

October 2023

# *the* **Bridge**

Celebrating

 *The Nineteenth*

**BRIDPORT**  
Literary  
Festival  
2023

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

# POINTS OF CONTACT Parish website: [www.bridport-team-ministry.org](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org)

All phone numbers are Bridport (01308) unless otherwise stated

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Martin Whiting and James Craddock

*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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## Hall bookings

St Swithun's church hall  
Details online at [www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings)  
or contact Anne Ansell [anne.ansell.email@gmail.com](mailto:anne.ansell.email@gmail.com)

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Bradpole Forsters village hall  
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*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 November 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 9 October**

# We've only just begun: 75 years of the NHS



**You have to be a certain age to remember what life was like in this country before the foundation of the NHS 75 years ago. Countless people have had their lives changed as a result and continue to have their lives changed every day.**

**The Revd Philip Ringer**

In my role as chaplain at Bridport

Community Hospital, I witness many people having life-changing experiences, some towards the end of their life, and others not. It is my God-given privilege to listen to many people and hear their stories, but my chaplaincy is not just about listening to the patients and their families.

My role extends to helping the people who work there or who provide voluntary services. They, too, are very

*The people who care for our community at Bridport Community Hospital are full of integrity and compassion*

important players in the life of the hospital.

To celebrate 75 years of the NHS, some members of the nursing staff decided to enter the Bridport Carnival – with a topical Barbie theme! – at just three weeks' notice (pictured below). Their creativity and enthusiasm was well rewarded as they won first prize for their entry. Behind all this hard work was someone who entered the nursing profession some years ago as a result of the care her grandfather had received following an injury he had sustained in the war.

The nursing profession is full of people with similar stories to tell. Their motivation for becoming nurses and continuing to nurse is the best example of love I have seen. But it comes at a personal cost. Patients' stories are often quite complicated and confidential, but please be assured that the people who care for our community at Bridport Community Hospital are full of integrity and compassion.

At the beginning of the pandemic we used to gather on our doorsteps at 8pm on Thursday evenings and bang our saucepans in recognition of the NHS.

This year, Hospital Sunday falls on 15 October, when we will be giving thanks to God for 75 years of the NHS. The service is at St Mary's Bridport at 6.30pm and our guest preacher will be the Revd Jean Saddington, a member of the chaplaincy team at Dorchester County Hospital. Refreshments will follow the service.

I hope many readers of this magazine will come along and give thanks to God for the ongoing work of the NHS. Remember – we've only just begun!

*In Christ's continuing service,  
The Revd Philip Ringer, Hospital Chaplain*



Photos by Tim Russ



## Like books? You'll love Bridport Literary Festival!

**This month we celebrate the Bridport Literary Festival: a packed treasure chest of ideas, knowledge and entertainment that's now in its 19th year.**

Inside the magazine you'll find details of some of the festival's highlights, including events for children. We also have a very special 'In the pod' interview with journalist and author Patrick Barkham, who has written a compelling biography of Roger Deakin, known to many as "the father of wild swimming".

Talking of wild swimming, we also have news (p5) of a simple innovation that promises to improve safety for the increasing number of people who love swimming in the sea off West Bay. The sea's not for me (too wet, too chilly) but I hear a daily dip can be life-changing!



**Olivia Daly  
Editor**

**Rock Steady for Refugees!**

The Bridport Refugee Support Campaign is holding a fundraising evening of music and spoken word in partnership with Dorset Red Choir on Friday 3 November. Rock Steady for Refugees will feature The Skalatans, DJ Santa and poet Dylan Ross. The event is at the Masonic Hall in East Street from 7.30pm until midnight, and tickets are £10 from Bridport TIC: 424901 / [www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets).

**And Breathe for wellbeing and mental health**

The Burrough Harmony Centre is working with local health and wellbeing organisations and community groups to put on 'And Breathe... Bridport', a community event on 9 and 10 October to celebrate World Mental Health Day. The two days will be filled with creative workshops, music, film, art and nature activities plus exercise, information stands and talks – something for everyone! It's a valuable compilation of opportunities for people to explore new ways of improving their health and wellbeing. There will be a small charge or donation for some activities, while others will be free. The finale on 10 October will be a show called Exhale with live music and some spoken word at the Electric Palace from 7 to 10pm. Tickets are £10 (£5 concessions) from Bridport TIC. Visit [www.harmonydropin.org.uk](http://www.harmonydropin.org.uk) or Harmony's social media pages for full details.

