

November 2022

the **Bridge**

Celebrating



The Eighteenth
BRIDPORT
Literary
Festival
2022

THIS ISSUE IS
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Advertising rates are online 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 will try to include late copy in the following issue as appropriate.

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.

The advertising and copy deadline for the December 2022/January 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 7 November

Change brings challenges and rewards

All change, please!

When I travelled to secondary school in London by train in the 1960s, I looked forward to the guard shouting “All change, please!” This meant the train had broken down, or there was a signal failure or a derailment, and my journey would be delayed, so I would (happily!) miss the first few lessons through no fault of my own.

Change comes in so many different forms. There is change that we choose; change that is forced upon us; change that comes so slowly that we are hardly aware of it happening; change whose fast pace takes us by surprise.

Whatever the pace of change, whatever the reason for the change, there is an impact on our lives, our wellbeing, our sense of who we are, and our relationships.

Change affects each of us differently. For example, one person who takes the calculated decision to retire from paid work may be surprised by the sudden loss of role and the loneliness that comes from missing work colleagues, while another may embrace the extra time to spend with family and friends and the opportunity to contribute to their community in new ways.

Just because you have chosen the change does not mean it will be easy. The parents who choose to have children find their settled way of life dramatically changed by sleepless nights; the family who choose to move house find their new home and surroundings not quite what they were expecting.

We are now well into the autumn season with all the associated changes – falling leaves, falling temperatures, shorter days and longer nights, as well as anxiety over heating homes on cooler nights. This change we have not chosen and for some it brings anxiety, while others embrace the changing season.

Nationally we have a change of prime minister and of monarch; globally we have a climate crisis and a financial

crisis. These are changes that impact on us but (with the possible exception of the climate crisis) are not the result of our actions.

Locally, in the Parish of Bridport, we face change as we enter the Advent season at the end of November. For the four Sundays in Advent, the

congregations of all six churches will be meeting together at 10am at St Mary’s

Bridport, rather than having their own services in their own churches. It’s an opportunity to worship and to learn together as a parish.

Jesus spent three short years living and working alongside a mixed bag of followers some 2,000 years ago in the Middle East, and the one thing that characterised that time was change. Change from the intractable religious systems; change from exploitation; change from demonising the marginalised in society; change to prioritising justice; change to care and concern for those cast out and rejected; change to a love that respects all; change that recognises the potential in everyone.

As we live in this time of great change, let us be encouraged by those who embrace change while being sensitive to those who find the challenge of change to be a source of anxiety.

So, people of Bridport, “All change, please!” – not for the short-lived joy of the missed lessons, but for the potential benefits that new ways of working and living can bring to our community.

Peter Wright



Peter Wright

*Just because
you have chosen
change does
not mean it
will be easy...*

The power of the written word

In this month’s magazine we celebrate the coming of age of the Bridport Literary Festival, which turns 18 this year.

BridLit takes place from 6 to 12 November, and the number of tickets that have been sold for its various events is testament to the enduring power of the written word to entertain, educate, move and inspire us. There are still plenty of tickets available, however, so turn to pages 8–10 to find out what’s on. I’m also delighted to say that ‘In the pod’ this month we have author Kit de Waal – you can meet her on page 11.

Writing about writing gives me the perfect opportunity to remind you about The Bridge’s feature competition for young writers. There’s still plenty of time until the closing date of 12 December, so please spread the word! www.thebridgemagazine.org/featurecompetition



Olivia Daly
Editor

Scout Post seeks volunteers

Scout Post will be operating in the Bridport, Beaminster and Dorchester area this Christmas, and using the service could save you a few pennies.

It runs from 5 to 19 December, with at least 25 deliveries in the Bridport area alone. Many Bridge readers have kindly supported Scout Post in the past, and organisers always welcome more help with deliveries, especially in the town. Contact Pippa: 01308 485365 / pippauploders@gmail.com



The Revd Philip Ringer would like to thank the many people who attended the service on 4 October to mark the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. “The response was quite overwhelming,” he says. “Thank you – but above all, thank God.” The retiring collection raised £300 which has been shared between the Samaritans and Beach Wheelchairs for West Beach, West Bay.

Sarum Lights returns to Salisbury Cathedral

If you're visiting Salisbury this month, be sure to take in the splendour of Sarum Lights: Renaissance, a family-friendly sound-and-light experience. From Tuesday 8 to Saturday 12 November, Salisbury Cathedral will be transformed by immersive light projections and atmospheric soundscapes including some of the greatest artworks of the Renaissance period projected onto the walls and ceilings. Booking essential; adult tickets from £9. www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/sarum-lights-2022

Looking for an unusual Christmas present?

Windrose Rural Media Trust is a charity that specialises in saving old film in Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire. The archive provides a fascinating glimpse into the social history of the past in our region. The charity sells DVDs (£10 each) of archive film, including 'A famous skill', the story of rope making in Bridport, and 'Dope under Thorncombe', Bridport amateur filmmaker Frank Trevett's feisty tale of smuggling. Visit the charity's online shop at www.windroseruralmedia.org

A jolly musical treat!

The No. 1 Ladies Accordion Orchestra is a band of talented women who entertain audiences with a unique mix of waltzes and tangos, film music and hornpipes, jollity and jigs – all played on the accordion. They are performing at Bridport United Church on Saturday 19 November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 (concessions £10) on the door or online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5578575.

Make a difference to someone's Christmas!

Planning for the town's Christmas Day lunch is getting under way – but more help is needed to ensure this amazing event happens again this year.

Peter Wilson, who helped co-ordinate the meal last year, is seeking volunteers once more. He says: "Last year we were worried the Christmas meal might not happen because of the Covid restrictions, but our amazing volunteers came up trumps and we were able to serve a delicious meal and create a really special Christmas Day for all those who came along."

Volunteers are needed now to be part of a working group to organise the big day, which last year welcomed 60 people. The Christmas lunch, which is sponsored by Churches Together in Bridport and District, is run from Bridport United Church, and volunteers from across the churches and the wider community work together to make it a very special event.

If you would like to help, please contact Peter at peterjwilson8@btinternet.com



Lorna is licensed as associate priest

The Revd Lorna Johnson was licensed as associate priest to the Parish of Bridport by the Bishop of Sherborne, the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, at St Mary's Bridport on Sunday 9 October.



When Lorna was ordained priest in the same church in February 2021, the country was in lockdown, so only six people were allowed in the building. This time the whole parish turned out to support her.

Lorna is pictured above with Bishop Karen.

QUIZ NIGHT

in aid of Bridport Christmas Hampers & Stockings

Saturday 19 November
St Mary's Church House Hall, South St

7pm • £5 per team

Bring your own nibbles and drinks

For more information, or to book, phone
01308 456138 (or just turn up)



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November services

Sunday

| | |
|---------|---|
| 8am | St Mary's Bridport BCP Communion |
| 9.30am | St Swithun's Allington Eucharist (<i>not 27 Nov</i>) Holy Trinity Bradpole Informal Morning Praise (<i>6 & 20 Nov</i>) Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance (<i>13 Nov</i>) |
| 10.50am | Holy Trinity Bothenhampton Service of Remembrance (<i>13 Nov</i>) St John's West Bay Morning Praise with Act of Remembrance (<i>13 Nov</i>) |
| 11am | St Mary's Bridport Communion (<i>6 & 13 Nov*</i>) Morning Praise (<i>20 Nov</i>) Holy Trinity Bothenhampton Sung Communion (<i>6 & 20 Nov</i>) St John's West Bay Holy Communion (<i>6 & 20 Nov</i>) |
| 3pm | Holy Trinity Bradpole All Souls service (<i>6 Nov</i>) |
| 4pm | St Swithun's Allington Contemplative Church (<i>6 Nov</i>) |
| 6pm | Holy Trinity Bothenhampton Festival of Light service (<i>27 Nov</i>) |

Monday

| | |
|------|---|
| 10am | St John's West Bay Morning Prayer |
|------|---|

Tuesday

| | |
|--------|---|
| 2.30pm | Holy Trinity Bradpole Communion (<i>1 Nov only</i>) |
|--------|---|

Wednesday

| | |
|--------|--|
| 2.30pm | St Mary's Bridport Communion (<i>2 Nov only</i>) |
|--------|--|

Thursday

| | |
|------|---|
| 10am | St Swithun's Allington Eucharist St Mary's Walditch Morning Prayer |
|------|---|

Saturday

| | |
|-----|--|
| 6pm | St John's West Bay Service of wholeness and healing (<i>26 Nov</i>) |
|-----|--|

* On Remembrance Sunday (13 Nov) the parade to the war memorial in South Street will arrive in time for the Act of Remembrance at 10.55am. The service at St Mary's Bridport will begin afterwards, around 11.15am.

On Advent Sunday (27 November) at 10am there will be a parish Advent service at St Mary's Bridport (South Street). There will also be a parish service here on Sundays 4, 11 and 18 December – see right for more information.

Join the Parish of Bridport on its Advent adventure...

The six Anglican churches of the Parish of Bridport are coming together for the four Sundays of the season of Advent to make the road to hope, peace, joy and love a journey for everyone.

The Revd Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector, says: "Our six churches have decided to come together to celebrate this very special season in the run-up to Christmas, which gives us the opportunity to do more and offer more to all. We will celebrate Holy Communion every week – but we hope to also offer all kinds of imaginative ways to mark Advent.

"This might include walking and praying in the hillsides of Bridport, creating beautiful craft banners, eating breakfast together before church services, or wrestling with the challenges of our faith, facing up to the reality of climate change and listening to God's call to renew the earth."

During Advent each of the six churches will continue to hold mid-week and evening services as well as all the special services and events in the run-up to Christmas as usual. But on Sundays congregations will gather as one parish at 10am at St Mary's Bridport in South Street, starting on Advent Sunday (27 November).

