

July/August 2023

the **Bridge**



THIS ISSUE IS

**SMITH & SMITH
(Bridport) Ltd**

SPONSORED BY

2023 Show President Michael Fooks (in blue jacket) at a previous show

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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Team licensed worship leader

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If you cannot get to church and would like home communion or a visit, please contact one of the lay pastoral assistants.

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The advertising and copy deadline for the September 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 7 August

Church and community life is for all ages

Jesus urged us to look at the world through young people's eyes if we want to glimpse how good community life could be.

In my work for Salisbury Diocese, I partner with local church and school leaders to try and do this. Inspired by the Church of England's Growing Faith Foundation, we listen carefully to young people and get caught up in their open-hearted enthusiasm. This has sparked some great projects and networks.

In Sherborne, where I work a lot, all the schools have organised a youth council, which will soon have a budget of £5,000 and a real voice in the town council's work. The group is launching its first yearly social action project – a pop-up young people's clothes swap shop and cafe at October's Pack Monday Fair.

Meanwhile, in Shaftesbury, young people are meeting their school's lower level wellbeing needs through a peer mentoring project, where teams of 30 pupils meet and talk through issues such as homework and friendship. Two local churches are inviting young people on two housing estates to earn and plan their own trips and treats this summer in a social action and learning workshop project called the Dreamscheme. It's huge fun and is proving pretty life-changing for those involved.

We do invite conversations about faith. Church volunteers can worry about sharing faith outside of church, but young people and their teachers tell us: don't hesitate; begin with faith; young people want to explore life's big questions. They want to do this in a safe space with people they can trust – big questions like 'Who am I?' and 'Why am I here?' and 'What does Jesus have to say about it?' We support one another to learn how to share faith in a gentle, invitational, respectful way, ready to learn as much as we can teach and to meet young people where they are at – including those from a different faith, or none.

And here, volunteers from the Parish of Bridport are making room for big questions in projects like Walk and Talk and Star Club, run in partnership with St Mary's School. Star Club was started by Canon Deb Smith and the Revd Helen Stewart and focuses on drawing the family in. It's now being tried out elsewhere in the diocese. Other great work with children and families in the Parish of Bridport includes St Mary's Sunday School and Bradpole Brunch. There's also Wild and Messy Church, a team project hosted at St Swithun's where whole families engage in craft projects and Eco Church. The two longstanding cherished tots' clubs in the team engage children and families by expressing

their faith primarily through hospitality and relationships.

Amazing work is going on at the intersection of

What better way to enjoy the environment than through the eyes of a child?

church, school, family life and community, and this creates space through scripture, stories, songs, prayer, nature, playing together and doing good together. And just being *still* for a bit can help children and families encounter Jesus' spirit and all the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, kindness and self control that it brings.

The Revd Lorna Johnson

Interacting with young people and their families in the local area is a great way to see the world in a different light.

Seeking to bring knowledge and fun through alternative ways of 'doing church' helps us not to take ourselves so seriously. What better way to enjoy the environment than through the eyes of a child? Seeing young people inspired by the smallest insect, using a screwdriver for the first time, or listening intently to a bird, helps us adults to appreciate the world from a different perspective. I'd encourage anyone, young or old, to get involved in our children's activities, for none of us is too old to enjoy a good song, story or game, often with a meal or some other refreshment included, in a warm, relaxed and supportive environment.

Opportunities in the Parish of Bridport to get involved with church members, alongside your children, include:

At St Mary's, Bridport – Sunday School during the main morning service.

At St Mary's Church House Hall – Tots Time every Thursday morning, 9.30–11am during term time, for parents/carers of babies and pre-school children.

At Bradpole Village Hall – Bradpole Brunch 11.30am–12.30pm on the third Sunday each month (not July or August). For children of all ages and their families. Includes food, creative activities, bible stories and songs.

At Holy Trinity, Bradpole – Tots@Ten, 10–11.30am every Wednesday in term time. For parents/carers of babies and pre-school children. Includes play, song, refreshments and 'Bubble Time'.

At St Swithun's, Allington – Wild and Messy Church. Next session 3 August. Current activities are linked with understanding and caring for our environment.

*Janet Robinson,
Parish of Bridport
volunteer*



Left: Children meet the Bishop of Sherborne with Annie Gordon, music leader of Bridport's Wild and Messy Church. Right: Paul Groom helps Freddy with his bat box project; Lily hands her bat box – made at Wild and Messy Church – to a member of the bellringing team

A celebration for Sea Sunday

Churches Together in Bridport and District will be celebrating Sea Sunday on 9 July at 4pm at Harbour Green, West Bay (in St John's if wet). All welcome. Sea Sunday is the day when many Christian churches, and charities across the world such as the Mission to Seafarers, Stella Maris and the Sailors' Society, remember and pray for seafarers and their families and give thanks for their work.

You can leave your hat on...

This year's Bridport Hat Festival will be held on Saturday 2 September. This popular event – also known as 'Haturday' – celebrates the most creative, quirky, stylish and inventive headwear, with live music, a garden party, 'best hat' competition, hat hurling, and food and drink. The famous 'mass hatted' photo will be taken at 1pm in Bucky Doo Square. Before the day itself there's also a family fun hat construction workshop with Jo from Oops Wow Messy Art on Thursday 31 August, 10am to 12 noon, at Bridport Youth & Community Centre. More information, including photos from previous Haturdays, is online at www.bridportthatfest.org.

Don't leave your valuables on show!

Police have urged people to be extra vigilant after a number of thefts from cars parked at beauty spots in the area including Eggardon Hill and Langdon Woods. "This is an easy crime to prevent, simply by not leaving belongings in unattended vehicles. Either take them with you, or leave them at home," says a spokesperson from Bridport Police.



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This year's
show is on
24 August



Tim Russ

The Melplash Show is the highlight of the summer

For many locals – particularly those in the farming community – the annual Melplash Show is the highlight of the summer.

The show began in 1847 with a ploughing competition in the village of Melplash and the formation of the Melplash Agricultural Society. It moved permanently to Bridport in 1946 and to its current site between the town and West Bay in 1948. Since the 1960s it has been held on a Thursday, by long tradition half-day closing in Bridport, and this year is on 24 August.

These days the show is a huge celebration of agricultural and country life, with loads to see and do for the whole family. As well as the livestock and produce competitions – including many in the preceding weeks – there's showjumping and heavy horses, vintage tractors, a sheepdog display, a falconry demonstration and a parade of hounds. The central arena boasts highlights such as Motostunts International motorcycle stunt team, and roving entertainers include Chloe the Piano Bike Girl, Wyld Morris and the FB Pocket Orchestra.

The food tent has the very best in local fare, and there are also two craft marquees with traders selling their handmade goods.

Adult tickets are £18 up to midnight on 23 August, and £20 on the day. Children aged 16 and under are free. Tickets are available online at www.melplashshow.co.uk and from a number of local outlets including Bridport Tourist Information Centre.

Turn to page 11 for our interview with the 2023 Show President, Michael Fooks.

ST. SWITHUN'S CHURCH
Allington, Bridport, DT6 5DU



CREAM TEA

SATURDAY 15TH JULY 2.30 – 4.30 PM

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ALL WELCOME

Have your say on three heritage routes

Bridport Town Council is consulting with the community over the details of three new heritage walking routes.

As well as seeking feedback on the three proposed routes themselves, the council is looking for suggestions of significant buildings and other landmarks along the routes that are important to the town's heritage and might be suitable for inclusion in six downloadable podcasts.

Local people are asked to propose heritage- or nature-related stopping points along the routes where a waymarking element might be valuable, drawing attention to something that is of interest or is part of the Bridport story.

The council hopes to sponsor production later this year of podcasts to launch the three new routes so that locals and visitors can discover aspects of Bridport's cultural and natural heritage.

The three proposed routes are: an urban heritage loop, in the town centre off South Street and East Street, taking in some of Folly Mill Lane, Gundry Lane, Barrack Street and St Michael's Lane; a rivers route, from West Bay in the south up to Dodham's Lane in the north; and an outer green route around villages such as Burton Bradstock, Askerswell, Nettlecombe, Powerstock and Symondsburry.