**Marking Trafalgar Day**

The Royal Naval Association (Bridport Branch) will hold its Trafalgar Day service on Sunday 22 October at 3pm at St John's Church, West Bay. All welcome.

## Learn a fun, strategic game with Bridport Bridge Club



**Bridport Bridge Club is running a new course of lessons for people who are completely new to the game, as well as those who need a refresher.**

The course will take place at Bradpole Village Hall, starting on Monday 30 October from 2 to 4.30pm, following a free introductory session for beginners the week before.

The classes are suitable for anyone interested in learning how to play duplicate bridge. No experience is necessary, and you don't need to come with a partner. The sessions are also ideal for 'rusty' players who haven't played for a while and would like to get back on track with their bridge.

The course will run for 16 weeks, with a break for Christmas, followed by a number of supervised practice sessions. Players will then be ready to join the Friday afternoon 'relaxed bridge' club sessions or just play social bridge with friends. Sessions are £5 each, payable on the day.

Complete beginners are welcome to the free introductory session on Monday 23 October from 2 to 4pm at Bradpole Village Hall, when there will be an overview of the game of bridge and an outline of the course.

For details of how to sign up for the course, see the club's advert on page 10.



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Sue on 01308 422598  
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# Bridport Bluetits install a safety box at West Bay

**The administrators of the Bridport Bluetits sea swimming group have been taking steps to improve safety for people swimming at West Bay.**

Following the tragic drowning of Ed Matts off West Bay's East Beach on 11 April, fellow swimmers Jane Malcolm and Clare Cameron organised a sea safety session with the RNLI in St John's Church, courtesy of the Revd Philip Ringer. At this session, members recalled how other swimmers who were on the beach while Ed was struggling in the water had had difficulty using the available life rings as they were too heavy and cumbersome to throw. As a result, the RNLI gave the Bluetits a throw-line, which is lighter and easier to use.

Jane had a vision of obtaining a combination lock safety box (not dissimilar to a defibrillator box) that could store the throw line, first aid kit, survival bag and dextrose tabs, so the swimmers could access these items in any critical situation while waiting for the emergency services. It could be placed at an easily accessible site on East Pier close to the black hut and the steps onto the beach.

Nick Marks from the RNLI ran with this idea and the organisation recently supplied a box for West Bay after a trial of one at Lyme Regis. "Unfortunately it has been forced open on a couple of occasions and dextrose tablets taken, but luckily none of the safety equipment has gone," says Jane. "A sign has now been placed on the box telling people not to tamper with it."

Jane has been rolling out the lock combination to all the swimmers who regularly use East Beach, and training



**Pictured: the sea safety box is on East Pier near the steps leading to the beach**

sessions in how to use the throw-line began in September.

A J Wakely funeral directors have agreed to provide a plaque to be attached to the box, stating its function and that it was presented by the RNLI in memory of Ed Matts. An official opening is being planned.

## Home-Start West Dorset is looking for volunteers

**Home-Start – the charity that supports families through a network of trained volunteers – is looking for people to come forward and help it meet the ever-increasing demand for its services.**



Home-Start volunteers undergo an eight-week training course that prepares them to be home visitors and make a real difference to local families. The next course starts on Thursday 12 October in Poundbury, Dorchester, and places are available.

To find out more, phone the team on 01305 265072 or email [office@homestartwestdorset.co.uk](mailto:office@homestartwestdorset.co.uk). There's more information about the organisation and its work online at [www.homestartwestdorset.co.uk](http://www.homestartwestdorset.co.uk).

## Enjoy Sarum Lights in Salisbury

**The stunning Sarum Lights sound-and-light show returns to Salisbury Cathedral this autumn – and it's well worth booking a ticket if you're heading up that way.**

Once again created by Luxmuralis, 'Sarum Lights: Illuminating Art' will showcase an amazing series of displays inside and outside the cathedral exploring art across the centuries, from the drama of Baroque to the flamboyancy of the Pre-Raphaelites and colours of the Impressionists and Art Deco period. The show uses glorious projections of art and photography, accompanied by sound and music, in several areas of the building.

Sarum Lights takes place from Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 November at 15-minute intervals from 5.30pm. Tickets are now on sale at [www.salisburycathedral.org.uk](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk).

## THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT

in aid of **tearfund**

All money raised will go to Tearfund, helping to empower people to lift themselves out of poverty

**Saturday 7 October**

**6.30 for 7pm start**

**St Swithun's Church Hall, Allington**

Teams of up to six people • £5 per person

Hot drinks & cake served during the interval  
Bring your own other refreshments

Booking essential: phone 07913 549946



October 2023	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
<b>Sunday 1</b> <i>Harvest Festival</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion	10am <b>PARISH HC SERVICE</b> 4pm Contemplative Church (hall)				
<i>Monday 2</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 3</i>				2.30pm Holy Communion		
<i>Wednesday 4</i>	2.30pm Holy Communion					
<i>Thursday 5</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 6</i>						
<i>Saturday 7</i>						
<b>Sunday 8</b>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am Holy Communion
<i>Monday 9</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 10</i>						
<i>Wednesday 11</i>						
<i>Thursday 12</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 13</i>						
<i>Saturday 14</i>						
<b>Sunday 15</b>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Morning Praise 6.30pm Hospital Sunday service	9.30am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Harvest Holy Communion		11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 16</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 17</i>						
<i>Wednesday 18</i>						
<i>Thursday 19</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 20</i>						
<i>Saturday 21</i>						
<b>Sunday 22</b>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise 3pm Trafalgar Day Service
<i>Monday 23</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 24</i>						
<i>Wednesday 25</i>						
<i>Thursday 26</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Friday 27</i>						
<i>Saturday 28</i>						6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
<b>Sunday 29</b>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
<i>Monday 30</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 31</i>						



# A programme to delight book lovers at this year's Bridport Literary Festival

**N**ow an established tradition in our town, the Bridport Literary Festival brightens up the increasingly dark days of early November with a packed programme of fascinating events.

There's something for everyone, with a frequent focus on the natural world and environmental issues as well as history, politics and – of course – the latest compelling novels from inspiring authors.

**The Farmer's Wife: My Life in Days** is **Helen Rebanks'** illustrated book about life on the farm she shares with husband James, their four children and a whole load of animals. It's a story of love and food, an intimate, truthful meditation on the power of domestic life – complete with helpful lists and recipes – and shines a light on the important role of women in rural communities. Helen will be in conversation with James about the book on Sunday 5 November at 4pm at the Electric Palace.

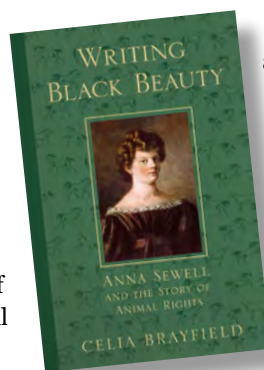


On Tuesday 7 November at 2pm in The Bull Ballroom, **Keggie Carew** will give an illustrated talk about her book **Beastly: A New History of Animals and Us**, in which she goes in search of our most revealing encounters across the species divide. Teeming with astonishing true stories, *Beastly* reframes what it means to be human in our wild world – and how animals are the key to our survival at a time when one in seven UK species faces extinction and more than half are in decline. Diversity of life can heal ecosystems, however, and animals – if given the chance – could save us.



**Celia Brayfield's** book **Writing Black Beauty: Anna Sewell and the Story of Animal Rights**

explores the background to one of the best-loved animal stories of all time. Anna Sewell grew up in poverty in London, and suffered a fall at the age of 14 that injured her ankle and left her permanently disabled. She learnt to ride side-saddle, however, and drive a carriage, and developed an extraordinary empathy with horses. She wrote *Black Beauty* when she was 51 and terminally ill; sadly, she died just a few months after the novel was published in 1877. Celia Brayfield's biography of Sewell also examines the impact of what was certainly the first anthropomorphic novel, a hugely influential book that has sold around 40 million copies worldwide. Her illustrated talk is at 10.30am on Wednesday 8 November in The Bull Ballroom.



Set against a backdrop of the gorgeous Tuscan hills, **The Three Graces** is **Amanda Craig's** "most personal" novel yet – one, she says, that "I've been waiting my whole life to write". It's about three elderly expat women in the last decade of their lives, and is described as "a riotous comedy of manners", depicting the clash between the old and the young, between cultures and countries, and between fear and love. Amanda Craig was born in South Africa but grew up in Italy, where her parents lived for 50 years in a town that inspired the fictional setting for this novel. She will be in conversation with fellow author Celia Brayfield on Friday 10 November at 12 noon at Bridport Arts Centre.