"All of our church families are gathering as an extended family so that we can share our gifts, learn together and pray together," says Deb. "We want this to be a time of looking outwards and considering how we can serve our town.

"We want our worship to connect up with how we live out our faith all through the week. We invite everyone to come and join in – and we want to offer the gift of our church building to all. We intend to keep St Mary's open as a warm space for anyone to enjoy after church, too, every Sunday in Advent [until 18 December] until 4pm."

From 1 to 26 November, each of the six churches will stick to its previous pattern of services, with the exception of Remembrance Sunday, 13 November, when some times will change to allow for the Act of Remembrance. See left for the full list of service times.

Other Advent dates for your diary:

Christmas tree lighting, St John's West Bay: 27 Nov at 3pm
Christingle service, Holy Trinity Bradpole: 4 Dec at 3pm
Blue Light service, St Mary's Bridport: 15 Dec at 7.30pm
Bridport Nativity, St Mary's churchyard: 17 Dec at 11am



Kalisa Veer / Unsplash

Bridport Chamber Orchestra

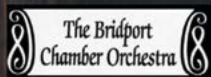
AUTUMN CONCERT

St Swithun's Church, Bridport
Sunday 20 November, 3pm

Conductor: David Hedges
Leader: Alexandra Ennis

Holberg Suite – Edvard Grieg
Three Walzes – Soderlundh
Little Suite – Neilson
Serenade – Lars Erik Larsson
Impromptu – Sibelius
Serenade – Dag Wirén

TICKETS | £12 (under 16 free)
from the Music Centre and the Book Shop, Bridport,
Orchestra members or at the door.
Tea and cakes will be served after the concert.



Registered Charity No. XT13407

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
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Lyrics By
GLENN SLATER

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written by Joseph Howard

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BRIDPORT
ARTSCENTRE

WHAT'S ON

FUTURE PRESENT

EXHIBITION | 22 NOV - 21 DEC

FREE ENTRY | TUE - SAT, 10AM - 4PM

Following a successful inaugural event in 2021 this year's Christmas exhibition at Bridport Arts Centre will feature designer makers working in a range of media from Dorset and the South West, in a show that celebrates this wealth of local talent. All work will be for sale.

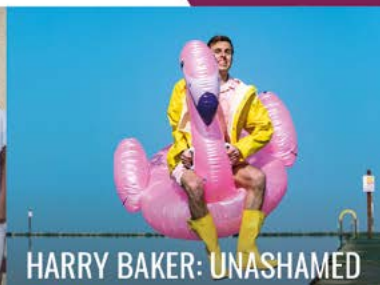
FUTURE PRESENT



KAKATSITSI DRUMMERS

MUSIC | WORLD MUSIC

SAT 12 NOV | 7:30PM



HARRY BAKER: UNASHAMED

COMEDY

FRI 18 NOV | 7:30PM



THE LOST PRESENT

FAMILY

SAT 3 DEC | 2:00PM

THEATRE FILM SPOKEN WORD COMEDY EXHIBITIONS MUSIC FAMILY DANCE



Booking is easy: Book in person at **Bridport Tourist Information Centre**, visit us online at www.bridport-arts.com or call **01308 424901**.
The Gallery is open Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10am to 4pm

Stay safe this winter: don't cut corners when trying to cut costs

With living costs rising all the time, everyone is looking for ways to save money, so Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is highlighting some areas where a saving could be a false economy – and a fire risk.

The service is asking people to #SaveSafely, and there is a wealth of information about staying safe at home and on the roads at www.dwfire.org.uk/save-safely. This includes energy-saving tips, advice for cooking and staying warm safely, staying safe when cutting costs, cutting the costs of driving, and signposting to financial help.

For example, pulling something like an electric heater or electric blanket out of the loft when it hasn't been used for years can be risky. Watch for signs of dangerous or loose wiring such as scorch marks, plugs and sockets that become hot in use, fuses that often blow, or circuit breakers that trip for no obvious reason.

If you're drying clothes by hanging them up indoors rather than using a tumble dryer, keep them well away from any heat source so they can't catch fire.

Air fryers and microwave ovens are great at saving energy when cooking, but please read the manufacturer's instructions and keep them clean between uses.

If you have an open fire or woodburner, getting your chimney swept is essential to reduce the risk of chimney fires. Also be careful of what you burn; green (unseasoned) wood may seem cheap, but it doesn't put out much heat and creates a residue that can easily catch alight inside the chimney. The law now states that anyone selling firewood in loads of less than two cubic metres must certify that it's 'ready to burn' – i.e. it has been seasoned, either by storing



for a year or more or by drying in a kiln, and has a moisture content of 20% or less.

Get your boiler serviced – a well-maintained boiler is more efficient and reduces the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Only use the correct charger for mobile devices. Although it can be cheaper to buy imported and unofficial chargers, fake ones are often made with poor quality components that fail to meet UK safety regulations. This means they can cause injury, electric shocks and even fires.

Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions when using wheat bags – don't heat them for too long, or at too high a temperature.

The Fire and Rescue Service offers free Safe & Well advice, which can include a home visit and the provision of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. To request this for yourself, a family member or a vulnerable person, please call 0800 038 2323 or visit www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits

News from Trading Standards: illegal tobacco

Smoking is seriously addictive and is the single greatest cause of preventable illness and avoidable death in the UK. The market for cheap, illegal tobacco undermines public health.

There are three types of illegal tobacco: (a) Counterfeit. This claims to be a well-known brand, but it's fake. (b) Non-duty paid. Legitimate tobacco bought cheaply abroad, brought back to the UK and sold at a fraction of the retail cost. (c) Unknown, unregulated brands made for the illegal market.

Treasurer needed for Churches Together in Bridport and District (CTiBD)

CTiBD is seeking to appoint a new treasurer to start immediately. While this is not an onerous position, it is important that it is filled as soon as possible.

For more details please contact the Revd Philip Ringer, Chairman: philpringer@aol.com

Genuine tobacco products are made to strict quality control procedures. A consumer will not know what contaminants, in what levels, are in their tobacco bought from an illegal supply route.

Tobacco is taxed heavily as a deterrent to persuade people to stop smoking. The unpaid duty on illegal tobacco was estimated at £2.5 billion in 2017 – money that should have gone towards funding hospitals, schools and other services.

All genuine tobacco products sold in the UK must be in standardised (olive coloured) packaging. If tobacco is cheap, then the chances are it is illegal. You can report illegal sales to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 2231133.



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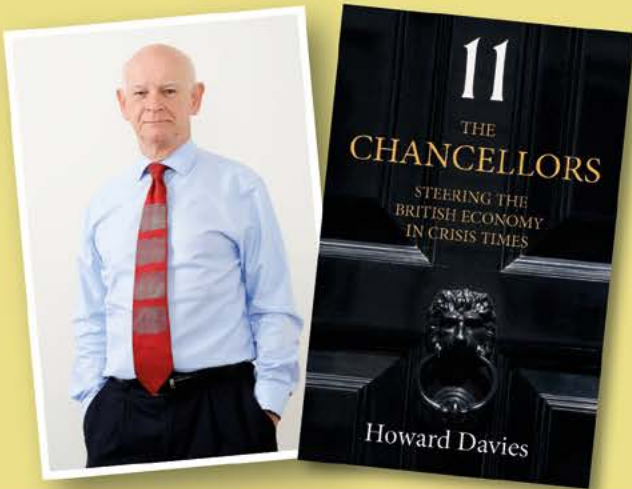
Email: info@rnstephenson.co.uk / web: www.rnstephenson.co.uk





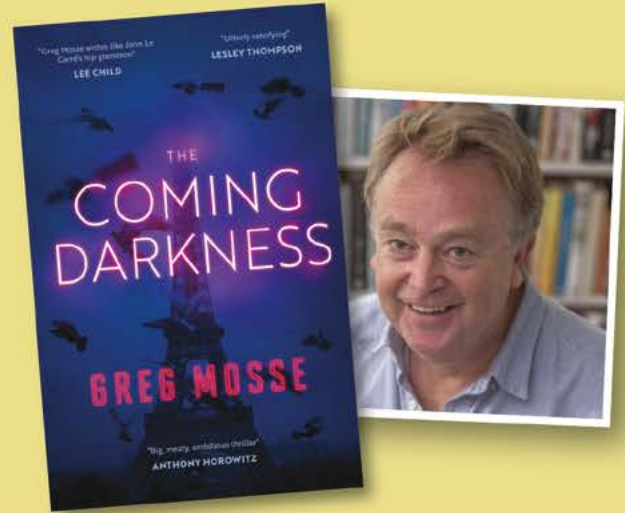
Sunday 6th November
at the Electric Palace at 2.30pm
NEW EVENT! Tickets £12

Howard Davies on
THE CHANCELLORS
Steering the British Economy in Crisis Times
In conversation with Alex Allan



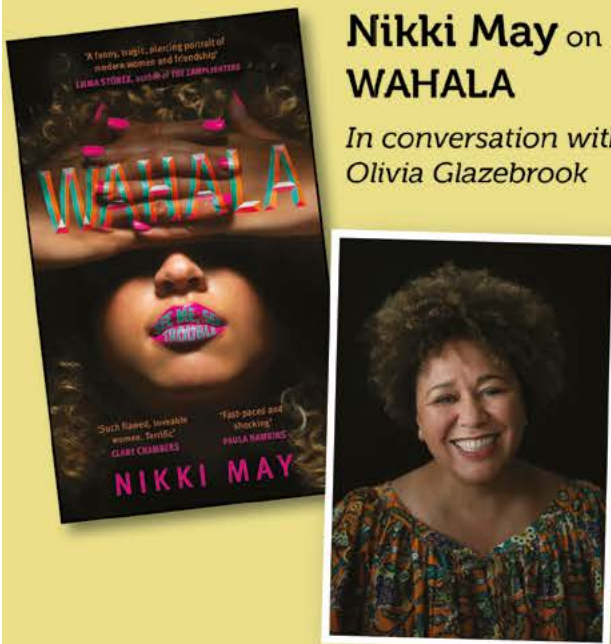
Monday 7th November
at The Bull Ballroom at 2.00pm
Tickets: £12