The consultation stems from the Bridport Streetscape & Heritage Interpretation Study, which was completed in



flickr/grassrootsbridportswell

Above: these historic buildings on East Street are on one of the proposed heritage routes

autumn 2022 and forms part of the Bridport Investment Plan being used to secure funding for local initiatives including a bespoke heritage and interpretation system.

The questionnaire is open until 30 August and is available online at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/22D7Q7/. The three proposed routes and details of the background to the project are available at www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/streetscape-heritage-interpretation-study/.

Delivered with this issue is a leaflet from Bridport Town Council explaining the forthcoming changes to the council structure following the community governance review that started in 2021. Council boundaries will be changing from April 2024, and the leaflet explains how this will affect residents. It also confirms the services provided by Bridport Town Council and Dorset Council. An online survey, seeking residents' thoughts on how Bridport Town Council should operate after next April, remains open until 30 August at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/B6ZLWZ.

Helen moves on to a new job in Bedford

The Revd Helen Stewart, formerly the Parish of Bridport's team curate, has moved to her new parish in Bedford, where she will be licensed on 19 July.

Helen's last Bridport service was on Sunday 18 June, after which people gathered at the Rectory for a fond farewell over a picnic lunch. In a message to the people of the parish, she wrote: "I know the time of my moving on is right, and I'm excited to at last live with my husband and start our lives together. However, I will also miss lots of wonderful things about Bridport... a beautiful place, full of character, full of energy and full of passionate people."



Thanks for Christian Aid Week support

Christian Aid Week coordinator Jill Henderson would like to say a big thankyou to the people of Bridport for supporting the fundraising campaign in May.



"Thank you so much, Bridport, for your kind and generous support," she says. "This year, people from four churches in the Parish of Bridport, plus Loders Church, raised £2842.93. This money will continue to support Christian Aid's work in Malawi and other parts of the world."

Visit www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week for more info about the appeal.

St Swithun's Hall still needs an admin volunteer

The team at St Swithun's is looking for someone to take over the job of invoicing people who use the church hall. These are mostly regular users, who need to be billed monthly, although there are also some one-off bookings. Someone else handles the job of taking bookings. A small remuneration is available for the right person. If you're interested in this important role, or you'd like more information, please email Caroline Whitaker: carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com.

July 2023	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
<i>Saturday 1</i>						
Sunday 2	8am BCP Holy Communion	4pm Contemplative Church (hall)			10am PARISH HC SERVICE	
<i>Monday 3</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 4</i>				2.30pm Holy Communion		
<i>Wednesday 5</i>	2.30pm Holy Communion					
<i>Thursday 6</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 7</i>						
<i>Saturday 8</i>						
Sunday 9	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am Holy Communion
<i>Monday 10</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 11</i>						
<i>Wednesday 12</i>						
<i>Thursday 13</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 14</i>						
<i>Saturday 15</i>						
Sunday 16	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 17</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 18</i>						
<i>Wednesday 19</i>						
<i>Thursday 20</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 21</i>						
<i>Saturday 22</i>						6pm Service of wholeness and healing
Sunday 23	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 24</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 25</i>						
<i>Wednesday 26</i>						
<i>Thursday 27</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Friday 28</i>						
<i>Saturday 29</i>						
Sunday 30	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
<i>Monday 31</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer

August 2023	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
<i>Tuesday 1</i>				2.30pm Holy Communion		
<i>Wednesday 2</i>	2.30pm Holy Communion					
<i>Thursday 3</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 4</i>						
<i>Saturday 5</i>						
Sunday 6 <i>Transfiguration</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion	4pm Contemplative Church (hall)		10am PARISH HC SERVICE		
<i>Monday 7</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 8</i>						
<i>Wednesday 9</i>						
<i>Thursday 10</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 11</i>						
<i>Saturday 12</i>						
Sunday 13	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am Holy Communion
<i>Monday 14</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 15</i>						
<i>Wednesday 16</i>						
<i>Thursday 17</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 18</i>						
<i>Saturday 19</i>						
Sunday 20	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 21</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 22</i>						
<i>Wednesday 23</i>						
<i>Thursday 24</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Friday 25</i>						
<i>Saturday 26</i>						6pm Service of wholeness and healing
Sunday 27	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 28</i> <i>Bank holiday</i>		No Evening Prayer				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 29</i>						
<i>Wednesday 30</i>						
<i>Thursday 31</i>		10am Eucharist				

Finding joy in nature – on the beach, o

Summer Rambles
from our regular contributor
Alan Bowley ('Rambler')

Rambler was out and about during those glorious early summer days of late May and June, and what a spectacle there was to see around Bridport and across the Marshwood Vale.

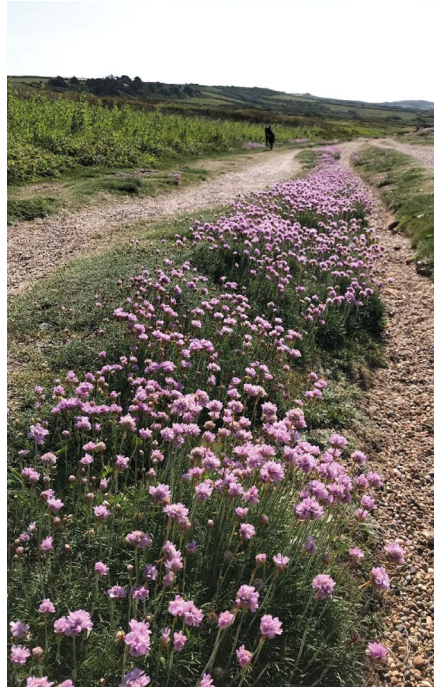
Why? Because this has been a 'hawthorn year' and the hedges and woods were illuminated by a tracery of white blossom. The name 'haw' was apparently Old English for 'hedge', and it was widely planted during the enclosures of the 18th century to mark boundaries. But other lines and clumps of bushes may also be remnants of ancient woods that have been removed for farming over the centuries. In many respects, you could say hawthorn is the signature of our countryside, providing food for invertebrates, birds and mammals; shelter for livestock; and nesting habitat. It provides food for the human foragers among us, too, because its leaves, flowers and berries are all edible in some form or other.

June is a great time to visit Chesil Beach. This is one of the three great shingle beaches of Britain – the others are Dungeness and Orfordness – and one of the few places where shingle plants can thrive (please avoid treading on them). Marsh orchids aside, yellow-horned poppy, sea cabbage and bladder campion were all lighting up the shingle when I was there, but most stunning of all were the great sweeps of thrift or sea pink (pictured).

This a precious piece of our coast, with the bushes full of birds like Cetti's warbler, whitethroat and linnet,



© Natural England/Allan Drewitt



Above: Thrift growing on Chesil Beach

and with adders and marsh frogs along the ditches. If you want to see some videos, please visit my website, www.ramblewithalan.wixsite.com/ramblewithalan.

Closer to home, there are new nature ramble guides for the churchyards at St Mary's Bridport and Holy Trinity Bradpole. Have a walk around and see what enthusiastic volunteers have been doing to make the churchyards more wildlife-friendly. Churchyards and burial grounds cover an enormous area of England and our own sites are an important part of a 'greener' Bridport.

As June fades into July, the house martin nests will be producing young, but their decline in recent years has meant that they are now on the British Trust for Ornithology's Red List. Their soft chattering is still a feature of villages like Pymore, but other colonies in the town are sadly reduced. On a brighter note, though, look and listen for those wonderful unruly gangs of young starlings, and hopefully the screaming swiftlets as they flex their wings ready for their long flight south.

Left: Cetti's warbler

My four-minute ramble
by Janet Robinson, Bradpole

In the last four minutes of my walk to Holy Trinity the other day, I made a conscious effort to listen to the birds. I heard the songs of an amazing variety – chiffchaff, crow, robin, rook, blue tit, wren, dunnock, house sparrow, goldcrest and starling. "How do you know?" you may well ask. Often I have admired the song of a bird that I couldn't see and therefore couldn't identify. Well, here is my secret – I used an app called Merlin on my smartphone. It is designed to be a birding 'coach' for bird watchers at every level. The Sound ID feature listens to the birds around you and shows real-time suggestions for who's singing. You can compare your recording to the songs and calls that are stored in Merlin to confirm which bird you are hearing.

