more eco-friendly.

Songs included Be Still and Know That I Am God, My Lighthouse, and Jesus on the Boat, and there were two 15-minute meditation sessions for children and adults, which many felt was a novel but effective way to bring a sense of inner calm.

The children enjoyed making boats and putting them on a map of the Lyme Bay Marine Protected Area while learning how this conservation project has greatly benefited our local marine environment.

At the end of the session the group received cards illustrating how to care for God's Creation and some 'net zero' actions to take at home. After prayers and a

review of the afternoon, the session ended with tea for the children and their families.

A big thankyou to everyone involved in making this such an interesting and enjoyable event.



...and in August

There was a special event on Thursday 1 August when Wild & Messy Church coincided with the coffee morning at St Swithun's.

There were age-themed activities for the children and Eco Church displays for everyone to look at. At lunchtime the young leaders served a picnic of cakes, muffins and bacon butties.

It was another fun and worthwhile event, so thank you to all who took part.

James Craddock

Bridport Town Council
WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

Ward clerk – Amy Stephenson
07903 337687
bridportwest.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

Bridport West & Allington Ward held its first public engagement session on Thursday 18 July at the wellbeing area on Allington Hill. The weather was glorious and it made a welcome change to hold it outside in a more unusual meeting spot! This was a chance for the newly elected councillors to meet members of the public to discuss any areas of concern in the ward.



It was also an opportunity to update residents on

Pictured:
the wellbeing area at Allington Hill

town council topics or other developments in the town.

Public engagement sessions for this ward will be held every two months and all are welcome to attend. The next session will be on Thursday 19 September at 6.30pm at The Children's Centre on Skilling Hill Road. Sessions are advertised in advance and members of the public are welcome to suggest items for discussion.

Items covered in the first session included the many road and drain defects within the ward; ideas on where else the 20mph limit would be beneficial; and a request for a defibrillator in or near the newly refurbished Court Orchard Community Park. Resident Francesca White, who had been instrumental in the development of the play area here, along with others including town council representatives, gave a talk on how this area had evolved and been developed for the benefit of all.

You can keep up to date with ward information in various ways including a Facebook page (search 'Bridport West & Allington Ward Matters') and noticeboards around at Hospital Lane, Court Orchard and Skilling. Bridport Town Council's website is also full of information and there are plans to have a ward-based information page within this site in the future.

The ward councillors for this area are Sarah Carney, Jonathan Bourbon, Bev Thornton, Steve Williams and Julian Jones. If you need to get in touch for any reason, please email me as above.

Amy Stephenson

ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock
07903 558568
Chapel warden –
Rosemary Russell 423013

News from St John's

Regular Sunday services are being held in St John's, as well as Morning Prayer on Mondays at 10am and the Service of Wholeness and Healing on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6pm.

Although St John's does not have a church garden, one thing it does have – unlike any of the other churches in the parish – is a position very close to the sea and the beaches. The sea is constantly changing: who remembers the storm earlier this year when water overlapped the defences as it rushed by the Discovery Centre into the harbour? The other extreme is a day in summer when there is barely a ripple on the water. This is obviously the attraction for the many holidaymakers who come back to West Bay year in, year out. What is it that brings them back? Is it possibly just a less hectic way of life, or is it the beauty of the cliffs? Visitors do sometimes come to services in our church, but I think more attend the services on the green run by Churches Together during August (inside St John's if wet). This year, for the first time, St John's also hosted 'Come & Sea', an outreach event on 10 and 11 August.

West Bay WI

After a break in August, the regular Knit & Natter session will take place on Wednesday 4 September, 10am to 12 noon. Then on Wednesday 11 September, 2.30 to 4.30pm, Martyn Allen will come along to the meeting to speak about Churchill's Underground Army. If you are interested in joining, please contact either Alison Ridge on 01308 897293 or Maggie Hooper on 07720 056310.

Round and about the Bay

Bridport Gig Rowing Club held their regatta on 29 June and the weather was great. There were 17 gigs from all over the South West with good results for the hosts, who finished in third place. The winners were Weymouth. The powerboat racing was supposed to be the following weekend but despite the dry weather the sea was unfortunately too rough for it to go ahead.