**Joanne Harris** is probably best known for her 1999 book *Chocolat*, and she has written a wealth of other novels

as well as novellas and short stories. Her latest creation, **Broken Light**, was inspired by Stephen King's *Carrie*, the rise of the #MeToo movement and the murder of Sarah Everard. It's the story of Bernie Moon, who has given her life to other people and in middle age feels her light fading. Joanne Harris will be talking to Jo Willett at the Electric Palace on Friday 10 November at 2pm.

Zoologist, presenter and photographer **Megan McCubbin's** "joyful and heartbreaking" book, **An Atlas of Endangered Species**, celebrates some of our planet's most threatened creatures, plants and fungi. It's a beautifully illustrated catalogue of life and diversity, with hopeful stories of scientists, rangers and conservationists fighting to reverse the sixth mass extinction.



Megan – who is the stepdaughter of fellow naturalist Chris Packham – will be speaking to Sam Rose about the book at 4pm on Saturday 11 November at the Electric Palace.

*Tickets for all these events are £12 from Bridport Tourist Information Centre or online at [www.bridlit.com](http://www.bridlit.com). Other events for which tickets are still available are listed overleaf.*



Joanne Harris



# Bridport Literary Festival 2023

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November



## ANIMAL CRACKERS

A fun event for all the family!

**Ruby Wright**

Start the day at **Mercato Italiano**, where children of all ages can hear the wonderful **Ruby Wright** read from her book **Animal Crackers**, watch her draw, and then decorate their own animal biscuits to take home. Mercato cafe will be open for business, making it a fantastic event for all the family.

**Date:** Sunday 5th November  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Tickets:** £5 per family up to 4. Additional children £2  
**Venue:** Mercato Italiano



## RESONATE

The Bank of Dreams & Nightmares with Joelle Taylor

Bridport's very own **Bank of Dreams and Nightmares** is running two workshop weekends with TS Eliot Prize-winning poet **Joelle Taylor** and 12 young people, and this show is the culmination of their work where the young people perform their pieces to a live audience at Bridport Literary Festival. This is a truly unique event and a first for BridLit. Not to be missed!

**Date:** Sunday 5th November  
**Time:** 7.00 pm  
**Tickets:** £5 under 19's free (ticketed)  
**Venue:** Bridport Arts Centre



## WRITING WORKSHOP

**Nikki May**

Local author **Nikki May** is back this year with a creative writing workshop for aspiring novelists. This interactive, two-hour workshop will give the lowdown on what **Nikki** learned on her journey to publication, including: Finding your voice | Where do ideas come from? | Tension and point of view | Character development and world building | Q&A ask the author (almost) anything!

**Date:** Wednesday 8th November  
**Time:** 6.00 – 8.00 pm  
**Tickets:** £25 *Places are very limited so early booking essential!*  
**Venue:** The Bull Hotel



Join us at Colfox School at our events which bring together school and community

**KINGS & QUEENS - The Real Lives of the English Monarchs**  
Peter Snow and Ann MacMillan examine the lives and loves of Britain's rulers.

**HOW TO BE - Life Lessons from the Early Greeks**  
Festival favourite **Adam Nicolson** introduces his latest book, which infuses history with landscape, reintroducing us to our earliest thinkers through the lands they inhabited.

**Date:** Thursday 9th November  
**Time:** 12 noon | 2.00 pm  
**Tickets:** £12 | £12  
**Venue:** Sir John Colfox School

**Box Office: 01308 424901**

Bridport Town Hall  
Bucky Doo Square  
South Street  
Bridport  
DT6 3LF

**www.bridlit.com**

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Guide & Map



**BRIDPORT**  
Literary Festival





# The Bridport Literary Festival

## Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 November

**Tickets are still available\* for the following events, plus those opposite**

### Sunday 5 November

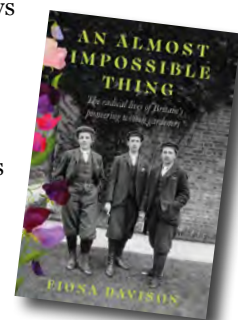
12 noon, Electric Palace  
2.30pm, Electric Palace  
4pm, Electric Palace

**James Holland** on *The Savage Storm: The Battle for Italy 1943*  
**Philippa Gregory** on *Normal Women: 900 years of making history*  
**Helen Rebanks** on *The Farmer's Wife: My Life in Days*