What a wonderful way of knowing what richness we have around us! But did you know that some of the birds that I heard that morning are on the UK Red List of endangered species? In brief this means that the birds named are either globally threatened, have a historical population decline in the UK between 1800 and 1995, or have seen at least a 50% decline in their UK breeding population (or a contraction of their UK breeding range) over the last 25 years. There are more woodland birds on the Red List than from any other habitat. Farmland birds are a particular cause for concern, too, with 12 species on the list. The wryneck, a member of the woodpecker family, is the first species in nearly 200 years to have been lost as a breeding bird in the UK, and can now only be seen around the south and east coasts during its autumn passage.

Knowing what birds we have locally, and knowing which are liable to be lost in the UK, will help us look for different ways to support the species that are struggling as a result of mankind's actions in our world. Our gardens are a vital resource for wildlife, providing corridors of green space between areas of open countryside and allowing species to move about. In fact, the UK's



n the hillsides, and in our churchyards

gardens provide more space for nature than all the national nature reserves put together. So why not try leaving wilder areas in your garden, such as patches of buttercups in your lawn or nettles near your compost heap, to see who visits?

Nettles may not be your favourite plant – and they’ve certainly earned themselves a bad reputation – but let me try and change your mind about them. They’re definitely underrated; in fact they provide a wonderful habitats for a whole host of wildlife, and they’re also a staple food source for a wide range of invertebrate species. If you’re wondering how this relates to birds... guess what birds eat for breakfast!

If you’d like to experience a little wildness in the grounds of Holy Trinity Bradpole, step inside our church, pick up a nature ramble leaflet and follow the recommended route around the wilder areas of our churchyard.

When you’ve tried it, we hope that you’ll let us know what you enjoyed



Above: The humble nettle can sustain a wide range of species

and how we could improve our Living Churchyard both for our wildlife and for your own mental health.

For more information on birds of conservation concern, download a leaflet from the British Trust for Ornithology’s website here: www.bto.org/sites/default/files/publications/bocc-5-a5-4pp-single-pages.pdf

Caring for God’s Acre

There are more than 25,000 burial grounds across the UK, ranging from small rural medieval churchyards to large Victorian city cemeteries, spanning different cultures, religions and centuries. Often these sites have been set apart for centuries so offer much-needed refuge for our native wildlife of all varieties – plants, mammals, invertebrates and reptiles.

Caring for God’s Acre is the conservation charity for burial grounds across the UK. www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

The churchyard nature ramble leaflets that Alan and Janet mention in their articles are available to pick up from St Mary’s Bridport and Holy Trinity Bradpole.

Follow in a saint’s footsteps through beautiful Dorset

The Rt Revd Stephen Lake, Bishop of Salisbury, joined a band of intrepid pilgrims on 4 June to climb Golden Cap, the highest point on Dorset’s coast.

The walk, which launched the new St Wite’s Way pilgrimage, took in St Gabriel’s Ruins and St Wite’s Well, offered space for participants to reflect on their own journey through life and faith, and ended with a joyous service of celebration conducted by Bishop Stephen.

“As well as stunning scenery, we have lots of stories to tell about St Wite, the patron saint of Dorset, and a visit to her shrine – a place of pilgrimage for centuries – at the church of St Candida and Holy Cross in Whitchurch Canonicorum,” says the Revd Ginny Luckett of the Golden Cap Benefice. “St



Left: the shrine of St Wite in the church at Whitchurch Canonicorum

Wite is thought to have lived close to Golden Cap and to have lit warning beacons – early lighthouses or ‘bright beacons of God’ for mariners – on its summit.”

Writer and journalist Jason Goodwin also joined the launch walk. “St Wite’s story is a lively one,” he says. “She was a Saxon warrior, healer and holy woman, who was martyred for her faith by Vikings on Chardown Hill in 831.”

The St Wite’s Way pilgrimage is a holistic wellbeing programme, based on Christian spirituality but open to all. “As our experience develops, people taking part will be able to design their own pilgrimage journey,” says Ginny. “They’ll be able to choose from a varied and exciting programme of circular walks, workshops, classes, events and experiences to help them connect with their own spirituality through creativity, walking and contemplation.”

The pilgrimage walk is about five miles long, takes just under three hours, and is very steep in places. The fee of £45 per person includes morning coffee, a packed lunch, and tea and cake back at the church afterwards.

The remaining pilgrimage dates this year are 15 July, 10 August and 2 September, plus a residential retreat 31 July– 2 August. Details and booking at www.stwitesway.org.

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60 years in farming: Michael Fooks is this year's Melplash Show President

Farmer Michael Fooks is President of the 2023 Melplash Show, which takes place at the West Bay Show Grounds on Thursday 24 August. We caught up with him at his North Poorton home to find out what the role – and farming – means to him...

The Bridge: The President role is an annual appointment and is held by a different person each year. What exactly does the job involve?

Michael Fooks: Really it's a figurehead role, and it's a huge honour to have been asked. Before the show itself, there are lots of farming competitions held in June and July under the Melplash Show banner, and I've been going round all of them. There's also a ploughing match in September that I'll attend. And of course I'll visit the judging areas on the day, too. I'm really looking forward to it – I'll be able to see everything and meet everyone!

TB: We can't believe you haven't been President before!

MF: Actually the committee have asked me before, but I couldn't accept because I was just too busy with the farm and the routine of milking. Now I'm semi-retired and I have more time. I was Chairman in 1984 and I've been involved with the show pretty much my whole life, one way or another. When I was at school, it was always the last day out before the new term started. I left school at 15 to work on the farm, and started helping at the show. I don't think I've ever missed one.

TB: Why is the show so important?

MF: As farmers, it's our 'shop window', a chance for us to explain farming to the wider community, and to visitors from elsewhere, too. We show them where their food comes from. Although the President isn't always a farmer, the show



Tim Russ

is run mostly by farming people who really understand what's important.

The show has grown and grown over the years – back in the day we used one field at West Bay, now we have several – but its aim is the same as ever: to showcase farming.

TB: What's your favourite attraction at the show?

MF: Actually I'd say it's the food hall. It's brilliant, and shows the end product of all the hard work by the farmers and growers. That's what it's all about – and all local, too. I also love the Grand Parade, with everyone lined up. So many people give up their time to make the show happen – the Young Farmers get involved, our sponsors give financial support or lend machinery, and we have a great committee. Lucy Hart has been Show Secretary since 2010 and she's top-notch, absolutely wonderful. It's great that they all get to join in the parade.

TB: Tell us a bit about your farm.

MF: We have 800 acres in North Poorton. My grandfather took on the farm in the 1920s and it's still a family

business – me and my three brothers, David, Jeffrey and Francis. We have a dairy herd of 150 Holsteins, a flock of 250 Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset ewes plus about 85 acres of arable. Two of my nephews have also come to work here, and that has allowed me to semi-retire – these days I only have to milk the cows once a week!

Of course, none of this would happen without the support and hard work of my wife, Pam. We have two daughters, Helen and Julia, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

I'm proud to say that most of my family is involved in the Melplash Show. Pam produces lunches for hedgelaying and ploughing competitors; Julia is involved with the handicrafts section; Helen's husband, Kevin, is Chair of the dairy section, where Helen helps out, too; and Julia's daughter Abigail has been helping me with the Jacob sheep classes for a few years – this year she'll be doing it on her own.

TB: What do you think are the greatest issues facing farmers today?

MF: Food has been too cheap for many years and it's getting harder to make →

60 years in farming: Michael Fooks continued

a living from farming. Milk, for instance, is often sold to consumers for less than it costs the farmer to produce it – it's impossible to make a profit like this. And we're only about 60% self-sufficient for food in this country – the rest has to be imported. I don't agree with the current push for 'rewilding' while food's not plentiful. We need to use the land for food production, and rewilding needs to be managed carefully.

Day to day, our biggest challenge is simple: the weather. It governs everything we do for the whole year. And a fine day for the Melplash Show makes a huge difference too!

Farming has changed so much in my lifetime – perhaps the biggest change is how machinery has taken over from manual labour. But our aim is still to feed the people of this country. I want everyone to understand what's involved in producing their food. This can start young, with school visits to farms like ours, Open Farm Sunday events for families, and of course there's plenty to interest young people at agricultural shows like Melplash. It's so important for all our futures.

www.melplashshow.co.uk

See page 4 for more details of the show



Bellringing is fun, challenging and sociable

For many people, bellringing is a great hobby because it serves many purposes.