The holiday season really picked up with the campground opening at the beginning of July; here



Left: this montage by Darrell Wakelam is on display in the Discovery Centre. Below: a new 'topper' has appeared on the postbox outside the gift shop



again the weather hasn't played ball although there have been some dry days. The funfair arrived slightly later this year because of the weather but once they set up it was all systems go. This year there is a terrifying new ride, which has changed the skyline of West Bay completely, although I for one will not be going on it!

The weather on 25 July was awful, with rain and mist nearly all day, but amazingly around 4pm the clouds lifted and the rain stopped so it meant the annual raft race could go ahead. There were 18 rafts of all different styles and colours with the teams dressed to match, and the event raised £4,000 for the RNLI.

The ever-popular West Bay Day was on 4 August and the day dawned bright. I walked down to the bay and noticed that the travellers who had arrived on Friday were still in the car park. Obviously they were not aware that there was a car boot held there every Sunday but the stall holders were not put off and set up round the travellers. The camp field was opened up as a car park for West Bay Day although I didn't think there were as many people as usual. It seemed to go off well, however, with lots to do and see and of course the fireworks at 10pm.

Have you seen the postbox hat (pictured above) outside the gift shop in the harbour? It really captures West Bay to a tee, with the kiosks, seagulls and chips – one seagull even has a chip in its mouth!

West Bay Community Forum held their committee meeting where issues around West Bay are raised. I am afraid irresponsible parking reared its head again around Chesil House and also bikers parking on the green outside the church when the Sea Sunday service

was due to be held. We are hoping to have a speaker in October for our open meeting, date and name to be advised. Please check out the notice boards for the WBCF Newsletter which is published regularly.

The Discovery Centre's new exhibition opened on 2 July, when Cllr Anne Rickard, Mayor of Bridport, came along with other invited guests and volunteers to see the exhibits, including the plans made to convert West Bay into a popular resort. As you have seen earlier in this report, this is still a popular resort although not one that can rival either Weymouth or Bournemouth.

The exhibition includes a montage (pictured opposite) made by Darrell Wakelam and volunteers of the proposed changing rooms. Children's workshops were run throughout the school holidays and proved very popular indeed, as did the weekly guided walks.

It will be interesting to see whether the reduction in car parking charges in the West Bay Road car park increases the number of visitors. This is a trial by Dorset Council and a survey is being conducted to gather people's views.

Sue Pollock

Bridport Town Council
WEST BAY WARD

Ward clerk – Will Austin 456722
enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk



The Salt House, West Bay

The ward clerk writes...

The new councillors for West Bay Ward, Ann Langridge and Dave Bolwell, would like to invite West Bay residents and business owners to an informal gathering. This is a chance to meet the councillors and discuss any areas of interest or matters of concern. The gathering is at the Salt House, West Bay, at 2pm on Wednesday 9 October.

Before this there will be a more formal meeting, West Bay Ward Matters, at the Salt House at 6.30pm on Wednesday 18 September. Members of the public are welcome to come along but there will be more chance for discussion at the informal gathering.

Will Austin

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159
Church secretary – Sue Herman
422598 / *bridportsec@gmail.com*

incorporating UPLODERS CHAPEL

Correspondent – Carol Hall
423163 / *carol.a.gribb@gmail.com*

The joy of a warm welcome

Who doesn't like hot chocolate? Lovely, warming and welcoming. Many of us will remember the 1980s band of the same name with their hit song, It Started With a Kiss.

Well for my wife Anne and me, it started not with a kiss or with hot chocolate, but with Saturday morning coffees in the BUC hall. Here, just as people enjoy that



hot chocolate, we were able to drink in the warmth and the welcome from these lovely friendly folks. We had been regular Bridport visitors from Taunton when we happened upon this regular social gathering. That started it – we were hooked!

Next came our attendance at Sunday morning services, where that same friendly Bridport welcome continued. Since then we have also helped at the regular monthly lunches and Big Breakfasts and we are occasionally involved reading or in 'dramas' during Sunday services. No pressure, but a feeling we can be just a very small part of what makes BUC a special place for both regular attenders and those visitors who like us maybe started with a Saturday morning coffee.

This year we finally moved to Bothenhampton, and the people we now regard as our church family played a very big part in that decision. They display all that is best in this wonderful little town – warm, welcoming and inclusive.