Greg Mosse on
THE COMING DARKNESS
In conversation with Jason Goodwin



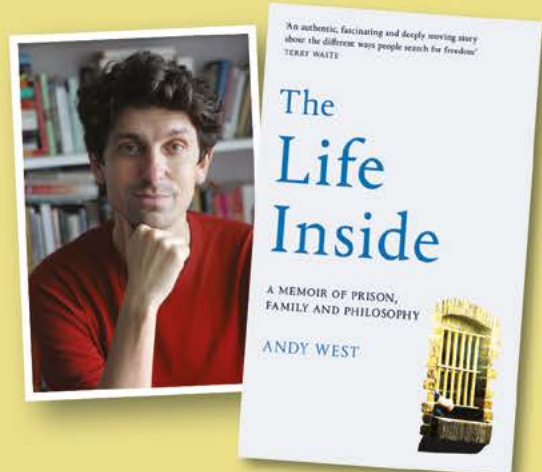
Monday 7th November
at The Electric Palace at 6.30pm
Tickets: £12

Nikki May on
WAHALA
*In conversation with
Olivia Glazebrook*



Wednesday 9th November
at The Bull Ballroom at 4.00pm
Tickets: £12

Andy West
on **THE LIFE INSIDE**
A Memoir of Family, Philosophy & Prison
In conversation with Prue Keely





Another fascinating line-up for this year's Bridport Literary Festival

The Bridport Literary Festival is now in its 18th year and the programme just keeps getting better and better.

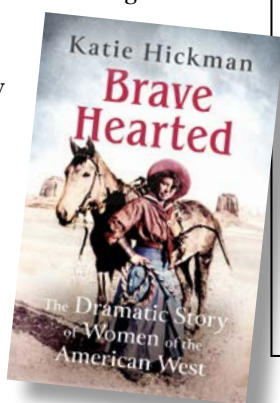
Although tickets for some of the headline speakers had sold out as this issue of *The Bridge* went to press – Hugh Bonneville, PJ Harvey, Maggie O'Farrell and George Monbiot among them – there are still plenty of fascinating events on offer during the festival week, 6 to 12 November.

BBC radio presenter Justin Webb had to cancel his appearance to fly off and cover the US midterm elections. His replacement is **Sir Howard Davies**, chairman of the NatWest Group, who will be talking about his new book, *The Chancellors: Steering the British Economy in Crisis Times*, a fascinating insider account based on interviews with the Chancellors and key senior officials.

Davies shows how the past 25 years have been a rollercoaster ride for the Treasury, heavily criticised for its response to global financial crises, for the rigours of the austerity programme, and for its role in the Scottish referendum and the Brexit debate. Now more than ever, the role of Chancellor is key to the UK's economic future.

Davies will be in conversation with Alex Allan at 2.30pm on Sunday 6 November at Bridport's Electric Palace.

Brave Hearted is **Katie Hickman's** book about the women of the American West, and she'll be giving an illustrated talk about it at 10.30am on Monday 7 November in The Bull Ballroom. From the Chinese slave brides working in laundries, and the Native American women displaced by mass migration, to the poker players and prostitutes of the new boom towns and the ordinary wives and mothers walking thousands of miles



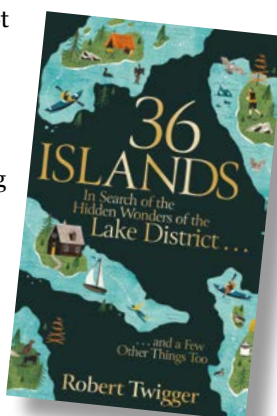
with their home in a handcart, these are women of extraordinary resilience and courage whose stories deserve to be told.

Robert Twigger spent 36 days exploring the islands of the Lake District – in fact, he slept on a different one each night, wild swimming across the lakes and transporting his gear on a lightweight raft.

Each chapter of his book *36 Islands* covers a different lake, with stories, maps and historical material, from retreats for saints and kennels for hunting dogs to spots beloved by authors Beatrix Potter and Arthur Ransom.

Twigger's illustrated talk about his adventure is at 3.30pm on Thursday 10 November in The Bull Ballroom.

Ghost writers are the force – sometimes



invisible and unacknowledged – behind the success of many celebrities' books, and on Thursday 10 November at 5pm in The Bull Ballroom, **Nick Pitt** will be spilling the beans on some of the secrets behind this relationship.

Pitt, a former sports editor with *The Sunday Times*, worked with sporting impresario Barry Hearn on a best-selling autobiography. His BridLit talk, 'Ghosts! Who writes for whom?' promises to be explosive and entertaining.

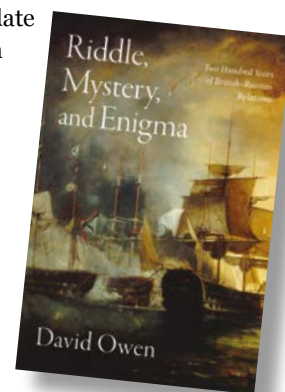
Britain's relationship with Russia is surprisingly under-explored, but it's a subject into which **Lord David Owen**, Foreign Secretary in the late 1970s, delves deeply in his book *Riddle, Mystery and Enigma: Two Hundred Years of British-Russian Relations*. He has written new chapters, too, bringing readers up to date with the war in Ukraine.

Britain and Russia formed a pragmatic alliance at Navarino in 1827, but relations then fell apart with the

Crimean War. Not until the 1917 Revolution did Winston Churchill – opposed to Bolshevism – advocate diplomacy with Russia, which necessitated allying with the Soviets against Nazi Germany in World War II.

Bringing us into the 21st century, Owen chronicles how both countries have responded to their geopolitical decline. He'll be in conversation with military historian John Dean at 4pm on Saturday 12 November at the Electric Palace.

Tickets for Katie Hickman and David Owen are £12; for Robert Twigger and Nick Pitt £10. Other events for which tickets are available are highlighted opposite and overleaf. Tickets from Bridport Tourist Information Centre or online at www.bridlit.com



Become a Friend of the festival

If you're already looking forward to next year's BridLit, you could score priority booking and a host of other goodies by becoming a Friend.

Benefits include an advance copy of the festival brochure; free postal booking and no booking fee; regular events, gatherings and an annual party just for Friends; and a twice-yearly newsletter. There's also an opportunity to get involved.

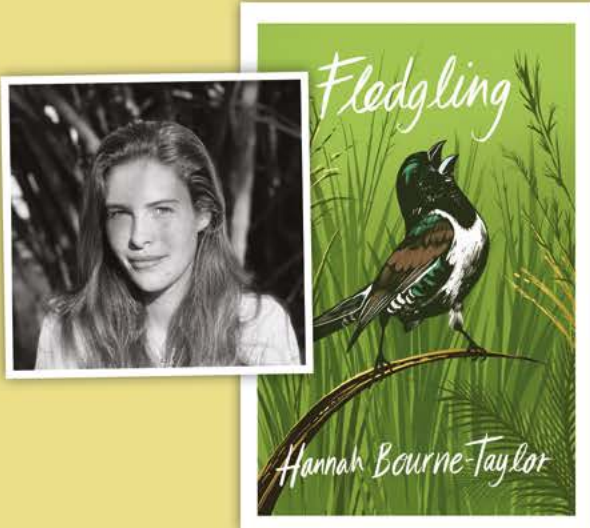
Annual Friends membership is £15 single / £25 for a couple at the same address. For more details, or to join, see the current festival brochure or visit the BridLit website: www.bridlit.com/support-us



Thursday 10th November
at The Bull Ballroom at 12 noon
Tickets: £12

Hannah Bourne-Taylor on **FLEDGLING**

In conversation with Olivia Glazebrook

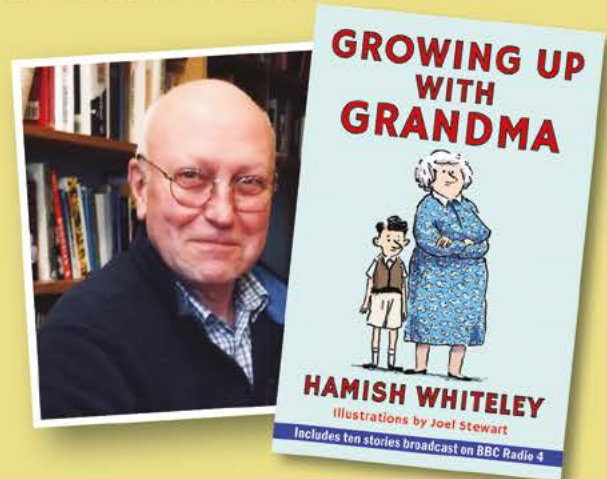


Storytime at the Bridport Library

Thursday 10th November
At 2.30pm Tickets: £2

Hamish Whiteley on **GROWING UP WITH GRANDMA**

Taking Tea with Hamish



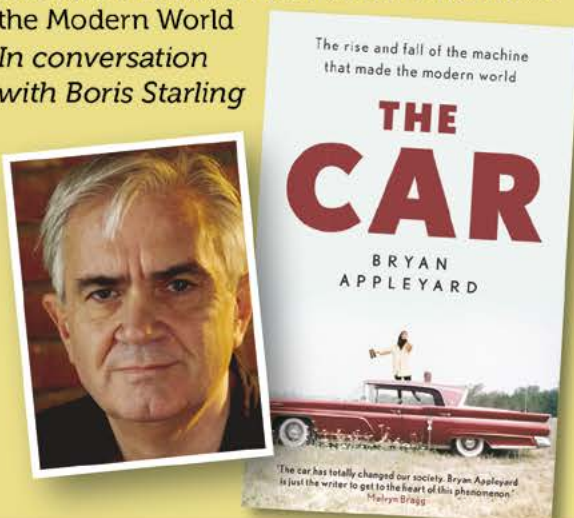
PETROLHEADS! DON'T MISS!