If you want something to get you off the sofa and allow you to meet other friendly people, bellringing fits the bill. It's also surprisingly good fun, and the sense of achievement you get from overcoming a particular challenge or learning something new is priceless. It provides good, gentle physical exercise and a stimulating mental workout, too.

Once you can ring competently with others, ringing opens up the opportunity to visit other towers all over the country and meet other bands of ringers. And, importantly, you don't have to spend vast amounts of money on special clothing or equipment. All you need is a reasonable sense of timing, a sense of humour, and a reasonable state of health – mainly because you'll have to climb the

spiral staircase to the ringing chamber. (If you find staircases hard, though, you can always find a church with a ringing chamber on the ground floor.) Even people with disabilities can have a go.

Bellringing is open to all ages. You can take it up at almost any time of life and there are ringers from 9 to 90. Shorter ringers can have a box to stand on! Ringing is within most people's capabilities, and even though it's not necessarily everyone's cup of tea, why not have a go and see how you get on?

How do you get started?

The first thing to learn is how to handle a tower bell safely so you have enough control to alter your bell's speed and stop it when you want to. Everyone learns at their own pace, so it could take a few sessions or several weeks. When you have good control, you can start to ring with

the rest of the band. Then you can stick to ringing simple things, or you can make it as demanding as you like. Change-ringing is a lifelong learning experience.

Most ringers practise once a week then usually ring before church services and sometimes for weddings, funerals and other special occasions. It's a tradition that the Bridport ringers are pleased to continue for the benefit of the community.

You don't need to be a member of the church to learn to ring – in fact, ringers come from a wide range of backgrounds and faiths. Most local bands would be delighted to have a new recruit, whether or not the person goes to church. So, if you've decided you'd like to give this very traditional art a go, you need to make contact with one of...

The Two Towers!

Both Holy Trinity Bradpole and St Mary's Bridport have eight bells. Please contact either of these churches initially (see our listing on p24) to see if there is capacity to train you. Young people are particularly welcome to apply.

Janet Robinson

Tower captain at Holy Trinity Bradpole

Janet is pictured here (second left) with ringers from Bridport and Shipton Gorge, who have been training together



ST MARY'S Bridport

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

Bronzed!

No, I am not talking about the suntan many of us will have after the exceptionally sunny weather in May and June. I am talking about the Bronze award that St Mary's has received from Eco Church. When I first heard the term 'Eco Church' three years ago, I must admit my first thoughts were that this was another trendy initiative, another bandwagon to jump on. I was sceptical: what did 'Eco' have to do with the mission of the Church? Now, though, I have come to realise that respect and care for creation is central to the Christian faith. So, what exactly is Eco Church and what has St Mary's done to merit a Bronze award?

At an open meeting back in 2021, Janet Webster explained to us that to qualify for an award St Mary's would have to complete an online survey about how people at the church were caring for God's earth in different areas of their life and work. We divided into groups to look at these different areas: worship and teaching; management of church buildings; management of church land; community and global engagement; and lifestyle.

While we were confident in answering the questions about how care for creation came into worship and teaching and management of church land, when it came to questions about our buildings and our lifestyle, there were so many questions we couldn't answer. We also realised that while there was much that individuals were doing, part of what we had to assess was the extent to which our church was promoting these things. To be honest, the answer was often not at all!

In the two years since that meeting, however, much has changed. People across the parish have been challenged in their thinking through a number of initiatives. The parish study groups read Sleepers Wake – Getting Serious About Climate Change, the Archbishop of York's book on the subject; Sir Ghillean Prance came to speak at the parish service at Bradpole in March; and a group visited St Mary's Beaminster to find out why that church had been awarded the Eco Church Gold award. We have been involved in the



Above: creating this area of nectar-rich plants in the churchyard is one of the many actions that has helped St Mary's secure a Bronze award from the Eco Church scheme

'Count for Nature' and Bridport's Big Green Week, and regular Eco items have appeared in the parish weekly sheet.

At St Mary's we have changed too by only using Fairtrade tea and coffee and eco-friendly cleaning materials, and by 'twinning our bins' (our toilets were already twinned). Through the gardening group, we have made the churchyard a welcome space for all to enjoy God's creation, with a bee-friendly garden, a bug hotel, the grass labyrinth and uncut areas where wild flowers can flourish.

We've also developed a churchyard nature ramble with many thanks to Alan Bowley. You can pick up a copy in the church (and see pages 8 and 9).

We met at St Mary's in May and updated our answers to the survey – and as a result of our actions and achievements we received the Bronze award. Thanks to everyone who has made this step on our eco journey possible. The challenge now is to encourage our congregation to embrace the challenge of caring for creation, to stop and think about the small steps we can each take, and to consider how our actions affect the environment we live in.

Watch out for a meeting in the autumn where among other things we will be challenging and helping people to complete a personal carbon footprint.

Peter Wright

Covid-19 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
 Director of music – vacancy

From the parish editor

Trinity Sunday fell on 4 June, which was also the 40th anniversary of Graham Purse becoming a licensed lay minister. Being the first Sunday of the month, the church service was for the whole Parish of Bridport and was held at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton. Over 80 people attended; Canon Deb Smith presided at communion and Graham gave the address.

The service was supported by the retired clergy and our curate, the Revd Helen Stewart. This was Helen's last →



Pictured: Graham Purse at the celebration of his 40 years as a licensed lay minister, and with his wife, Heather, after the service



HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

service with all the churches gathered together before moving to her new parish. A presentation was made to Graham to mark his anniversary, and following the service there were celebratory drinks and two cakes made by his wife, Heather, for everyone to enjoy.

The July coffee morning has been incorporated into the fete on Saturday 1 July as it was difficult to find two separate available dates. The next coffee morning at Holy Trinity is on Saturday 5 August, 10am to 12 noon, with cakes, books, cards and a raffle. Mothers' Union members are offering some small knitted angels at Holy Trinity coffee mornings. "The purpose of the angels is to offer our church's blessing for you to keep, or to give to someone you know who needs a blessing," says Jill Pryke. "They are not for sale, although if you'd like to take one for yourself or someone else, you may wish to make a voluntary gift to the Mothers' Union funds to support its work with families and children."

A date for your calendar is Saturday 9 September, when there will be a cream tea in the church from 3 to 5pm. This is the date of the Ride+Stride event organised by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, so the proceeds will go to that organisation.



The wild flowers in the church garden (pictured below left) have been looking lovely. They remind us of the late Max Watters – our treasurer, choir member and a great supporter of Holy Trinity – who scattered the seeds a few years ago. Enjoy the summer!

Barbara Ffooks

FILM NIGHTS in the village hall
Saturday 29 July – Empire of Light
Saturday 26 August – A Man Called Otto
Doors open 7pm, films start at 7.30pm
Refreshments available

Please book by emailing lenc2413@outlook.com

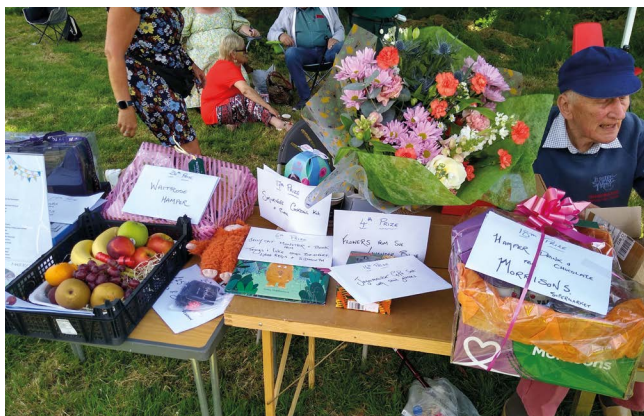
HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

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Bradpole Brunch

Having run for four months, Bradpole Brunch is taking a break and the team are planning the next sessions. Starting on Sunday 17 September at 11.30am, Brunch will meet in Bradpole Village Hall on the third Sunday of each month for the rest of the year.

The sessions always begin with cheese toasties or bacon butties and continue with activities, bible stories and songs for children plus some questions for the grown-ups



Pictured: attractions at Bradpole Village Fete included a raffle (above) and Punch & Judy (left); Bradpole Parish Council had a stall for the last time (top)

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

to consider. The whole family is welcome to the sessions, which last for an hour.