### Monday 6 November

12 noon, The Bull  
  
2pm, The Bull  
  
5pm, The Bull

**Fiona Davison** on *An Almost Impossible Thing: The Radical Lives of Pioneering Women Gardeners*  
**Georgina Moore** and **Georgina Maynard** in conversation about their debut novels *The Garnett Girls* and *I Will Keep Her*  
**Alexandra Blanchard** and **Alex Howlett** in conversation about their book *Wander Women: Tales of Transgression in a Bordered World*



### Tuesday 7 November

10.30am, The Bull  
  
2pm, The Bull  
5pm, The Bull  
6.30pm, Sladers Yard

**Nick Allan** gives an illustrated talk, *When Dreams Collide: Travels in Yugoslavia with Rebecca West*  
**Keggie Carew** on *Beastly: A New History of Animals and Us*  
**Max Porter** in conversation about his latest novel, *Shy*  
An evening of poetry with **Ruth Padel** (in conversation with James Crowden) exploring ecological themes that affect us all

### Wednesday 8 November

10.30am, The Bull  
  
2pm, The Bull  
  
5pm, The Bull

**Celia Brayfield** on *Writing Black Beauty: Anna Sewell and the Story of Animal Rights*  
**Harriet Crawley** in conversation with Olivia Glazebrook about her Cold War thriller *The Translator*  
**Joanna Moorhead** with an illustrated talk about *Surreal Spaces: The Life and Art of Leonora Carrington*

### Thursday 9 November

10.30am, The Bull  
  
12 noon, The Bull  
  
12 noon, Colfox School  
  
2pm, The Bull  
2pm, Colfox School  
3.30pm, The Bull  
6.30pm, Sladers Yard

**Ysenda Maxtone Graham** in conversation about *Jobs for the Girls: How We Set Out to Work in the Typewriter Age*  
**Jane Wellesley** gives an illustrated talk on *Blue Eyes and a Wild Spirit: A Life of Dorothy Wellesley*  
**Peter Snow** and **Ann MacMillan** on *Kings & Queens: The Real Lives of the English Monarchs*  
**Madeleine Bunting** on *The Seaside: England's Love Affair*  
**Adam Nicolson** on *How to Be: Life Lessons from the Early Greeks*  
**Patrick Barkham** on *The Swimmer: The Wild Life of Roger Deakin*  
**Pen Vogler** in conversation with Prue Keeley about *Stuffed: A History of Food and Responsibility*



### Friday 10 November

12 noon, Arts Centre  
2pm, Electric Palace  
5pm, Electric Palace  
6.30pm, Electric Palace

**Amanda Craig** on her bestselling novel *The Three Graces*, set in Italy  
**Joanne Harris** on her new book *Broken Light*  
**Simon Heffer** explores the period between the wars in *Sing As We Go*  
**Steve Richards** gives a unique appraisal in *Turning Points: Crisis and Change in Modern Britain from 1945 to Truss*

### Saturday 11 November

12 noon, Electric Palace  
2.30pm, Electric Palace  
  
4pm, Electric Palace  
7.30pm, Electric Palace

**Isabella Tree** in conversation about *The Book of Wilding*  
**Mike Brearley** in conversation about *Turning Over the Pebbles: A Life in Cricket and in the Mind*  
**Megan McCubbin** on *An Atlas of Endangered Species*  
**Reg Meuross** and **Suntou Susso** bring the festival to a vibrant conclusion with their stunning slave trade song cycle, *Stolen from God*

Tickets from Bridport TIC 01308 424 901 or visit [www.bridlit.com](http://www.bridlit.com) / \*correct at the time of going to press

## Organ recitals at St Swithun's Church



All recitals are on Sunday afternoons at 3pm, except for the second, which is on Saturday 4 November at the same time. Admission is free with a retiring collection. St Swithun's Church, North Allington, Bridport DT6 5DU

- 22 October **Nick Brown, organist at Colyton Parish Church**, will play music inspired by plainsong and chorales. Programme to include works by Bach, Walther, Gray and Brown
- 4 November (Saturday) **Peter Shepherd, organist at Chesterfield Parish Church**, will play works by Byrd, Duruflé & Rachmaninov
- 12 November Students taught by Richard Godfrey under the **Salisbury Diocese PipeUp** scheme, from beginners to Grade 8+. A programme of mostly short pieces, but including substantial works by JS Bach
- 19 November **Alex Davies, musical director at Lyme Regis Parish Church**, will play music by Bach, Bairstow & Mendelssohn