Friday 11th November
at Electric Palace at 4.30pm
Tickets £12

Bryan Appleyard on **THE CAR**

The Rise and Fall of the Machine that made
the Modern World

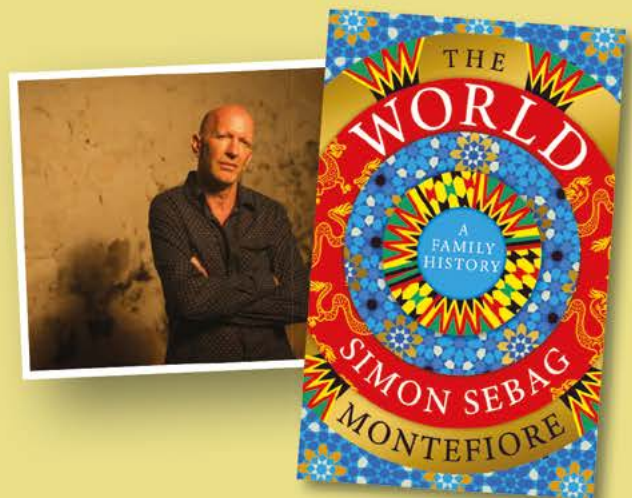
*In conversation
with Boris Starling*



Saturday 12th November
at The Electric Palace at 12 noon
Tickets: £12

Simon Sebag Montefiore on **THE WORLD**

In conversation with Prue Keely



Box Office: Bridport Tourist Centre, The Town Hall,
South Street, Bridport, DT6 3LF. Tel 01308 424901



From a bookless childhood to helping disadvantaged writers: Kit de Waal

Celebrated author Kit de Waal is among the speakers at this year's Bridport Literary Festival, and we had the huge joy of catching up with her in the pod this month...

The Bridge: For BridLit you'll be talking about your latest book, *Without Warning & Only Sometimes* [pictured], which is a childhood memoir. The process of writing a memoir is fascinating – how much of what you describe was still fresh in your mind, and how much did you research by talking to family members and childhood friends?

Kit de Waal: Most of it was fresh in my mind. I am the custodian of the family archive just by the fact that I have a very good memory. I did speak to my brother and sisters occasionally for their remembrances of certain events but usually I have it all to hand.

TB: Do you have a writing room? And a daily writing routine?

KdW: I do have a writing room – it's at the back of my flat overlooking a little patio garden. It has lots of windows and wonderful light. It can be a bit chilly but it's worth it for the peace and quiet.

I don't have a daily writing routine. Sometimes I have nothing to say; other times I can write almost non-stop for a week.

TB: You've written about your Jehovah's Witness mother and the lack of books (other than the Bible) in your childhood home. What made you start reading novels as an adult? How did it change your inner life?

KdW: I started reading in my early twenties; I wasn't interested in books before that. I only really started because I couldn't sleep and needed something to keep me company at night. What I found in books was other worlds and other ways to have lived. I found that just by



the power of words I could leave where I was and be in another country in another space and time and in another's skin. It was a wonderful discovery.

TB: You're passionate about increasing opportunities for working-class writers, and have created a scholarship to this end. What advice would you give to aspiring writers who aren't fortunate enough to have this kind of financial support but who want to tell their story?

KdW: Pen and paper is all you need to start, or a laptop – even a shared one. Start somewhere and take your work seriously. Read about writing. Read writers you admire and deconstruct their work. Watch YouTube interviews on the craft – there are loads of free ones.

There are also things like MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) that do free creative writing courses, as do some community colleges. Look around for support and help and also consider starting your own writing group.

TB: You have won the Bridport Prize twice with your flash fiction, and you have a family connection to the town. What does Bridport mean to you?

KdW: I first came to Bridport maybe 30 years ago when my sister Kim moved to Dorset. It's a beautiful town that I've watched grow and develop and I even considered buying a holiday home here years ago before the whole world realised how lovely it is.

TB: Which other contemporary writers do you most admire, and why?

KdW: There are too many to mention. Maggie O'Farrell, obviously, because she's just so good at storytelling. Liz Nugent, a crime writer from Ireland who always keeps you up too late with her plot twists, and Donal Ryan because of his turn of phrase and sheer brilliance on the page.

TB: Your memoir was published this August. Have you already started your next writing project? If so, can you tell us a bit about it?

KdW: I can't say any more other than it's about five people and how their lives collide on a single day.

Kit de Waal will be appearing at the Electric Palace at 6.30pm on Friday 11 November, talking to Lisa Blower about the story of her extraordinary childhood in 1960s Birmingham. Her first book, My Name Is Leon, was the Irish Novel of the Year 2017 and was shortlisted for the Costa Book Awards for a first novel. She is the founder of the Kit de Waal Creative Writing Scholarship, launched in 2016, which funds a place at Birkbeck, University of London, for a writer from a disadvantaged background.

www.kitdewaal.com

Working to enhance the role St S

As plans for the St Swithun’s Repair & Renewal project begin to move forward, Mandi Sturrock looks at the church’s current role in the community – and how it might serve local people even better in the future...

What’s in a building?

St Swithun’s Church in Allington is in the process of finding out. While a building is just bricks and mortar, communal buildings stand or fall by the community they serve. So St Swithun’s has been looking at how it serves its community now and how it could do it better.

St Swithun’s has been occupying its current space for almost 200 years. The old medieval church had been in a terrible state of repair in the early 1800s when the parishioners decided that something radical had to be done. Bridport’s industry was growing at that time, and its industrial heart was moving south, so plans took shape for a new, modern church nearer the town. The land was bought, and the building was put up during the 1820s.

The church interior looked very different then, and has had many redesigns during the intervening 200 years. The major changes have been a reduction in the size of the box pews, the installation of a splendid organ in 1857 (details in the September issue) and the addition of a church hall in 1987.

An asset to the community

St Swithun’s and its hall are now used for all sorts of gatherings. Every month over 20 groups and organisations – about 200 people from the community – come here for their regular sessions, and there are also special events such as family parties and group AGMs. And this number doesn’t include those who come to weekly and one-off church services; a recent service for St Mary’s Primary

School, for example, brought in 220 adults and more than 100 children.

One of our regular forms of worship is the weekend Contemplative Church group. Regular member Caroline Moore says that when she first moved to Bridport she looked for a contemplative group, having been part of something similar in London. “I’m not particularly affiliated to any one Christian denomination so I came to several different things before joining this group. I really enjoy the space for silence and reflection, and the friendliness of the people.”

Secular groups, too

One of the regular secular groups that meet in the hall is the Bridport Bridge Club. Chairman Roy Tarsnane says the club had grown over the years and had been in many venues before finding St Swithun’s large hall – with its car park, kitchen and storage – over 15 years ago. The club amalgamated with another and now has more than 80 members. Sessions are on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Community Food Group, which runs the Food Glut stall, is also a regular fixture and can be found in the car park on Thursday mornings. Peter Wilson, who runs the group, first suggested using the venue. He says: “We approached St Swithun’s in 2020, during Covid, and found the community here very receptive to our idea of a food stall. Our stall differs from a food bank in that there is

no referral process – anyone can use it.

“We collect food that for various reasons local shops and supermarkets can’t sell, and present it on the stall for anyone to take. We also take surplus from people’s gardens and allotments so we have a good range of fresh produce. Our two main aims are to reduce food waste and help people in need.”

Everybody needs good neighbours

Among the other people who value St Swithun’s are its neighbours. It’s blessed with a lovely churchyard and garden plus a secluded courtyard that’s well used by its neighbours as well as by the church community. It was even more valuable during Covid as people felt able to meet there safely for a chat or a cup of coffee.

One of our new near neighbours is Bridport Cohousing, a cooperative of 52 sustainable homes being built next to the community hospital. Residents are starting to move in as the houses are completed, although the communal building – where residents can cook, wash, eat and spend time together – is still in the planning stage. The residents have asked St Swithun’s if they can hold communal lunches in the hall until their ‘shared house’ is ready, and of course we were delighted to agree. The Revd Lorna Johnson, one of the new residents says: “I love the story behind the building of the church hall, which was pioneered by two church wardens – one of whom,



Right: An early drawing of the current St Swithun’s Church, which was built in the 1820s

Swithun's plays in the community

June, still lives locally – so local people would have somewhere to meet. There are a lot of families in the cohousing community and St Swithun's has a wild churchyard for the children to explore. Although the churchyard is no longer used for burials, many local people have had their loved ones' ashes interred here and I've often found people laying flowers and spending a quiet moment."

A musical treat

The Conacher organ is a fine instrument and ideal for teaching; you can often hear students practising at the weekend. One student who uses the organ every week says: "It's wonderful to be able to use such a beautiful instrument regularly. And getting to play here for the community during recitals has not only been highly rewarding, but also crucial in developing confidence in performing."

Plans for the future

So why are we redeveloping the building? We are looking at ways to make the space more flexible and better serve our community. We have held



Brian Smith's digital drawing of St Swithun's, presented to Fr Dan Shackell at his retirement party in September

several open meetings, inviting people to come and give their views, and some interesting ideas have emerged that we will consider when we're creating the architectural plans.