Tots @ Ten

The last gathering of tots and their parents and carers before the summer break will be on Wednesday 19 July. We look forward to seeing most of you on 13 September!

Bradpole Parish Council

The parish council had a stall at the village fete for the last time since it will no longer operate from April 2024.



The village fete

Held on Sunday 4 June, a gloriously sunny day, the village fete was very successful with crowds of people enjoying



Above: the opening of Holy Trinity's bee-friendly garden, with (left to right) Janet Robinson; Martin Whiting; Dave Bolwell, the mayor of Bridport; Joe Hackett of the Bridport Tree Planting Group; and Alan Bowley. Right: the mayor declares Holy Trinity's bins officially twinned!



themselves and spending money on the various stalls. Some of the proceeds went to help Bridport Young Performers and some of the young performers themselves were helping to run stalls while others demonstrated their singing talent by giving a couple of performances during the afternoon.

Stalls in the orchard included plants, cakes, splat-the-rat, jolly jars, children's crafts and activities and Punch & Judy. Some excellent burgers and hot dogs were on sale and the bar was well patronised. Thanks to the many sponsors and donors named in the programme and thanks, too, to the Norman family for the use of the orchard and field for car parking. Special thanks go to the various helpers and the organising committee ably led by Dawn, Jody and Paul.

Eco Church and Bin Twinning at Holy Trinity

The sun shone on the morning of Sunday 11 June to allow the congregation to mark Holy Trinity's progress along our Eco Church journey. Martin Whiting, our lay worship leader, led our service on the theme of loving our God, the creator of heaven and earth, and loving our neighbours.

Afterwards the congregation gathered in the churchyard, where the mayor of Bridport, Dave Bolwell, applied commemorative stickers to our recently 'twinned' wheeled bins. The congregation's donations have gone towards funding a recycling enterprise that will generate jobs and reduce plastic pollution in Uganda. The funding will also help to raise awareness in schools and universities of the dangers of plastic and the importance of recycling, and to lobby the government for greater investment in recycling initiatives and for environmental protection and recycling to become part of the national curriculum.

The mayor then introduced the newly planted bee-friendly garden to the congregation and spoke about the importance of bees and other pollinators in fertilising many of our →

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

essential food crops. In the UK alone, around 70 crops depend on or benefit from bee pollination, and our bee-friendly garden aims to increase the availability of nectar.

The garden contains a lovely selection of plants that will attract bees, including four key shrubs kindly sponsored by the Bridport Tree Planting Group. Joe Hackett spoke about the group and said that anyone in Bridport can ask for up to three trees free of charge for their own garden. The shrubs at the church are a clematis Arabella, honeysuckle 'Rhubarb and Custard', a ceanothus and a beautifully scented philadelphus, which you can smell before you see it. These all complement the native wild flowers, including the oxeye daisy and the bulbous buttercup, as well as other plants such as rosemary and thyme.

The church was then given a gift from the children of the Parish of Bridport's 'Wild and Messy Church', which takes place at St Swithun's Church. During their May session the children had assembled a bird box especially for Holy Trinity. The plan is to find a suitable location in the

churchyard in time for the 2024 nesting season.

To round off the occasion, Alan Bowley spoke about the annual Count for Nature, part of the Love Your Burial Ground Week organised Caring for God's Acre (www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/love-your-burial-ground-week). The charity has been encouraging all who help to look after churchyards to celebrate these fantastic places during June. Martin Whiting invited the congregation to make use of the newly published churchyard nature ramble, which Alan has written, to experience the peace of the churchyard and the diversity of its wildlife. Leaflets are available to pick up in the church (and see pages 8 and 9).

At the end of our gathering, some church members recorded all the different species that could be found in the churchyard. The data collected is recorded and sent off to form part of an essential database of species. Take a look at www.burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org if you'd like to see some of the data. Understanding the biodiversity value of burial grounds can help protect these sites from development, closure, under-management and mismanagement.
Janet Robinson

ST MARY'S Walditch

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Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Ann Ayling 424896 (Wed'y is her day off)

Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our regular monthly garden group meeting in Walditch Village Hall. We're a very friendly bunch and look forward to welcoming you for seasonal topics and garden discussion throughout the year. Last Thursday of the month (27 July and 31 August) at 10am with tea/coffee and biscuits.

Garden tips for July:

Keep water for birds topped up; continue to sow cottage garden favourites, such as delphiniums, foxgloves, wallflowers and pansies, for flowering next summer; continue to sow quick-growing crops such as radish, French beans, soybeans and carrots; sow lettuce and other salad leaves through to September; early in the month plant out previously sown young courgettes, squashes and sweetcorn; plant out winter cabbage; keep salad and veg crops well watered in hot weather.

Jane Mowatt

A Walditch connection to the Korean War

Thursday 27 July is the 70th anniversary of the cease fire in the 'forgotten' Korean War (1950–53) but to this day there is no peace settlement. The occasion is to be marked by an event on Horse Guards Parade, London.

Japan annexed Korea in 1910. After World War II, Korea was split, with the South coming under American and the North under Russian trusteeship, pending elections. Instead, however, Russia turned the North into a communist state. In 1950, with tacit Russian support, the

Thelma's hymn notes

All Things Bright and Beautiful

The hymn All Things Bright and Beautiful has lyrics by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95), first published in her book Hymns for Little Children. Mrs Alexander was an Anglo-Catholic Anglican and an early supporter of John Keble. Her husband became the Anglican Archbishop of Armagh. As a lifelong supporter of charities, she helped found charities for the deaf and for destitute women, and she worked in support of nursing in Ireland. Many of her hymns remain popular with church congregations today.

The hymn is commonly sung to a tune by William Henry Monk (1823–89), an accomplished organist, church musician and music editor. Monk wrote music for church services and anthems. He was professor of vocal studies at King's College, London, and then the National Training School for Music.

Another popular melody for this hymn is Royal Oak, adapted from a 17th-century folk tune called The Twenty-Ninth of May and arranged by composer, conductor and theatre producer Martin Shaw (1875–1958).

This hymn reminds many people of their primary school days and church Sunday schools. It is an easy tune to sing along to and is regularly requested at both weddings and funerals.

Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch



North invaded the South. A United Nations force was raised, led by the Americans with other nations – including the British – contributing. The Chinese later came to the aid of the North Koreans.

Over 1,000 British servicemen lost their lives and many more were wounded. Those taken prisoner were harshly treated and subjected to intensive 're-education'.

ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

During the 1980s, St Mary's Walditch came into possession of a White Ensign, the flag flown on Royal Navy ships, and it was later discovered this particular flag had a connection to the Korean War.

As the suggested use of the flag was not appropriate, it was put away and never used by the church. On the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar, the Admiralty gave a special disposition to fly the flag on that day, but when I went to look for our flag it was no longer in the place where it had been kept. Sometime earlier it had been offered to the Bridport Royal Navy Association (RNA) and Brian Cox from that organisation set about investigating its history.

On the night of 1–2 October 1950, a raid by Royal Marine Commandos was launched from US Navy troop-carrying submarine USS Perch on the northeast coast of Korea. Their mission was to destroy a stretch of railway track and a tunnel on the main railway line from Russia and China to disrupt the flow of supplies to the North Korean army.

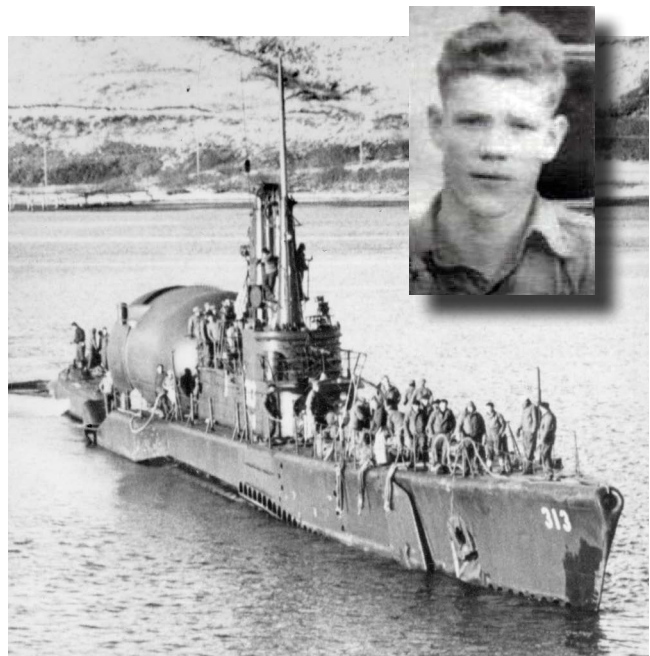
The raid was successful in setting explosives, but the marines became involved in a furious firefight as they made their return to the Perch. One of the marines, 18-year-old Peter Jones, was wounded and on arrival back at the Perch was pronounced dead by the medics.