**YUKON HO!**  
JENNIFER IRONS

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Sat 11 Nov | 7:30pm  
bridport-arts.com  
01308 424 901

Supported in part by Dorset Council

## POTTER / CERAMICIST REQUIRED

I am an established artist and sell my ceramics through galleries. I'm seeking an experienced ceramicist to work with – someone to make small batches of plates on moulds and simple pots, occasionally some larger platters. Predominantly in earthenware, which I will illustrate. Please call 07811 140968 or email [linziwest@btinternet.com](mailto:linziwest@btinternet.com) to discuss.

## Bridport & District u3a

### OPEN AFTERNOON

St Mary's Church House Hall, South Street  
Sunday 22 October, 3–5pm

*Find out more about your local u3a and the range of special-interest groups and activities on offer in the Bridport area.*

*Open to members and non-members.*

*Refreshments provided*

[www.bridportu3a.org.uk](http://www.bridportu3a.org.uk)



## ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Bridport Branch

## TRAFALGAR DAY SERVICE

St John's Church, West Bay

Sunday 22 October at 3pm

Residents and visitors are welcome to join us

[www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising](http://www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising)  
[advertising@thebridgemagazine.org](mailto:advertising@thebridgemagazine.org)

## BRIDGE LESSONS

*Are you interested in learning bridge?  
(or just need a refresher)*

**Bridport Bridge Club** is starting a new course for beginners and returners.

Classes will be held in Bradpole Village Hall

Mondays 2pm to 4:30pm starting on **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

To find out more and register your interest contact

Martin Angold on 01308 861120

or email [bridportbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:bridportbridgeclub@gmail.com)



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# The Swimmer: Patrick Barkham dives into the world of Roger Deakin

**Patrick Barkham is the author of *The Swimmer*, a biography of writer, environmentalist and polymath Roger Deakin. The book is written mainly in Deakin's own words, interspersed with quotes from the people who knew him best, and is truly compelling, even for readers who haven't come across him before.**

**We had the great pleasure of catching up with Patrick in advance of his appearance at the Bridport Literary Festival.**

*The Bridge:* Patrick, when and how did you first become interested in Roger Deakin's life?

*Patrick Barkham:* In the summer of 2019, my wife Lisa (a keen outdoor swimmer) booked us a night staying in Roger's old railway wagon on his former farm as a treat. She knew I was a big fan of his books. Staying there, swimming in his "moat" and walking across his wild meadows was such a magical experience – the place still sang with his spirit – that I suddenly thought I would love to write about his life.

*TB:* Before settling on the unusual format of your book, you wrote – and then abandoned – 90,000 words of a more conventional biography. Did this decision creep up on you, or come to you in a flash? How did it make you feel?

*PB:* It crept up on me! It sounds drastic but I had already decided to have his friends as voices quoted directly in the biography. Gradually I realised that Roger wrote about his own life with more panache and real emotion than I could, and so why don't I try and substitute my words for his? One dark January weekend, I went back to Walnut Tree Farm, his old home, where the current owners kindly let me stay in his shepherd's hut, and tried to write with Roger, splicing together his



Patrick Barkham

Marcus Garrett

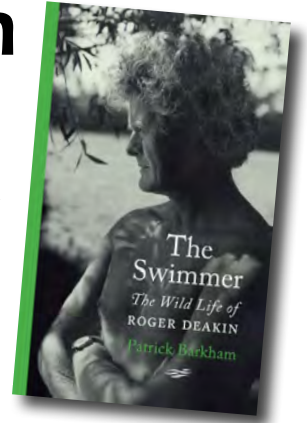
letters, diaries, jottings and unpublished journalism. The words flowed and so I made Roger the lead narrator. His enraptured view of the world is slightly undercut by the memories of his friends, in ways that can be funny, moving and occasionally tragic.

*TB:* *The Swimmer* is the perfect title for your book; although Deakin's legacy is so much more than the popularity of wild swimming, it seems he plunged his whole self into life and love as into water, experiencing and feeling everything unreservedly. He was also determined to "resist the anchor", taking on a range of jobs and living in different places before settling in his beloved Walnut Tree Farm in Suffolk. Has your research into his life affected the way you live your own?