Many of the things we do would be improved by reordering the buildings and surrounding space. For example, while we're lucky to have a car park, it now needs to be better presented with parking for the disabled, an electric charging point and a cycle rack. All of this would give us a broader appeal in a changing environment. And in an area where many of our neighbours don't have any outside space, we might also consider a community garden or some communal planting.

There is so much more that we could do, if only we had more facilities and a more flexible space. We have a team looking at the redevelopment and coming up with innovative ways to work with the local community. An architect has been recruited to help with this process. Do visit the church and look at the display of pictures and information. Things are moving – watch this space!
Mandi Sturrock

For more information about using St Swithun's, please contact Yvonne Welch (hall) or Mandi Sturrock (church) via the parish website: www.bridport-team-ministry.org

Organ recitals at St Swithun's

We were treated to a wonderful tour around the Conacher organ on 2 October when Peter Shepherd FRCO performed the first in our series of recitals. The programme stretched from Buxtehude to the Beatles with some memorable pieces in between, including a wonderful chaconne by Pachelbel and, almost inevitably, a fugue by JS Bach. Of this season's performers Peter will have travelled the furthest to play for us – having come from Glasgow, where he is assistant organist at Paisley Abbey – but the next two recitals are by local organists. *MS*

Sunday afternoons at 3pm. Admission is free with a retiring collection. St Swithun's Church, North Allington, Bridport DT6 5DU

| Date | Organist | To include music by |
|-------------|---|--|
| 13 November | Richard Godfrey & Medwin Stephen (PipeUp tutor and senior PipeUp student) | Handel, Bach, Mendelssohn, Parry, Stanford, Ibert, Peeters |
| 4 December | Alex Davies Musical Director, Lyme Regis Parish Church | Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn |

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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

Royal connections

On the morning of 9 September, St Mary's – like many other churches across the country – opened a local book of condolence, giving people the opportunity to pay tribute and express their thoughts following the announcement of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Archbishop of Canterbury encouraged this course of action, saying: "The Church gives a place, and literally a physical space, in our extraordinary parish churches and cathedrals around the land, in which people can find that they can express their sorrow and find hope and abundant life."

Little did we know just how many people would take advantage of the place and space offered; in the coming days there was a steady stream of people who came to be quiet, to pray and to light candles. Some 200 people signed the book of condolence with many messages of gratitude and memories of meetings with the Queen. Bridport residents feature most prominently but there are tributes from people from across the country including those with addresses in Warwickshire, Hertfordshire and Yorkshire, and from overseas including Ireland, France and even New Zealand.

In Westminster Hall, London, the period of lying in state was marked by a number of solemn vigils including the Queen's children and later her grandchildren standing beside her coffin. This was the first time in history that a monarch's grandchildren had performed what is traditionally known as the 'Vigil of the Princes'; for many, it was a deeply moving occasion during the period of national mourning.

Strange to think that in St Mary's Church, Bridport, the place that many of us had chosen to sit and remember our Queen in 2022, a similar ceremony of lying in state had been held for a monarch's son in 1820.

The church records report: "On 23rd January 1820, the Duke of Kent, son of George III and father of the future Queen Victoria, died at Sidmouth. His remains, four coaches and two hearses with a numerous train, arrived in Bridport, where his remains lay in state in St Mary's for the night of 7th February on their way to interment at Windsor. The coffin was rested in the church with attendants, who at that time were known as 'mutes', standing silently around. These 'mutes' were



Above: The book of condolence in St Mary's Bridport in September; below left: the church's Royal Arms painting

supposed to keep their silent watch all through the night by light of large wax candles, but apparently they did nothing of the kind. When all was quiet, they adjourned to a little vestry room, where there was a good fire, and stayed there until morning, when they returned to their appointed places by the coffin. St Mary's was subsequently gifted with a painting of the Royal Arms to commemorate this overnight stay."

We have read much about the life of Queen Elizabeth II in recent weeks and recognised again the importance of her Christian faith in enabling her to live a life of dedicated service and duty. Her commitment to private prayer and worship was evident and in 1992, in a speech to mark the 40th anniversary of her accession, she thanked all those who had prayed for her and said that those prayers "sustained me through all these years".

St Mary's is open for private prayer every day of the year. Come and sit below the painting of the Royal Arms and enjoy a place where for 800 years people have expressed their sorrows and found both hope and abundant life.

Lesley Hill

November services at St Mary's Bridport:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Wednesday 2 | 2.30pm | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 6 | 8am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | 11am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 13 | 8am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | 11am* | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 20 | 8am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | 11am | Morning Praise |
| Sunday 27 | 8am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | 10am | Parish Holy Communion |

*On Remembrance Sunday (13 Nov) the parade to the war memorial will arrive in time for the Act of Remembrance at 10.55am. The church service will begin afterwards.



Covid-19 has made a huge impact in so many ways and many of our regular donors have not been able to support the church as they once did. If you can make a donation, whatever you can give, you will be helping us to maintain our beautiful church and its ministry in the heart of Bridport.



HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

Parish editor – Barbara Ffooks 423122

Children & youth worker –

Jean Mitchell 422127

Home communion –

The Revd Kay Watters 427290

Director of music – vacancy

From the parish editor

Autumn begins with celebrating harvest, and Holy Trinity was decorated beautifully for our Harvest Festival service at the end of September. The colours of the flowers and fruit were stunning, filling the building with a really warm and welcoming feel. After the service we were treated to a most delicious roast lunch in the village hall. We say a big thankyou to Heather for her wonderful cooking, and also to those who made the church look so attractive. The produce was auctioned at the coffee morning the following week, and together with a small profit from the lunch raised £78 for the charity Water Aid.

The next monthly coffee morning in Holy Trinity is on Saturday 5 November, 10am–12 noon, with books, cakes and a raffle.

There is a new venture for the winter months beginning in November. Our luncheon club will give people an opportunity to enjoy the company of others in the warm environment of the village hall while eating a hot meal. The first lunch is on Thursday 10 November, and another is booked for 8 December. Please reserve a place with Heather (see panel, right) so she knows how many to cater for, and also let her know if you have any food intolerances or allergies. There will be a vegetarian option.

Remembrance Sunday falls on 13 November, and the Service of Remembrance at Holy Trinity will start at 10.50am so the two-minute silence can be observed.

November closes with the beginning of Advent, and there will be a Festival of Light service for the whole parish in Holy Trinity Bothenhampton at 6pm on 27 November. There won't be a service at Holy Trinity in the morning; there will instead be a parish service at St Mary's Bridport at 10am.

Barbara Ffooks

Festival of Light Service

A celebration of the beginning of Advent through carols and lessons

A parish service at Holy Trinity Church, Bothenhampton

Sunday 27 November at 6pm

followed by mulled wine and mince pies



Luncheon Club

Bothenhampton Village Hall
Second Thursday in the month
from 10 November

Come and enjoy a two-course cooked hot lunch with others

Lunch served at 12.30pm

Cost £4

To book your seat please contact

Heather Purse: 423220 / heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk



Bothenhampton Village Hall Film Club

Saturday 26 November from 7.30pm

showing **OPERATION MINCEMEAT**

starring Colin Firth, Matthew Macfadyen,

Kelly Macdonald and Penelope Wilton

Operation Mince meat is the extraordinary true story of an idea that hoped to alter the course of World War II, defying logic, risking countless thousands of lives and testing the nerves of its creators to breaking point.

Bothenhampton Village Hall, doors open 7pm

Admission £5, refreshments available

Contact Linda Child 07876 780092

or Nick Child 07876 780091

November services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday 6 | 11am | Sung Communion |
| Sunday 13 | 10.50am | Service of Remembrance |
| Sunday 20 | 11am | Sung Communion |
| Sunday 27 | 6pm | Festival of Light service |

Coffee morning

Our coffee morning on Saturday 3 December will also be a small Christmas fair

If you do craft work, or have a small business or charity, and would like to book a table, please contact Heather Purse: 423220 / heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor –

Douglas Baldwin 424232

douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com

Distribution – Janet Robinson

jrb-jrb@outlook.com

Tower captain – Janet Robinson

If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644 (Wednesday is her day off)

Friends of Holy Trinity

Coffee morning in the church

Thursday 3 November, 10am to 12 noon

Coffee, cakes and other treats. Raffle and bring-and-buy table. All proceeds used to maintain the church building.



church giving advice on what and what not to include. More information is available on the website: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

The Friends of Holy Trinity: October walk

A bright and warm autumn afternoon greeted the 20 walkers and one lively but lovely dog (pictured below) who set out from Bradpole church on Saturday 1 October.

Martin Whiting planned and led a picturesque country walk through the fields to Loders, along footpaths up and over the hill to Mangerton and back along by the river. There were stunning views, many stiles (all very well kept), a few brambles and a lovely field of horses who seemed to enjoy our company. It was a sociable time as we rambled along.

Meanwhile, back in the church, Jill Kelley and Terri Weller had led preparations for a delicious cream tea, the tables stunningly decorated with flowers from Terri's garden. By the time the walkers arrived back, lots of people were already tucking into tea, scones, jam and cream – but of course there was plenty for everyone! A big thank you to Martin, Jill and Terri and all behind the scenes for giving us such a well-organised and happy afternoon, which also raised £140!

The Friends are always happy to organise events like this in their work to support the upkeep of the church and churchyard; the effect is value added as the participants thoroughly enjoy one another's company in our beautiful church. Do join us for our coffee morning (details above right).

Church bells

On Sunday 20 November the ringers' and friends' Christmas lunch will take place at The Marquis of Lorne, Nettlecombe. It's open to ex-ringers, partners and friends of our Bradpole Band. Please let Janet Robinson know if you'd like to come.