But 2024 isn't bringing new beginnings just for us, but for the country as a whole, too, as we have a new

Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

government with a new agenda. This is a reminder that each new day is God-given and offers new opportunities for each of us, whether in high office or like me ‘just an ordinary Joe’ as our American friends might say. We all have decisions to make every day, but whichever church or place of worship we do or don’t attend, there remain simple steps to contributing towards the community that makes this town so special. I’m reminded of the old adage: “We only have one chance to make a first impression.” For us that first impression was the welcome we received the first time we enjoyed our coffee in the church hall.

Thank you, Bridport, for your welcome and your acceptance of us into the village of Bothenhampton, the town and the church community.

Kevin Davenport

There is Sunday Worship at Bridport United Church every week at 10.30am, plus Soul Space on the first Sunday each month at 4pm. On Sunday 29 September the 10.30am service will celebrate Harvest Festival, followed by a ‘bring and share’ lunch.

Regular events at BUC

- Every Saturday: Coffee Morning 10am–12 noon
 - Second Saturday: Big Breakfast 9–11.30am
 - Every Monday: Little Lambs toddler group 9.30–11am (term time only)
 - Every Wednesday: Coffee Morning 10am–12 noon
 - Third Thursday: Friendship Club 2–4.30pm. Crafts, games and fellowship followed by tea
 - Fourth Wednesday: Lunch Club 12.30–2.30pm. All welcome for a two-course home-cooked meal. Please book by phoning 422598
 - Fourth Thursday: Messy Church 3.30–5.30pm
- Please contact your group leader for information about other activities in the church or hall*

From Uploders Chapel

On 21 July we enjoyed our joint service and joint lunch with Loders Church. Once again the Revds Peter and Chris gave us a lovely service, with lighthearted moments and some serious thoughts to consider. After the service quite a few of us enjoyed cuppas and chat before heading to the vicarage garden where the Revd Chris and his trusty team had cooked up a delicious barbecue. Julia and her team had created lots of delicious extras (too many to list!) plus some tasty puddings and drinks. What a lovely way to celebrate togetherness!

The Pop Up Post Office continues to thrive, thanks to your support. However, from the last week in August we have had to agree a change of day back to a Tuesday, from 2.30 to 4pm, which we hope will prove acceptable to everyone.

Unfortunately it has become clear to us that due to imminently changing circumstances, our tiny congregation will no longer be able to maintain Uploders Chapel as a place of worship or as a community hub without help. So with this in mind, the trustees and the Methodist Church are keen to explore the possibilities for the chapel’s continued use, and they are open to your ideas and suggestions.

We plan on having an open meeting on Thursday 19 September at 7.30pm in Uploders Chapel, where representatives will outline the current situation, explain where the Methodist Church stands on possibilities for the chapel’s future use, listen to what you have to say, and answer your questions.

If you feel the chapel is worth saving for the village, please come along and show your support.

So with all this in mind, hopefully we can look forward to a Supportive September and an Optimistic October.

Carol Hall

September services at Uploders Chapel:

- Sunday 1 10.30am The Revd Peter Clark**
- Sunday 15 10.30am The Revd Jane Wilson**

**St MARY & St CATHERINE
Roman Catholic Church**

Parish priest – Monsignor Keith Mitchell
keith.mitchell@predtr.org.uk
Presbytery 424754
Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594
bridport@predtr.org.uk

Change but not decay!

This month I will be moving to Topsham, near Exeter, to ‘retire’. With the shortage of priests in the Catholic Diocese of Plymouth, I use the word ‘retire’ fairly lightly as I shall be helping out in the Exeter parishes and more widely in the diocese. I am looking forward to the freedom from affairs of administration and having more time for prayer and reading and making visits to friends whom I have rather neglected in recent years.

I have had five happy and fulfilling years in Bridport and will miss so much. It was been a joy to be part of

this vibrant community and not least in sharing with Christian sisters and brothers of other traditions. The warmth of the ecumenical scene here has been a great encouragement in so many ways. My last Sunday at St Mary & St Catherine's will be 15 September and I shall then hopefully move to Topsham to live in the presbytery there.



Mgr Keith Mitchell

The new parish priest will move in the following week and his first weekend in the parish will be 21-22 September. He is Fr Colin Groombridge, who is moving to us after time in St Mary's, Poole, and Our Lady of the

Assumption, Torquay. He will be bringing many gifts and talents as a man of prayer with many pastoral and artistic gifts. It is a new, exciting time in the mission of the Church here and beyond.