The next day the submarine and two US Navy destroyers, flying United Nations flags at half mast, rendezvoused for a burial at sea. The body was covered with a White Ensign and after a brief burial service was slid into the sea with volleys fired in salute, the American destroyers doing likewise with their guns.

The flag was later sent to Jones's mother in Penarth, Wales, with a posthumously awarded US Silver Star medal. After she died, the flag passed to a sister living in Bridport, who later gave it to Walditch churchwarden Norman Courtney.

The eventual outcome was a service and an act of remembrance for Peter Jones on 2 October 2002 at the Royal Marine Museum, Eastney, exactly 52 years after he was killed. His two sisters and other family members were present as well as a large group of surviving colleagues from the UK and USA, representatives from the Bridport RNA, and Valerie Lodder (churchwarden) and John Lodder representing Walditch Church.

A service of remembrance was conducted by the chaplain of HM Naval Base Portsmouth, with the presentation



Pictured: USS Perch; Marine Peter Jones (inset), who was killed during a raid on the northeast coast of Korea in October 1950 and was buried at sea (right)



presided over by Commander Wilson, US Navy, Staff Officer to the Deputy Commander United States, Europe. The actual presentation was by a member of the original burial party with the ensign received on behalf of the museum by Lt General Sir Henry Beverly. A highlight of the service was an "inspiring address" by Lt Col Ron Bernal, US Marine Corps, Assistant Naval Attaché at the US Embassy.

The Royal Marines Museum is now closed for relocation to Portsmouth Dockyard with reopening sadly uncertain owing to a shortage of funds.

Robin Stapleton

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

Pictured: Janet Robinson presents the Revd Philip Ringer and chapel warden Rosemary Russell with a bug hotel for St John's



News from St John's

Sunday 21 May saw a lovely full church for our service. It was followed by the annual parochial church meeting (APCM) although not so many stayed for this. Before the APCM, Janet Robinson presented the Revd Philip Ringer with a bug hotel made by young people at the Wild and Messy church at the Bridport Community Shed (see photo).

Ideally it will be sited on the path alongside St John's.

During the summer season, Churches Together in Bridport and District holds services on the green outside St John's. The first one is on 9 July celebrating Sea Sunday, then on 23 and 30 July and 20 and 27 August, all starting at 4pm (in the church if wet).

There is a concert at St John's on Wednesday 5 July →

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

at 7.30pm by West Dorset Community Orchestra, directed by Walter Brewster, and Local Vocals community choir, directed by Lesley Whatley. There will be refreshments during the interval and a raffle. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

Brit Valley Rotary will be holding book sales on Saturdays 22 July and 19 August, 10am–4pm, and the West Bay ladies will have a cake stall on Wednesday 26 July, 10am–1pm.

West Bay WI

There will be the usual knit and natter on Wednesday 5 July from 10am to 12 noon. At the meeting on Wednesday 12 July at 2.30pm, John Preston will come along to talk about the work of the Coastguard. Please note there are no meetings during August.

The WI is always keen to see new members. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Alison Ridge on 01308 897293 or Maggie Hopper on 07720 056310.

Round and about the Bay

Although I consider myself relatively fit, none of my activities can compare with the challenge that Rachel Goodfellow (pictured right) set herself to run 46 marathons in 46 days! Rachel came running into West Bay having completed her 38th marathon on 13 May and was greeted by members of Bridport Rotary. Rachel is the president of Sherborne Rotary Club and was raising funds for the Hidden Needs Trust, which supports children with special educational needs, and the Rotary Foundation.

The Discovery Centre enjoyed a bumper half term with plenty of visitors. The children particularly liked making pirates out of brown paper bags, one of the many activities and attractions on offer for them at the centre.

You may have noticed our new replacement noticeboard outside the gift shop in West Bay – it's a definite improvement. The West Bay Community Forum donated £300 towards its cost. Bridport Town Council has placed three brightly coloured tables close by, and they have certainly proved a hit with visitors.

The annual vintage steam fair was held on 11 and 12 June in the Melplash fields. It's a very popular event and numbers continue to grow each year. For me, one of the highlights of the fair is the parade of steam engines and tractors (pictured below), some carrying passengers, driving down the West Bay road to the harbour and back again, toot-tooting their horns as they go along. The auction on the Saturday morning is always very well attended, too.

Sue Pollock



Right: Marathon runner Rachel Goodfellow in West Bay



Forthcoming events

July and August are always busy times in West Bay and it will be good to see the lifeguards return in July once more to keep the East Beach safe. People are reminded to only swim between the flags to ensure their safety.

During the summer holidays the Discovery Centre is hosting two events by Jo Burlington and I know the children are going to love them. On Wednesday 2 August from 11am to 3pm, 'Decorator Crabs' will be held on the beach. You can learn how some crabs disguise themselves to hide from their prey, then you can decorate your own shell and see if you can beat the shark! On Wednesday 16 August, also from 11am to 3pm, 'Fabulous Fish and Curious Creatures' will be run outside the centre using clay and driftwood, watercolours, salt and magic to recreate some of the fabulous creatures that live under the waves.

The traditional Wynn's West Bay funfair returns around mid-July until August bank holiday at the end of the month. This funfair started coming here in the 1950s and features dodgem cars, side stalls, shooting games and the ever-popular Mega Dance.

The annual raft race is on Friday 21 July from 6pm. This spectacle takes place in the Ire Pool, by the sluice gates, and raises funds for the RNLI. If you haven't seen the race, it's great fun and involves homemade rafts racing down the River Brit. The idea is to avoid sinking, capsizing or falling in, and competitors dress up in an array of costumes. I think most of the spectators just come to see the rafts sink!

West Bay Fun Day will be held from midday to 11pm on Sunday 6 August, followed by the ever-popular Melplash Show on Thursday 24 August. This event seems to get larger each year and is a day out enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. See page 11 for an interview with this year's Show President, Michael Fooks.

The torchlight procession from Bridport to West Bay is on Sunday 20 August. This is the culmination of Bridport Carnival Week and is a fabulous spectacle in which 1,500 people holding blazing torches leave town at 9pm and snake their way to the Bay, where they are greeted by live music and fireworks on the East Beach.

Left: One of the vintage steam engines that took part in the parade during the annual steam fair in June

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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Pictured: some of a recent litter of piglets at Denhay Farms, under an infrared heat lamp

From the Holy Land to a Dorset farm...

Back in May, Mandi and Philip Sturrock gave a talk with projected images describing their experiences on a recent visit to the Holy Land. The audience was encouraged to give donations to the Friends of the Holy Land, a charity that aims to give hope to vulnerable Christians through its mission to secure a resilient and enduring community for Christians in the birthplace of Christianity.

Mandi started with three poignant words: walk, water and war. She said she had become aware that when people travelled in the bible stories they did so across vast distances. It reminded me that in certain African countries people now 'run' from Zimbabwe to Mozambique, for example. As a scarce resource in the desert area around Jerusalem, water is stored in towers that are on top of the ancient buildings and built of similar materials. Residents have to wait for the army to refill the supply. War is ever present, not least in the image of the Western Wall.

I learnt that there is also an Armenian sector within Jerusalem's city walls, and that Armenia was the first country to call itself a Christian nation. It was pleasing to have someone of Armenian descent in the audience who knew all this and stated that her mother had been there.

Philip gave a more intricate and detailed account of historical aspects relating to the images we were seeing. The last slide was a serene image of dawn and dusk by the lake of Galilee.

On 11 June, one of our nearby farms, Denhay, opened its gate for Open Farm Sunday to show what regenerative farming looks like today. It was a bit like 'agritheatre' – the

tractor took us to points around the land where a contractor, James, told us the story of the soil and crop. He told us that Britain has the best wheat in the world and Denhay's wheat is regularly tested by sending leaf samples to the lab throughout the growth stages to monitor its health. It is produced with full traceability from soil to table, and goes into biscuits and bread. After the wheat crop there's a rotation of turnip and later radish, grown as sheep fodder.