Bradpole Parish Council

At its September meeting the council decided that essential repairs required under health and safety considerations at the Pageants Play Area should go ahead. A new wet-pour surface will be installed by specialist suppliers Wicksteed at the same time as the replacement of the swings.

Residents are reminded that they can speak during either of the two 'democratic ten minutes' sessions to address the meeting for three minutes. There is more information online at www.bradpole.org.uk

Bradpole Buzz Group

The group will meet through the autumn at 'The Shed' at Gore Cross Recreation Area from 2–4pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Tools are provided but you will need gardening gloves. Just turn up if you'd like to join this friendly group. Contact Rose for more details on 425756.

November services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|--|
| Tuesday 1 | 2.30pm | 'Tuesdays Together' Communion |
| Sunday 6 | 9.30am | Informal Morning Praise |
| | 3pm | All Souls service |
| Sunday 13 | 9.30am | Holy Communion with the Act of Remembrance 10.50am |
| Sunday 20 | 9.30am | Informal Morning Praise |
| Sunday 27 | 10am | Parish Advent service at St Mary's Bridport (no service at HT Bradpole) |



Samaritans Purse

The filled boxes will be received at a Morning Praise service on Sunday 6 November as part of the annual 'Operation Christmas Child' in which shoe boxes are packed with items such as fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies, and sent to children in a

country where they may not receive anything at Christmas.

If you would like to pack a box there are leaflets in the



Ramblers ready to set off on the Friends of Holy Trinity's October walk

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 424896 (Wednesday is her day off)

The buildings of Walditch: The Hyde tennis court

The third architectural gem in this series of four articles on the village of Walditch is The Hyde real tennis court, which is one of only about 50 throughout the world.

The court was built by the Gundry family next to their country estate, The Hyde, in 1883–84, but had many other uses for almost a century until it was eventually restored and reopened for its intended purpose.

During the later Edwardian period before World War I it was used as a roller skating rink. When American forces were stationed in Walditch before the D-Day Landings in June 1944, the building was used as a tank base, and after World War II it became a cow byre.

However, in 1995 its owner and local benefactor the late Joseph Gundry, who was a real tennis enthusiast, attempted to find a way to restore the building to its original use. The visionary Bridport & Dorset West Dorset Sports Trust took over ownership and with help from the Lottery Sports Foundation and some generous private donations, restored and renovated the court.

In 1998 The Hyde real tennis court was officially reopened by His Royal Highness Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, who is a keen player of the sport.

Real tennis is a forerunner of the modern game of lawn tennis. Its rules are more complex than its modern successor, making it a game of wits as well as agility and stamina. The racquets are short and oval-shaped and are made of wood with tight nylon strings. The balls are heavier and less bouncy than modern tennis balls, being handmade with a cork core that's bound with string then covered with Melton cloth, a woollen twill.

Although the game started just after the battle of Agincourt in 1415, thanks to French influence, it was King Henry VIII who popularised it during his reign (1509–46). Its popularity began to wane in England during the Civil War period (1642–60) and by the Regency it had become



Photos by Penny Hall

Pictured above: The Hyde real tennis court; below left: the exterior of the court building; below right: racquets are available to hire

unfashionable. During the Victorian era there was a revival.

The cost of playing real tennis in Walditch is modest as there is no expensive sporting kit to buy; racquets are available to hire and balls are provided. Details of membership fees and prices for hiring the court and training are on the club's website (www.hyderealtennis.co.uk) and the club's professional Jez Brodie can be contacted by email at clubpro@hyderealtennis.co.uk.

The sport can be played by all ages and is a good way to keep fit away from the changeable British weather. There are also Hyde club competitions as well as inter-club, regional and national tournaments.

A number of Bridport locals have risen to become high ranking players, including Ben Taylor-Matthews, the world number 3 and British number 1, who is from Bridport and went to school at Colfox. Levi Gale, who grew up in Walditch, is the under-18s British champion and French



ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

champion, in the UK top 10 and number 20 in the world.

Neil Mackenzie, who plays in the world top 25 and is a Queen's Club professional, and Nick Milton, under-12s and under-14s British champion, also honed their skills at The Hyde court.

James Craddock

Walditch Garden Group

The group will meet this month on Thursday 24 November at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Newcomers are warmly welcomed so do come along and join us. Seasonal topics and garden discussion throughout the year have made this a popular slot on the village hall calendar. Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided. We look forward to welcoming you. Please note that we do not meet in December.

Garden tips for November:

Clean out nesting boxes and put food out for the birds regularly; protect tender and newly planted shrubs from

frost and wind; lift and divide rhubarb crowns; lift and store dahlias; insulate pots that will remain outside during winter; plant fruit trees and bushes, bare-root trees, shrubs and roses; begin winter pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs; gather up and bin fallen leaves of roses affected by leaf spot; start off amaryllis bulbs to flower for Christmas; plan ahead for your 2023 gardens and allotments.

Jane Mowatt

Walditch village event

Fish and chip supper (vegetarian option available) followed by a talk by Bruce Upton about Bridport's lost pubs.

Friday 18 November at 6.30pm (talk starts 7.30pm)

£10 per person (£3 for the talk only)

To book and order food please phone Pat on 425703.

November services at St Mary's Walditch:

Morning Prayer every Thursday at 10am

No Sunday service at Walditch this month

Sunday 27 10am Parish Advent service at St Mary's Bridport

ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock

07903 558568

Chapel warden –

Rosemary Russell 423013

News from St John's

What a celebration! On Tuesday 4 October, 90 people gathered in St John's Church for a celebration Eucharist to mark the 30th anniversary of the Revd Philip Ringer's ordination to the priesthood. The church was full, not only with members of different churches, but also with representatives of many other organisations for which Philip is a very special person. Our congregation included members of the police force – Philip leads the town's Blue Light service for the emergency services – and quite a few people who had met him in his capacity as chaplain at Bridport Hospital. There were many, many others.

After the service everyone enjoyed a lovely selection of refreshments. Well done, Philip, and congratulations!



West Bay WI

The WI will meet on Wednesday 2 November for their usual Knit & Natter and all being well I hope to pay them a visit and get to know the group. Wednesday 9 November will see Charlotte Nicholls giving a talk on the history of paper. Plans are also being finalised for a Harvest/Christmas meal at the Crown towards the end of the month.

The WI is always keen to see new members. If you are interested in joining, phone Alison Ridge on 01308 897293.

Round and about the Bay

What a sight it must have been on the River Thames on the evening of Saturday 24 September, when a flotilla of 150 boats, strung with white lights, sailed from Albert Bridge to Tower Bridge. This event, called 'Reflections', was in memory of the Queen and in honour of the accession to the throne of King Charles III. This is hardly about West Bay, you might say, but the gig Bathsbeba was nominated to row in the flotilla and of course she is one of Bridport Gig Club's boats. What an honour, and what an experience!

The Gig Club is currently rowing 'virtually' around the UK to raise money for a new gig to replace Dagger, its first racing gig. The challenge started on 1 October on rowing machines in a number of places including the WI hall and in gyms as well as in participants' homes. The combined distance covered by all the rowers will total 2,880,000 metres, and the club members are hoping for donations via their crowdfunding site www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bgrc-gb-virtual-row. Good luck to them all!

On the same weekend as the flotilla in London, here in West Bay we saw the arrival of 80 Scouts at the Brit Valley camp ground for their annual activity camp, which included the 1st Bridport and 1st West Bay Sea Scouts. The activities included kayaking, paddle boarding and climbing. →

Left: Members of the clergy at the Revd Philip Ringer's anniversary service. From left: the Revd Sarah Godfrey (Golden Cap Team); the Revd Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector; the Revd Helen Croud, Team Curate; the Revd Chris Martin (Golden Cap Team); the Revd Philip Ringer

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

but my interest was particularly sparked by tomahawk throwing. There was a photo opportunity but I thought the result might not be suitable for this magazine!

On Sunday 25 September, West Bay was invaded by more than 150 motorbikes taking part in the Docbike ride from West Bay Esplanade to Henstridge Airfield, home to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. Around 19,000 bikers are injured on the roads every year and this relatively new charity is working to educate bikers about staying safer. It was quite a sight to see these bikers in procession going down the West Bay road.

The Bothenhampton Brownies visited the Discovery Centre as part of an activity evening. They split into two groups, the first going on a beach clean while the younger group had a tour of the centre. They seemed quite taken with the large puppets and masks available for them to try on or play with – and the noise level rose. When the second group came into the centre, however, they were much quieter, having exhausted themselves on the beach. During November the Discovery Centre will only open at weekends.

Below: The Bothenhampton Brownies enjoyed a visit to the Discovery Centre as part of an activity evening



A stunning sunrise at West Bay in early October

The last day of September went out with a bang with very strong winds battering the coast. The following morning, however, saw a dramatic change as peace was restored, the sea was calm, and there was a spectacular sunrise.

Sue Pollock

Upcoming events

The lighting of the Christmas Tree on Harbour Green will take place on Sunday 27 November at 3pm.

November services at St John's:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Sunday 6 | 11am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 13 | 10.50am | Coffee & Morning Praise with Act of Remembrance |
| Sunday 20 | 11am | Holy Communion |
| Saturday 26 | 6pm | Service of wholeness and healing |
| Sunday 27 | 10am | Parish Advent service at St Mary's Bridport (no service at St John's) |

Also Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock
aejsullock@gmail.com
Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

From the parish editor

The feast of Saint Martin is celebrated on 11 November and is particularly enjoyed by children in Germany, where it is known as Martinstag. It is also known as Old Halloween. The day is dedicated to Saint Martin the Merciful of Tours, celebrated for his modesty and altruism.