So, thank you for allowing me to share these last five happy years with you, despite the emergence of Covid soon after I arrived! Be assured that I shall continue to keep Bridport and its people in my prayers and affection. May God bless you all!

Monsignor Keith Mitchell

Sunday Mass is at 10am and is streamed online at www.bridportcatholics.org.uk and the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page. For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see the weekly newsletter on our website.

BEACON CHURCH
Priory Lane, Bridport

Church office 456031
office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk
www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk

Curious what life is all about?

Why are we here? Why is there suffering? What is my place in the world? Do you have your own big questions that you want to find answers to?

Then Alpha is the place and space for you to explore and discuss some of life's big questions. All are welcome to share their thoughts and opinions. Alpha will run for 10 weeks at 7pm on Wednesday nights from 2 October. There will be a meal provided each week followed by a short video and space to discuss questions raised. It is a free course, and we would love you to join us and take some time to think about what life is all about. If you'd like to find out more then visit our website or email us (contact details are shown left).

We are open 11am to 2pm on Wednesday and Thursday for the community kitchen and every Sunday from 10am to 12.30pm for prayer, worship and studying God's Word.

Stay Curious

Try Alpha

Beacon Church
 Wednesday 7PM
 2nd October- 10 weeks

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
King's Lane (in East St car park)

Office 424437 • David Collins 458227
info@bridportchristianfellowship.org
www.bridportchristianfellowship.org

We are a member church of the UK Evangelical Alliance and an Ichthus Link Church. We meet for worship every Sunday at 10.30am and at various times during the week.

We seek to bless the community of Bridport with the Good News of Jesus, and everyone is assured of a →

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP continued...

warm welcome at our Sunday services or when joining in any of our activities.

Our usual pattern of activities is as follows (it varies during church festivals such as Christmas – see online for details: www.bridportchristianfellowship.org).

Mondays: Meals Outreach Project for those who find themselves in difficult times.

Tuesdays: Three House groups meet at 2–3pm, 2.30–4pm and 7.30–9.30pm.

Wednesdays: One House group meets at 7–9pm. Precious Ones Baby & Toddlers Group, for under-4s and their parents or carers, meets in the church at 9.30–11.30am.



**BRIDPORT
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

Fridays: One House group meets at 12.30–2pm. You can also come along and join in our Art Group, 10am–12 noon. You don't have to be brilliant at art!

Saturdays: Pray Chat coffee bar with free tea, coffee and cake, 10am–12.30pm.

Sundays: 10.30am–12 noon is our weekly service. On the first Sunday in the month, we also join together for a meal or BBQ after the service.

Bridport QUAKER MEETING
The Meeting House
97 South Street

Correspondent – Jeni Edwards
538105 / jeni.edwards69@gmail.com

Equality in practice

Once a year, from all corners of the UK, Friends gather in London to guide their Religious Society at our Yearly Meeting. Between one and two thousand people sit in the Large Meeting Room, with the 'clerks' at the table to record the process. Any member can stand and be chosen to speak on the subject in hand. After some time there is a silence and the clerks gather the words spoken around the hall into a direction and a minute of record is offered.

Sometimes more speakers have then stood and spoken their ministry, and the minute is amended. In the end it is not consensus but guidance that is sought. This is the Quaker business method, which is practised nationally, regionally and locally. It requires self-discipline and generosity as well as time, but it has worked for well over 300 years.



The Friend magazine

Quakers gather in London for their Yearly meeting

In Bridport, Meeting is held at the Meeting House in South Street at 10.30am for an hour on Sunday mornings and 10.30am for half an hour on Wednesday mornings. All are welcome.

Our website at www.bridportquakers.org contains all the details you need to book a room for an event or to find out more about us.

Jeni Edwards



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Get involved: local clubs, groups & societies

Please contact the editor (details on page 2) if you'd like your group to appear here. Entries are free but are limited to a few lines and are for non-profit community groups and clubs and their events (not ticketed events such as concerts). Unless otherwise stated, all phone numbers are Bridport (01308).



Bridport & District Allotment Society (BADAS) is open to all. Membership is £5/year and gives discount at several gardening suppliers. Contact 250260 / email BADASHUB@outlook.com. More details online at www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk

Bridport & District Model Railway Club meets each Tuesday at Askerswell village hall 7–9pm. Members can run their stock on the club 'test track' or operate a club layout. Chairman Geoff Purse 423220.