We were told how the clay land in another field was made usable for pasture by sowing chicory and herbs with long tap roots that help the grass roots to follow and be nourished alongside. This is companion planting for soil improvement.

The wide hedges were full of flowering dogwood, wild dog rose and hawthorn. Nearby an area was planted with 2,000 trees including lime and crabapple, while elsewhere the mature oak woodland has created a secluded grove for campers and glampers. At one point the tractor stopped to show us a pheasant family, including 12 chicks. We also saw the pigs, Gin and Tonic; the latter had given birth to 12 piglets the day before, and these were much admired.

It was inspiring to see the endeavours of our local farms. Simon from Washingpool Farm also helped, not least in driving the tractor. The Marshwood Vale farmers have joined together to form a cluster group to share their knowledge and experience. The experiment of farming amid climate change continues.

Anna Sullock

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*

God's abundant bounty

We are now more than halfway through the year and that old thought goes through your head – where on earth did those first six months go! Well, one highlight was the coronation of King Charles III, and what a brilliant

historical event that was, bringing people together to celebrate our monarchy and history.

Bridport has had events galore, too, with arts, music, sport and general community gatherings going on. We are truly blessed with the different clubs available to join and all the opportunities for social interaction in the town.

The gardens are looking lovely, all the flowers and vegetables showing us nature's abundance with colours, smell, and the anticipation of taste, too.

God gives us these pleasures to enjoy as part of our everyday lives, and reflecting on the wonders of nature is not only enjoyable but also therapeutic and calming for the spirit within us.

The process of a seed growing into a plant reveals God's amazing work to us. He asks us to lead a Christian life including doing things, however small, for other folk; this brings benefits for both the giver and the receiver.

There are of course times when we are not enjoying life, perhaps through bad health, bereavement or worrying circumstances out of our own control, and this is when we need friends and family – alongside the power of prayer – →

Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

to help us. God is always with us, and prayer helps us to get through these times, bringing God's comfort and love to us. Our church prayer meeting is on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 to 10am in our choir vestry.

Bridport United Church has been busy with our various clubs and coffee mornings still going strong and numbers growing. The local rambblers are now involved in our Wednesday coffee mornings (10am to 12 noon) as they go off on their walk in the early morning and return to our church hall for a well-earned tea/coffee and biscuits. The local Knit & Natter group meets in our hall at the same time (10am to 12 noon on Wednesdays) and there's a lovely buzzy atmosphere.

Our monthly Lunch Club now sees well over 50 folk enjoying a two-course meal for a very reasonable price. And our Thursday Club is very enjoyable, too – we have a good time playing games, knitting, exchanging stories and enjoying home-cooked cakes and sandwiches. The Big Breakfast is also still very popular, and it seems people come to Bridport just to enjoy it, so we must have a good reputation!

Messy Church is very popular with children and their parents, and our monthly Soul Space worship on a Sunday afternoon remains popular, too. On a slightly sadder note, the Stepping Stones pre-school, which has used our church for many years, will be closing in late July (see below). We thank everyone involved for their service.

We thank God daily for his strength and support, which helps us to help others; this is why we are here on this earth. "Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord." Amen to that.

Richard Plummer



July services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 2	10.30am	Peter Clark
	4pm	Soul Space
Sunday 9	10.30am	Jane Wilson
Sunday 16	10.30am	John Walker
Sunday 23	10.30am	Gwyneth Owen
Sunday 30	10.30am	Jane Wilson
	4pm	Guest service

August services:

Sunday 6	10.30am	Peter Kershaw
	4pm	Soul Space
Sunday 13	10.30am	Jane Wilson
Sunday 20	10.30am	Ruth Lownsbrough
Sunday 27	10.30am	F Waring

Stepping Stones pre-school

Stepping Stones pre-school has been part of Bridport United Church for over 40 years, but sadly it is closing at the end of the current school year. Over the years many photographs have been retained here and we think maybe past parents and pupils might be interested in seeing them. If this is you, please contact our church secretary, Sue Herman, by 7 July at the latest. Her contact number is 01308 422598.

Regular events at BUC

Stepping Stones pre-school every morning until 17 July.



Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday (10am to 12 noon) except 12 August – all welcome.

Mondays	10am–noon	Art group (inner hall) No meeting in August
Tuesdays	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first & third). Not August
	2pm	Bridport u3a (fourth Tuesday only)
	4.30pm	Rainbows – not August
	5.30pm	Brownies – not August
	7.30pm	Bridport Big Band (in church)
Wednesdays	12.30pm	Lunch Club (fourth only). All welcome for two-course home-cooked meal. Please book by phoning 422598
	5.30pm	Kickboxing (inner hall)
Thursdays	2pm	Thursday Club (third only). All welcome for tea, games, crafts and chat in inner hall
	2.15 for	Bridport History Society
	2.30pm	(second Thursday only)
	3.30pm	Messy Church
	5pm	Slimming World
Fridays	6pm	Kickboxing

Special events

Sat 8 July	3pm	Celebration of our choir's 150th birthday
Wed 12 July	7pm	Churches Together meeting
Mon 17 July	11am	Stepping Stones leavers' service
Sat 8 July & Sat 5 Aug	9.30–11.30	Big Breakfast
Sun 30 July	11.30am	BUC church meeting

From Uploders Chapel

I said way back in my February contribution that I wasn't going to make a New Year's resolution for 2023, but that the closest I was coming to one was a determination to avoid anything negative. Still holding that in mind, then, I've found it very uplifting to witness many positive things happening locally and further afield.

We have personally experienced how some negative events have actually been overcome by positive ones. Back in 1985, Rich and I thought we had found a super home near Maiden Newton, next door to a farm and with a bit of land. However, we didn't manage to buy it as it was taken off the market. We were very upset about it, but in 1986 an even sadder situation happened – we lost two friends in a sailing accident. When we came back from their funeral, feeling very miserable, Rich was looking through the Western

UPLODERS Chapel continued...

Gazette and saw a little two-line advert about a farmhouse with some land, which sounded lovely. So we arranged to go and see it... and here we are, 37 years later, living in our dream forever home. If those sad situations hadn't happened, we wouldn't be living here and enjoying the friendship and fun that living in this community gives us.

The Scarecrow Festival went well and for the long bank holiday weekend at the end of May we were open on three days for cuppas and cakes, raising a super amount of £380, which is a good boost to the chapel funds. I am more than happy to be able to say, again, a HUGE thankyou for everyone's support. As has become the norm, so many of you stepped up to the mark and produced lots of cakes. Repeating myself yet again, we are so fortunate to live in such a truly wonderful community, both in the village and further afield. Also thank you very much to those of you who called in and enjoyed the delicious cakes and cuppas and to those who were on duty to keep the kettles boiling, etc.

The Pop Up Post Office is going well, and that is due to the support of all you lovely folk who come in to do your Post Office stuff and for a cuppa and a chat – or just for the cuppa

and chat! Your voluntary donations are much appreciated. Also a special thankyou to those of you who sign up to help make all those cuppas and cake. Without you we would struggle to keep things going.

Looking forward, we have our joint service and lunch with Loders Church on Sunday 16 July (I don't have all the details at the time of going to press). Then there is the village fete on Saturday 5 August, when the chapel will have a stall. Then in September there will be Ride+Stride – more details to follow. There's no reason for anyone to get bored!

So I hope you have all managed to have a Jolly June, can look forward to another Joyous July and treat yourselves to an Audacious August (if you dare!)

Carol Hall

July services at Uploders Chapel:

Sunday 2	10.30am	Chris Smith
Sunday 16	10.30am	Joint service with Loders Church

August services:

Sunday 6	10.30am	Jane Wilson
Sunday 20	10.30am	Tony Boyden

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

Even God rested!

July and August are traditionally months for holidays. Schools break up for the summer and many of us look forward to a break from the norm. For the lucky ones, this might take the form of a week or two visiting somewhere exotic; for others, it might be simply a snatched day or two having a change from the normal routine.