Saint Martin was born in the Pannonian (or Carpathian) Basin – now a dried up sea – in Hungary, and converted to Christianity at a young age. He served in the Roman cavalry in Gaul, but left military service around 361AD, having obtained a discharge following his baptism. He became a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers, establishing a monastery at Ligugé, and was appointed the third Bishop of Tours in 371.

Martin is mostly remembered for cutting his cloak in half to share with a homeless person who was cold. That night he dreamed Jesus was wearing the half cloak he had offered and saying to the angels: "Here is Martin, the Roman soldier who is now baptised; he has clothed me."



A stained-glass window (c.1230) depicting Saint Martin cutting his cloak in half for a beggar. The window is from the Notre-Dame de Gercy Abbey and is now in the Musée National du Moyen Âge, Paris

Saint Martin died on 8 November 397 and was buried three days later. His shrine in Tours is a well-known stopping-off point for pilgrims on the way to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Slovenia celebrates St Martin's Day as a huge event in their faith calendar. It is the largest event in the town

ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

of Maribor, where the symbolic winding up of the wine growers' work is praised. There is a ceremonial 'christening' of the new wine and the arrival of the Wine Queen. One of the main squares, Trg Leona Štuklja, is filled with music and stalls offering delicacies.

In Malta children are each given a bag of fruits and sweets known as 'Il Borza ta San Martin' or 'The Saint's Bag'. This may include walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, chestnuts and dried figs plus seasonal fruit like oranges, apples and pomegranates.

In Welsh mythology the day is associated with Cŵn Annwn, the spectral hounds who accompany souls to the otherworld.

In the UK, 11 November is commemorated as Remembrance Day and this year it will certainly feel different without the presence of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Anna Sullock

Father Dan's retirement

Father Dan Shackell took his last service at St Swithun's on Thursday 29 September and had his retirement gathering in the hall afterwards. Bubbly was flowing for his special day, as well as for the diamond wedding anniversary of Sue and Chris Walliker.

Speaking at the celebration, Dan mentioned some of the people of faith who have inspired his creative, informative sermons, from Dietrich Bonhoeffer to Julian of Norwich. Dan's sermons were also often sprinkled with miracle stories from his working life as director of The Spires in Streatham, a project that's well known in south London for giving sanctuary to homeless people and others who have suffered trauma. During this period in Dan's life he also trained alongside Ann Ayling, who until recently was preaching at St Mary's Walditch.

Father Dan was given an original image of St Swithun's created by Brian Smith, the Revd Canon Deb Smith's husband. Dan is emphatic that he will still be around



Barry Welch



Mandi Sturrock



Anna Sullock

There was a lively gathering at St Swithun's to mark Fr Dan Shackell's retirement; Dan received a picture of the church by Brian Smith

enjoying being among the congregation, so we're sure to see him regularly.

November services at St Swithun's:

Eucharist is held every Sunday (except 27 November) at 9.30am and every Thursday at 10am. Contemplative Church is held on the first Sunday each month at 4pm in St Swithun's Hall. There is a community coffee morning on the first Thursday every month, 10.45–11.45am.

On Sunday 27 November at 10am there will be a parish Advent service at St Mary's Bridport.

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@gribb.plus.com

Getting to know you...

I'm reminded of the song from 'The King and I' as I reflect on my first couple of months settling into life in Bridport. Graham and I arrived here in August and spent our first few weeks unpacking boxes and working out where everything was going to go in our new home, as well as discovering all

the local amenities. There were some pretty record-breaking temperatures while we were doing that, and it was great to know that after a long hot day's unpacking we could go to the beach for a lovely cooling swim!

We had a lovely welcome service in September and since then it's been a joy getting to know people in the two churches where I'm minister (Bridport United Church and Uploders Chapel) and in the Dorset South & West Circuit where I'll also be spending part of my time. We've also met lots of friendly people in Bridport and are beginning to get a feel for the vibrant community life that's such an important part of the town.



**The Revd Jane Wilson
 Minister, Bridport United
 Church & Uploders Chapel**



BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

As ‘normal business’ has resumed after the summer break, we’ve enjoyed beginning to get a feel for the regular events happening in the churches and around the town, and learning new names, roles and activities. As I keep saying to everyone I meet, do please keep telling me your name, and I promise one day I will remember it!

It’s been good to spend time chatting over a cuppa at the BUC coffee mornings on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and sharing food and fellowship at the Lunch Club (fourth Wednesdays at 12.30pm) and the Craft & Tea Club (third Thursdays at 2pm). Having been part of Messy Church for many years, I’ve enjoyed joining the team at BUC and we’re looking forward to welcoming parents/carers and children for a fun afternoon of craft activities, songs, fun, fellowship and food on 24 November, when we explore the Advent theme of Getting Ready.

I have been part of various bands over the years, so it was great to join the Soul Space music team to share in some informal worship, reflection and activities on the first Sunday of the month. Our next Soul Space is at 4pm on Sunday 6 November and it would be great to see you there.

We’re looking forward to our first Christmas in Bridport and working with fellow churches and community groups on plans for a variety of events in December. Look out for more details in the next issue of The Bridge.

Thank you to everyone who has made us feel so welcome – I looking forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months!

The Revd Jane Wilson

November services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 6 10.30am Chris Warren (HC)
4pm Soul Space with tea and cake

Sunday 13 10.30am Revd Jane Wilson

Sunday 20 10.30am Revd Ruth Lownsborough

Sunday 27 10.30am Revd Jane Wilson
(Advent Sunday)

Accordion concert

The No. 1 Ladies Accordion Orchestra has members from all over the UK and meets and gives concerts nationwide. Do come and hear them at Bridport United Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 19 November and enjoy tea/coffee and cake. Tickets are £12 (concessions £10) on the door or online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5578575. More info at www.no1ladiesaccordionorchestra.co.uk



Regular events

Our coffee mornings are held every Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 12 noon (except Saturday 12 November). All are welcome. We also have Stepping Stones pre-school every morning.

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--|
| Mondays | 10am–noon | Local Vocals |
| | 2–3pm | Art history |
| | 2.30pm | Golden Cap Centre of the National Trust (last Monday of the month only) |
| | 7.30pm | Bridport Choral Society |
| Tuesdays | 2pm | Bridport Blind Club (first and third Tuesdays only) |
| | 2pm | Bridport u3a (fourth Tuesday) |
| | 4.30pm | Rainbows |
| | 5.30pm | Brownies |
| | 7.30pm | New Elizabethan Singers |
| | 7.30pm | Bridport Big Band |
| Wednesdays | 12.30pm | Lunch Club (fourth Wed only). All welcome but please book if possible: 422598 |
| | 6pm | Fitsteps |
| | 7.30pm | Kick boxing |
| Thursdays | 2pm | Thursday Club (third Thurs only). All welcome for tea, games, crafts and chat. |
| | 2.30pm | Bridport History Society (second Thursday only) |
| | 3.30pm | Messy Church (fourth Thurs) |
| | 5pm | Slimming World |
| Fridays | 6–7.30pm | Kick boxing |

Other events in November

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|--|
| Saturday 5 | 9–11.30am | Big Breakfast |
| Saturday 12 | | Vinyl Saturday |
| Saturday 19 | 7.30pm | Concert by the No. 1 Ladies Accordion Orchestra (see left) |

From Uploders Chapel

Well at the moment the sun is shining and it is so tempting to get outside. However, it isn’t always possible to do exactly what we want!

Joseph Pullan, bless him, did a good job of riding on behalf of Uploders Chapel for the Ride+Stride event and raised £225. We were able to offer folk cuppas and cake as the chapel was open all day. The extra donations were much appreciated.

We enjoyed a lovely Harvest service in September (see photo, left), led by Richard Lownsborough, and then another lovely service at the beginning of October with the Revd Jane Wilson – her first service with us. We are so blessed with the lovely services we get each month; they are all thought-provoking and very different.

We did manage to have a coffee morning with bric-à-brac at the chapel. Sadly there weren’t as many people through the door as usual, probably because we picked a date that seemed to have lots of other activities going on. However, those who did come were very generous with their donations and there are still some donations coming in!

We are looking forward to our two November services,

Left: The congregation at Uploders Chapel enjoyed a lovely Harvest service in September (Mickey was there too!)

UPLODERS CHAPEL continued...

and we also have plans to have a concert in January sometime, to jolly things up. Further details to follow.

So after an Optimistic October, let's think how we can make November really Nice!

Carol Hall

November services at Uploders Chapel:

Sunday 6 10.30am Revd John Walker
(Holy Communion)

Sunday 20 10.30am Joint service at Loders Church, led by the Revd Chris Grasske and the Revd Jane Wilson

St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

Parish priest – Monsignor Keith Mitchell

Presbytery 424754

keith.mitchell@predtr.org.uk

Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594

bridport@predtr.org.uk



Part of the queue of mourners waiting to pass the late Queen's coffin at her lying in state

Martin Morris / Creative Commons

Waiting is good for us!

Wow! It's nearly Christmas again and by the time you read this some of us will be raring to put our decorations up. It's as though we can't wait – and yet Advent, the season of waiting, doesn't begin until the end of this month. Of course, most of us don't much like waiting. If you are like me, you always get in the wrong queue in the checkout and get increasingly impatient while the person in front digs deep into their purse for a money-off voucher that they know is somewhere deep in their bag. Yet back in September we saw people patiently queueing for 12 hours and more to pay their respects to our late Queen. No one seemed to mind; in fact, they experienced a real solidarity and purpose in their waiting as they anticipated that special moment when they would stand before the Queen's coffin.