West Dorset Flower Club meets at the WI Hall, North Street, at 2.30pm on the second Monday each month with demonstrations and speakers. On Monday 9 September there will be a Pocket Boutonniere workshop (all materials provided). Phone 456339.

Bridport Stage Company theatre group is now working on a production of The Snow Queen and needs actors plus people to make/source costumes, props and sets. Monday nights from 7pm at The Bull. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Email Valerie for details of future plans: tasterella@hotmail.co.uk

Friday Dance Group for women meets every Friday 11.30am–12.30pm at St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. Come and enjoy dancing as you like to a range of music. First session free. Details from Sue 425037.

Free play singing, circle toning, layering and creating spontaneous tunes, with improvised sound and world rhythms. Tuesdays 1.30pm at Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane. For more info phone Pen 07713 008290.

Bridport Blind Club is a social club for the visually impaired. It meets twice a month for tea, entertainment & chat. Part of Dorset Blind Association, which provides personal and technical help. Ian Ibbotson 898484.

West Dorset Music Community Orchestra meets on Wednesdays in term time 6.30–7.45pm at the Christian Fellowship Hall in East Street car park. Contact 456297 / www.westdorsetmusic.org.uk

West Dorset Singers (formerly the New Elizabethan Singers) meet for choral rehearsals in the United Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from September to May. For more information contact the secretary, Sarah Stamford: secretary@westdorsetsingers.org / 425312.

Bridport & District Gardening Club will meet at the WI Hall, North Street on Thursday 19 September at 7.30pm when Anna May will speak about the glorious, colourful world of Dorset Dahlias. Anna grows around 800 plants a year in 80–100 varieties and sells to florists and individuals. Non-members £2. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

Bridport Bridge Club meets at St Swithun's Hall on Tuesday afternoons (beginners/rusty players; not fourth Tuesday), Wednesday evenings & Friday afternoons (relaxed; not third Friday), plus online on Thursday evenings. Beginners' lessons with free intro session from mid-October. See www.bridgewebs.com/bridport or phone Martin Angold 01308 861120.

Bridport Folk Dance Club meets every Monday 7.15–9.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street. All welcome, including beginners. Phone 458165 or 459001.

Voices of Hope Singing Group is open to all ages and abilities. Easy, uplifting, joyful songs from around the world, some rounds and some in parts. Borough Gardens (off South Street) or The Chapel in the Garden if it's raining, Fridays at 11am. Suggested donation £5. janesilvercorren@gmail.com / 07887 675161 for more details or to join the mailing list.

Bridport Scottish Dancers meet on Wednesdays mid-Sept to May at 7.15pm in St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. All welcome, no partner required. £3 per session incl. refreshments. Basic tuition in first hour. Please wear soft shoes. Caroline 538141 / Tony 01297 560335 / www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk

The Cowshed Wellbeing Gardens group meets on Tuesdays 2–4pm. Gardening, talking, art & workshops for people with health vulnerabilities or wishing to enhance wellbeing. Access is to the left of Bridport Medical Centre. For details please text 07769 720773.

Bridport St Mary's Parkrun is a weekly, free, timed run or walk organised by volunteers. Saturdays 9am at St Mary's Field. Great fun for all ages and abilities. Register online first then bring your barcode on your phone or printed out. Find us on Facebook or visit www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys



Bridport Health Walks are free gentle walks around town. A 30-minute walk every Wednesday and a walk of about 60 minutes on the first and third Thursday each month. Meet in front of the United Church on East St at 9.45am and return for hot refreshments.

No need to book, just turn up. For more details contact 01305 252222 / sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Bridport Tree Planting Group plants & gives away 1,000 trees a year in public and private spaces around Bridport. Three free saplings available per household. Help needed to water and weed young trees. Contact joe@thehacketts.uk for details and to receive newsletter. www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please

Bridport Choral Society rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Margaret Foster margefoster1956@gmail.com

Burton Bradstock Duplicate Bridge Group meets at the village hall on Tuesdays 1.45–4.45pm. Contact Kathy 485626.