Many of us, however, struggle with the idea of stopping! In today's society the importance of work is often overemphasized, and work is seen as the highest means of success. Reaching the top in your chosen field, taking home a large salary, having a title within a company: these have become goals in themselves, rather than simply a way to feed ourselves and our families. And of course the only way to achieve these aims is to work more and more, never straying far from our phones and always available. We feel we must be constantly busy. We struggle to be Marys because we are so used to being Marthas!

When we read the creation story in Genesis, we often focus on the first six days when God created the world. We spend less time reflecting on the fact that at the end of His work God rested. Think about that for a moment: the Creator of the universe and everything in it made time to rest. Of course, God didn't need to do this, so why would he choose this action? He wanted to set an example. Rest is one of the gifts that God gave us from the beginning. He designed our bodies to need rest. Time spent resting is when

we recuperate, rejuvenate and recentre so we can better serve Him.

The Psalmists remind us that work without rest is unwise, unhealthy and an act of vanity (Psalms 127:2). When we work so hard to earn money and acquire possessions, we are in danger of patting ourselves on the back, admiring what we have achieved, viewing our success as our own rather than as a gift from God. "I've made it to the top. Look what I've become!"

When we rest, we put ourselves into God's hands, we let our guard down. It is an act of trust.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus made time to rest and taught His disciples to do the same (Mark 6:31). He understood that rest rejuvenates us, body and soul. We are revived when we make time for peace and quiet, when we find time to listen to God. Rest allows us to focus on what is really important – our faith in God, caring for our families and building closer relationships, both with God and with those He has entrusted to us.

So enjoy your holiday. Give yourself time to slow down and listen to God. Discover what He is saying to you and try to be a little less like Martha!

Deacon Mark Brown

Regular 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 our weekly newsletter on our website.



BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

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

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, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes (11.30am to 2pm) to be a place of peace and to be family for the hungry and lonely through the

community kitchen. We offer a variety of free homemade soup and/or meals, tea, coffee and cake.

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's 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.



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

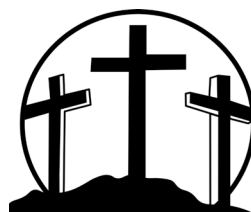
Office 424437
David Collins 458227
info@bridportchristianfellowship.org
www.bridportchristianfellowship.org

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 reach the community of Bridport with the Good News of Jesus, and everyone is welcome to come along and join in any of our activities throughout the week:

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.



BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Wednesdays: One House group meets at 7–9pm. Precious Ones, our group for young mums, meets in the church at 9.30–11.30am.

Fridays: One House group meets at 12.30–2pm.

Art Group: Come along and join in, 10am–12noon. 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–12noon is our weekly service.

On the first Sunday in the month, we also join together for a meal or BBQ after the service.

More information can be found on our website, www.bridportchristianfellowship.org

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).

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.

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 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.

Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

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 10 July, Julia Harrison will give a demonstration titled 'Floral fusion'. There is no meeting in August. Phone 456339.

Bridport & District Gardening Club will meet on Thursday 20 July at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St, when Janette Merillon will present 'Dorset: a calendar of colour'. Jeanette is a garden designer and has created gardens for schools, hotels and pubs, and a sensory garden for disabled people. Open to non-members at £2. No meeting in August. More information at www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

Bridport Bridge Club meets Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons for duplicate bridge at St Swithun's Hall, plus online on Thursday evenings. The Friday sessions (not third Fri in the month) are more relaxed. Beginners' lessons will start again in November. See www.bridgewebs.com/bridport or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298.

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

The Arts Society (West Dorset) has taken the difficult decision to close, and the June meeting was its last.

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.

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

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 Scottish Dancers meet Wednesday evenings at 7.15pm (7.30pm start) in Church House, South St. All welcome, no partner required. First visit free, then £2 per session (incl. refreshments). Basic tuition given in the first hour. Pls wear soft shoes if poss. 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

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.

Bridport Stage Company (formerly Bridport Shakespeare Company) theatre group meets Mondays 7–9pm at the British Legion. They are currently flushed with success after their June performances of Dracula! All ages welcome; no experience needed. Email Valerie: tasterella@hotmail.co.uk

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 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.

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 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 History Society meets on the second Thursday each month (except July and August) at the United Church Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £4pp. Membership £10 individual/£15 couple. For membership enquiries contact Adrienne at af.nantes@btinternet.com; for programme enquiries contact Jane at jferentzi@aol.com or 425710.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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 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

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.

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

Bridport & W D I Bowls Club invites you to a free taster session at St Andrew's Trading Estate DT6 3EX every Saturday 10am–12 noon and every Monday 6–8pm. All equipment provided. For details contact Brian 425247.

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

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 Royal British Legion (RBL) 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).

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

Life+line Bereavement Support is a Bridport Parish 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.

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 info at www.stepsoutingbridport.co.uk

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

The Cowshed Wellbeing Gardens group meets Tuesdays 2–4pm and Thursdays 10am–12 noon. Gardening, talking, art and workshops for people with health vulnerabilities or wishing to enhance wellbeing. Access is to the left of Bridport Medical Centre. For more info please text 07769 720773.

Bridport Community Carnival Committee enables both carnival processions to happen on the third weekend of August (Sat 19 and Sun 20 August this year). Want to help with this sociable event? Contact joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.bridportcarnival.co.uk

MMMM! Monday Movie, Meal & Mingling is a weekly event from United Diversity Bridport (UDB) & Sustainable Bridport. Mondays 6–10pm in the White Room at the 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. Info and tickets: www.ud.coop/mmmm

Find local traders approved by Trading Standards

Finding reliable tradespeople can often be a gamble.

Dorset Council Trading Standards, however, can help you identify businesses with a good trading history and excellent customer satisfaction.

Many Dorset firms have signed up to the national 'Buy With Confidence' scheme, giving local people a wide choice of established traders committed to fair trading and good customer service.

The scheme covers all kinds of work,

from plumbing and decorating to car servicing and gardening, carried out by local businesses across the county and beyond. Members have been visited in person and audited by Trading Standards officers to make sure they comply with consumer protection laws.

Trading Standards takes customer references and makes sure complaint procedures are in place if needed. Also, criminal record checks are undertaken for staff who work in or around the home.

Once a business joins the scheme, it is monitored by Trading Standards through customer feedback, complaint monitoring and re-audits.

Other trader approval schemes are available, but only 'Buy with Confidence' has this level of Trading Standards approval, alongside access to the national Citizens Advice database of consumer complaints, which allows Trading Standards to truly vet a business.

www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk



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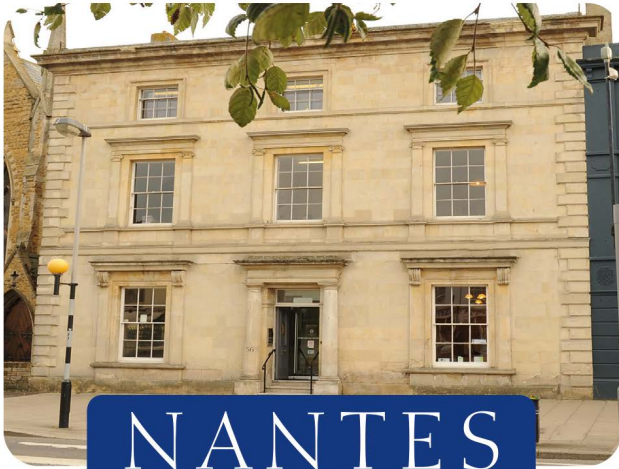
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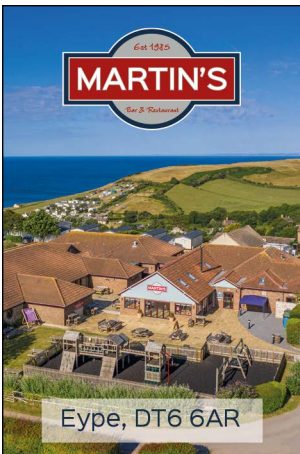
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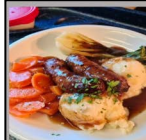
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
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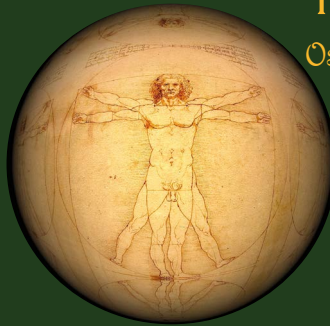


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