Waiting is never easy, yet I suspect it is good for us. Waiting questions our motives. Why is it that we are always in such a rush? How important is it that we have immediate satisfaction? Waiting can help us develop clarity and character. Just as an old photograph needed time to

'develop' in the dark, often God needs time to develop our characters, so that we can handle the promise once we do receive it (Romans 5:4). Waiting can also protect us. When God asks us to wait, he usually has a good reason. He can see the bigger picture so much more than we can. It is not that he is withholding good things from us, but rather that he wants to make us ready in order to protect us. Waiting allows him to work in us.

Waiting is never easy, but it can be good for us. There is often a good purpose in waiting – and so, when Advent, that great season of waiting, does begin on the 27th of this month, let's not let the opportunities it brings be eclipsed by the promise it holds, and which we don't celebrate until the 25th of next month!

Monsignor Keith Mitchell

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

BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

Church office 456031

office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk

www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk

On Thursday evenings we open the door at 5pm and provide a place for anyone who wishes to

come and sit and rest from the busyness of life as we pray for the community of Bridport. Each week different people pop in; some stay for 10 minutes and others rest for a full hour. Some pray, some listen – all are welcome and we never know who will turn up – and it is always exciting to see who is drawn in.

Our Sunday mornings are very relaxed and Spirit-led. We follow a pattern of prayer and worship, teaching and fellowship.

Our heart is that all will feel welcome, and that through this all will meet the Lord and be transformed for the life that He intends for them. We'd love you to come along and join us.

James Houston



Like all churches, we at Beacon Church have gone through significant transformation during the pandemic.

Having sought God's direction, we focus on communicating with God through prayer; being family to all who come through the doors; and reaching out to the community of Bridport.

During the week we meet on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes to be a place of peace and to be family for the hungry and lonely through the community kitchen.

Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

Please get in touch 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).



West Dorset Flower Club meets at the WI Hall, North Street, at 2.30pm on the second Monday of each month with demos and speakers. On Monday 14 November Nicky Heal will present 'Christmas at home'. Phone 456339.

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

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

Bridport & District Gardening Club will meet on Thursday 17 November at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North Street, when Paul Atterbury presents 'Don't be afraid of the digger', the story of how he and his wife created their garden in Eype. Non-members £2. More information online at www.bridportgardeningclub.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 Trenholme 281379.

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

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

Bridport Scottish Dancers meet every Wednesday evening at 7.15pm (7.30pm start) in Church House, South St, except first Wed each month which is at Salwayash village hall. First visit free, then £2 per session. Please bring the right money & your own refreshments. Contact Caroline 538141 / Malcolm 07790 323343 / www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk

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

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

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 please contact the secretary, Sarah Stamford sastamford@outlook.com / 425312 / www.thenewelizabethansingers.org.uk

Bridport Health Walks are free and take place every Wednesday, meeting outside Bridport United Church at 9.45am, and the first Thursday each month meeting at The Cowshed, Bridport Medical Centre, at 10.30am. The guided walks take 30–40 minutes on level ground. Refreshments available after the walk. No need to book, just turn up.

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset), in support of the National Trust, organises illustrated talks on the last Monday of the month (except summer) in the United Church Hall, East Street, at 2.30pm. Contact Mike Nicks 459855.

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

Bridport History Society meets on the second Thursday each month at the United Church Hall, 2 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £3pp. Membership £10 / £15 couple. Contact Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard jferentzi@aol.com / 425710.

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

Bridport Stage Company (formerly Bridport Shakespeare Company) theatre group will now be meeting at the British Legion on Wednesday evenings. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Contact Valerie for more information: tasterella@hotmail.co.uk

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

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 Gill Smith 301201.

Bridport Bridge Club meets Wednesday evenings (duplicate bridge, good standard) and Friday afternoons (relaxed bridge, not 3rd Friday in the month) at St Swithun's Hall, plus Thursday evenings online. Beginners' lessons started in January. See www.bridgewebs.com/bridport for updates or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298.

The Arts Society (West Dorset) meets at Bridport Town Hall, 2 for 2.30pm, on the third Thursday each month Sept–June. On 17 November Nigel Bates presents 'Sadlers Wells – the Theatrical Mothership'. Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome £7.50 per event. www.taswestdorset.org.uk

Bridport Community Shed, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, opens Mon, Wed & Thurs 10am–12 noon. On the first Tues of the month there is also an evening stitching session (please book in advance). Contact 07593 880428.

Harmony Drop-in provides a safe, social space and peer support to aid the recovery journey of adults in the Bridport area who are living with mental health difficulties. Our group (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am–1pm) offers activities and support, fostering wellbeing and increased self-esteem. Contact 07597 379290.

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 St, Bridport (now open Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).



Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

Bridport Community Front Room offers face-to-face support for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Assembly Rooms, Gundry Lane. Thurs–Sun, 3.15–10.45pm. Appointments 07385 290804.

Dementia Friendly Bridport has spaces in its gentle exercise group for people with dementia and their carers. It's run by a qualified instructor and volunteers. Tuesdays 1.45–3.15pm at Bridport Leisure Centre. Contact Debra: 07890 649561 / dementiafriendlybridport@gmail.com

Bridport & District u3a is for people in their 'third age'. No minimum age, but you must be no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings in Bridport United Church Hall with a guest speaker plus socialising over refreshments. Also more than 50 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. Contact Vincent Sheppard 485763 / chair@bridportu3a.org.uk / www.bridportu3a.org.uk
The **u3a Singers Group** meets on alternate Thursdays for 10.30am start at the WI Hall in North Street. Contact Heather 425219 / www.bridportu3a.org.uk

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

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

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 ASCape for young people 7–11 & 11–18, parents and carers affected by autism spectrum conditions (ASC) or social anxiety. Contact Karen Wright wrightmail2@aol.com or visit www.bridportasd.wordpress.com

Free play singing, improvisation and earth/peace movement chants. Spontaneous compositions of sound; few words. Tuesdays 2pm at Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane, for about an hour. All welcome, £1 per person. Phone Pen 07713 008290.

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

Bridport Tree Planting plants and 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 Bellringers at St Mary's

We meet at 7.30pm on Thursdays and always welcome new ringers. We have three learners now, progressing very well, and are happy to help train people on our lovely bells. Contact Bob Hardwick, Tower Captain 01308 420632.

The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society (West Dorset Group)

meets at Loders Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Contact Jane for more information: jferentzi@aol.com.

Life+line Bereavement Support is a Bridport Team Ministry 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 Dog Training Society has been active for over 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!

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 at www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys

Bridport & W D I Bowls Club invites you to a 'fun game' at St Andrew's Trading Est, DT6 3EX every Sunday 10 am till 12 noon. First session free. Details 425278.

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We print 6,000 copies of the magazine and deliver nearly all of them to residential addresses in the town centre plus Allington, Bothenhampton, Bradpole, Walditch and West Bay. Ad prices start at £20. Visit www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising or email our advertising manager, Mrs Chris Senior, at advertising@thebridgemagazine.org

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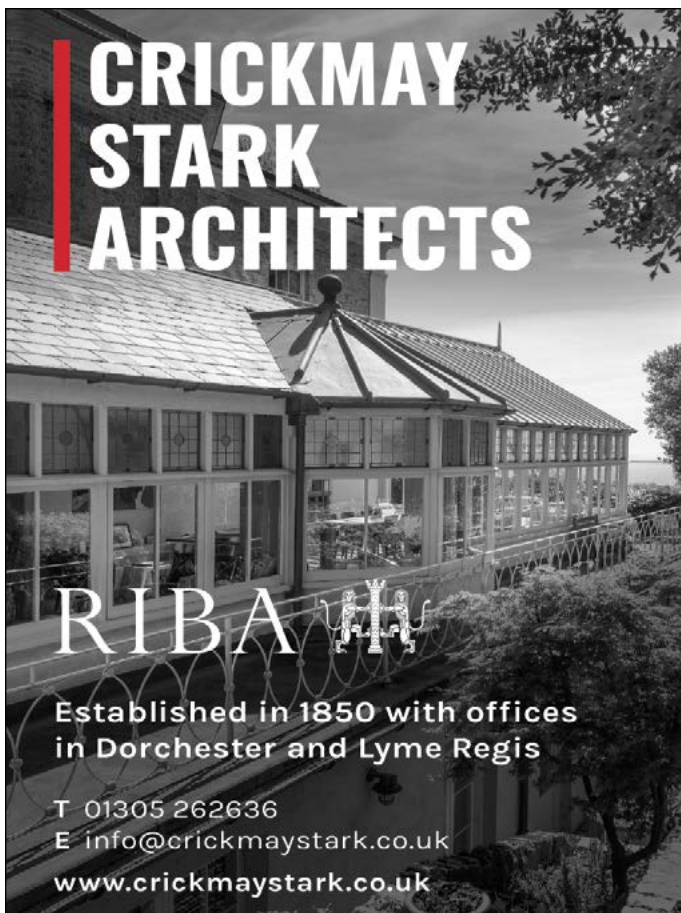
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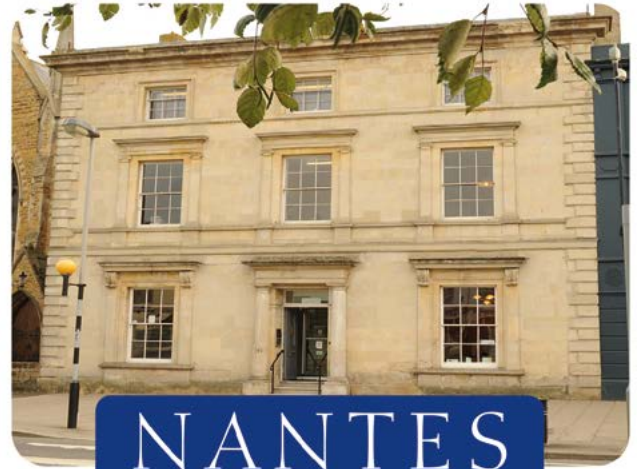
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