AScape offers social opportunities and support for autistic young people and those with social anxiety aged 4–25 and their families. Contact info@ascepegroup.org or visit www.ascepegroup.org

Bridport History Society meets on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at the United Church Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £5pp. Membership is £10 individual / £15 couple. For more info visit www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk

Bridport Inner Wheel meets monthly at Haddon House, West Bay, to enjoy friendship and listen to speakers as well as helping the community. Contact Sue Pollock 07903 558568 / rognsuewbay@btinternet.com

Bridport Branch Royal Naval Association meets on the third Thursday each month at 7 for 7.30pm in the Bridport & District Social Club, North St. Ex-matelots & all other ex-military welcome. Refreshments available. Contact Peter May glassertonm1141@outlook.com

Bridport Community Shed, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, opens Mon, Wed & Thurs 10am to noon. On the first Tuesday of the month there is also an evening stitching session (please book in advance). Contact 07593 880428.

The Harmony Centre provides friendly, informal support for local adults of all ages (18+) who want to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Call in during centre opening hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am–1pm) to find out how we can help you. Now at Unit 1 The Tower Building, St Michael's Estate (entrance via courtyard off Foundry Lane DT6 3RR). Phone 01308 801154.

Bridport Community Front Room offers face-to-face and phone support with mental health practitioners and peer specialists for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Thursday to Sunday 2.15–9.45pm. Based at The Harmony Centre, new address: Unit 1 The Tower Building, St Michael's Estate, (entrance via courtyard off Foundry Lane DT6 3RR). Phone: 07385 290804.

Bridport & District u3a is for people no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings 2pm on the fourth Tuesday each month in the United Church Hall, East St. The talk lasts about an hour, followed by Q&A and refreshments. On 24 September Sarah Stamford will present 'From Doodlebugs to Devon: One War, One Woman, One Year'. Members free, visitors £3. More than 60 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. Contact Alastair Forbes 424166 / chair@bridportu3a.org.uk / www.bridportu3a.org.uk
The **u3a Singers Group** meets on the first and third Thursdays each month at the WI Hall in North Street, 10am for a 10.30am start. All welcome (no audition). Contact Heather 425219 / www.bridportu3a.org.uk. See ad on page 8 for more information.

The Rotary Club of Bridport meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 for 6.30pm at the Bridport & District Golf Club, Burton Road DT6 4QT. We also hold fundraising and social activities on other dates and elsewhere. We help good causes locally, nationally and internationally and support the local community. Contact Mike Green 07909 990693 / mikegreen@greenmail.net

Bellringers in the Parish of Bridport: We always welcome new ringers and are happy to train you on our bells. At St Mary's Bridport we meet at 7.30pm on Thursdays. Contact Bob Hardwick 420632. At Holy Trinity Bradpole we practise at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. We have a ground-floor ringing chamber and training simulator. Contact Janet Robinson jrb-jrb@outlook.com

Bridport Community Fridge redistributes surplus food free or for a donation. Usually Tues and Sat 10–11.30am at The Chapel in the Garden, East St. Also at St Swithun's Church with **Bridport Food Surplus Stall** on Thursdays 9.30–11.30am. See their Facebook page or email events@bridportunitarians.co.uk

Citizens Advice is here to help

Need advice on benefits, debt, employment or other issues? Pick up the phone and talk to us on Freephone 0800 144 8848. You can also email us via the contact form at www.bridportca.org.uk or drop in to 45 South Street, Bridport (Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).



Bridport Stroke Club meets weekly Sept–Christmas and Feb–July at the Community Room, Vernon’s Court. Contact David Lawrence: dandhlawrence@gmail.com

Colmer WI meets on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street. Visitors welcome to come for a no-obligation evening. Contact Sarah Fletcher sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk

Disabled Carers & Friends meet on Thursdays 9am–noon at Vernon’s Court Community Room, South Street. Contact pete.bowditch@hotmail.com / 423620 / 421213 / 427819.

Bridport Community Carnival Committee enables both carnival processions to happen on the third weekend of August each year. Would you like to get involved with planning this sociable event for 2025? Contact joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.bridportcarnival.co.uk

Bridport Youth Dance offers classes in tap, contemporary, street, urban and musical theatre. To enrol or for more details contact Nikki Northover 07765 971357 / bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com / www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk.

MMMM! Monday Movie, Meal & Mingling from United Diversity Bridport (UDB) & Sustainable Bridport. Mondays 6–10pm in the White Room, Chapel in the Garden, East St (entry via Rax Lane). Inspiring documentaries and short films by local filmmakers. Admission £3 to cover room hire (UDB members free). Food and drink available. www.ud.coop/mmmm

Friends at Greenfields is a social get-together for those on their own, or simply needing a bit of company. Every Thursday 10am–3pm at Greenfields, Bridport Community Hospital. Contact Lyn Goward 488272.

Stepping Out Bridport is an exercise and wellbeing programme, led by trained rehabilitation instructors, for people living with or beyond cancer. Monday and Thursday mornings at the Pavilion, Bridport Leisure Centre. All ages welcome. Contact j.perfect@bridportleisure.com. More information at www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk

Life+line Bereavement Support is a Parish of Bridport initiative for people of all faiths or none, meeting in a supportive, confidential environment to listen to and encourage one another in our experience of grief. Fourth Monday of every month 2.30–4pm at Greenfields, Bridport Community Hospital. Contact Diana Wright 456967.

Bridport St John Ambulance unit meets at TS Keppel, West Allington, on Mondays. Cadets (aged 10–18) 6–7.30pm, adults 7.30–9pm. Volunteers are always welcome to join the unit. For details contact the unit manager: caroline.rendell@sja.org.uk

Girlguiding West Dorset has Rainbow, Brownie, Guide & Ranger groups meeting in Bridport area. Open to girls aged 4+ and adults, we offer an inclusive space for fun and friendship and a wide range of activities within a progressive programme structure offering opportunities and awards. www.girlguiding.org.uk / girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com

Bridport Dog Training Society has been active for 60+ years and meets on Monday evenings at St Mary’s Church House Hall, South St. Contact club secretary Sue Palfrey 07787 289425. A trained dog is a happy dog!

The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares creative writing charity runs free workshops for children and young adults in local schools and elsewhere. Come and join our Marvellous Mentors supporting children to find their voice. No experience necessary. www.thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org/volunteering

Bridport & Lyme Regis Royal Air Forces Assn meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm in various locations. Whether currently serving in the RAF, a veteran, a family member, or if you just want to do your bit to help, you are always welcome to join us. Bill Davies: 281200 / buccbill@hotmail.com

Bridport & District RNLI holds five or six events (including Seatown BBQ) each year to raise money. Volunteers always needed. Contact Sadie 07811 470127 or Annie 07790 713156.

Bridport Royal British Legion meets on the third Saturday each month at 10am for a coffee morning. Come along to our hall in Victoria Grove for a chat and to find out about membership and activities. The newly refurbished hall now has disabled access and is available for hire. Contact Linda 425664 (hall bookings) or Mike Thompson 07974 534945 / mickey_thompson56@hotmail.com (membership).

Somerset & Dorset Family History Society (West Dorset Group) meets at Loders Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Email Jane: jferentzi@aol.com

Salway Ash Acoustic Sessions are on the first Tuesday every month at 8pm at the Anchor Inn. Sing, play, join in, listen, enjoy. Contact Harry Britton 421225.

The **National Coastwatch Institution** works with other emergency services to keep people safe along our coastline. Volunteer watchkeepers always needed for lookouts at Burton Bradstock and Charmouth. Contact Station Manager Judy Clarke: judy.clarke@nci.org.uk

The New Arts Group will meet at Bridport Town Hall on Wednesday 18 September when Barbara Askew will speak about Charles I: King and Collector. £10 per person to cover costs (no membership fee). Tea/coffee from 1.30pm, talk starts at 2pm. For more details contact jenifer.morley@btinternet.com →

Bridport & District Good Neighbour Scheme provides help for people in the community needing transport to medical appointments who cannot use public transport, do not qualify for the hospital car scheme, have no friends or family to help and cannot afford taxi fares. Donation to cover cost of the journey if possible. Contact 07778 211140.

Bridport Art Society is a friendly, non-profit group of artists at all levels of experience which aims to encourage interest in and practice of the visual arts. It holds an annual summer exhibition to celebrate its members' creativity. Find us at www.bridportart.com and on Facebook and Instagram.

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) in support of the National Trust, organises illustrated talks in the United Church Hall, East Street, at 2.30pm. The next talk is on Monday 30 September by Paul Atterbury on Life in Victorian Britain. Open to non-members at £5. Contact Mike Nicks 459855. www.goldencapnt.org.uk

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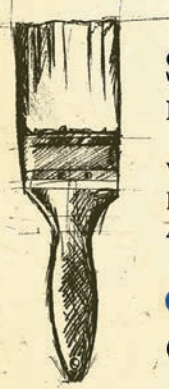


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