*PB:* Oooh, good question! Yes it has. Learning about anyone's life from many perspectives can give us fresh insight into our own. Roger has helped me become braver about little decisions (e.g. do I dare swim in this remote river despite the "danger deep water"/"no swimming" signs? Yes, Roger would!). And his life has given me clarity on some bigger life choices too – for instance, if you are going to live as a great romantic (as he was) then your family life might not be so wonderful.

*TB:* Deakin's book *Waterlog* is about his 1996 swimming journey through the British Isles, and what it taught

him about the British people's relationship with water. What do you think he would have made of the current passion for open-water swimming?



*PB:* He would raise an arched eyebrow at the commodification of open-water swimming but he would love it and welcome it with open arms. He would say: finally, now, we have thousands of potential river guardians who can speak up against pollution and win the fight for clean rivers.

*TB:* You never met Deakin, although you know him incredibly well and you've said he once came to you in a dream. What would you ask him now, if you could? Is there anything you feel you don't know about him?

*PB:* I would love to be able to do this! I'd ask him about his romantic relationships and why he behaved as he did; I'd also ask him about his mum and dad – we only get tiny hints of his true feelings in his writing, and his relationship with his mother holds the key to his subsequent life.

*TB:* You've written widely on natural history and have a particular interest in butterflies. What's your favourite British butterfly, and why?

*PB:* My favourite is the Brown Argus because it is the butterfly that lit my passion for these insects when I was eight. It is small and brown but beautifully decorated with orange jewels, and it is friendly – it allows you close-in to admire it when it settles in a meadow.

*Patrick's illustrated talk is at 3.30pm on Thurs 9 November at The Bull. Tickets £12 from Bridport TIC / www.bridlit.com*

# What a difference a day makes!

## Julia's House cares for around 180 seriously ill children and their families in Dorset and Wiltshire.

Advances in medicine and technology mean that many children with life-shortening conditions live longer. But longer life means more complex care and increased pressure on families. Because we support families in so many ways, every day is different.

Today, a child has their first group respite session at one of our hospices. The children are safe and constantly monitored by expert nurses, carers and therapists. Mum and Dad use this time to have a much-needed break.

Elsewhere, a family has their regular monthly respite session in the comfort of their home. Their daughter has a degenerative condition and it's heartbreaking for the whole family.

She plays games with her Julia's House nurse and carer, whom she has known for years. They understand her unique needs and know what to do if she has a seizure.

Dad has recently given up work to help care for his daughter. Next week he will see a counsellor to help him adapt to his changed circumstances, arranged and paid for by Julia's House.

The older sister has gone out with her Julia's House sibling worker. They will walk, talk, maybe have an ice cream together. She can just be herself, stop being brave for her parents. Later this year, she will meet brothers and sisters from other Julia's House families on a residential trip to Wales. They will learn new life skills and create beautiful memories. But, most of all, they will feel they are the important ones for a while.

We are not just there for the child; we wrap our arms around the whole family.

Every day at Julia's House is filled with making special and lasting memories that families will treasure forever. But we can only do this with your support.

As many as 92% of the children we care for are so fragile they need two Julia's House staff members.

With only 8% of our service supported by government funding, we cannot provide this vital lifeline of care to local families without you.

A gift in your Will can help shape their future care. You could be a vital lifeline for seriously ill children in Dorset. You are our missing puzzle piece!

*To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, visit [www.juliashouse/legacy](http://www.juliashouse/legacy) or call 01202 644220.*



**You  
are our  
missing  
puzzle  
piece**

**A gift in your Will can  
help shape their future care.**

**You could be a vital lifeline for  
seriously ill children in Dorset.**



**Visit [juliashouse.org/legacy](http://juliashouse.org/legacy) or call 01202 644220**

# ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

## From the parish editor

October brings darker and almost certainly wetter days, in sharp contrast to early September when we experienced the hottest day of the year with raindrops depositing blobs of Saharan sand on our windows and cars. That sweltering week was surely a sign of the growing threat of climate change to our world.

In July I wrote about how St Mary's had achieved the Bronze Award from Eco Church. We have decided to spend time working on embedding the Eco Church principles into the life and work of the church, so this award doesn't just recognise the action and enthusiasm of a small group; it also delivers a message that we can all bring to our daily life and witness, ensuring that we think before we act and take steps to protect our environment.



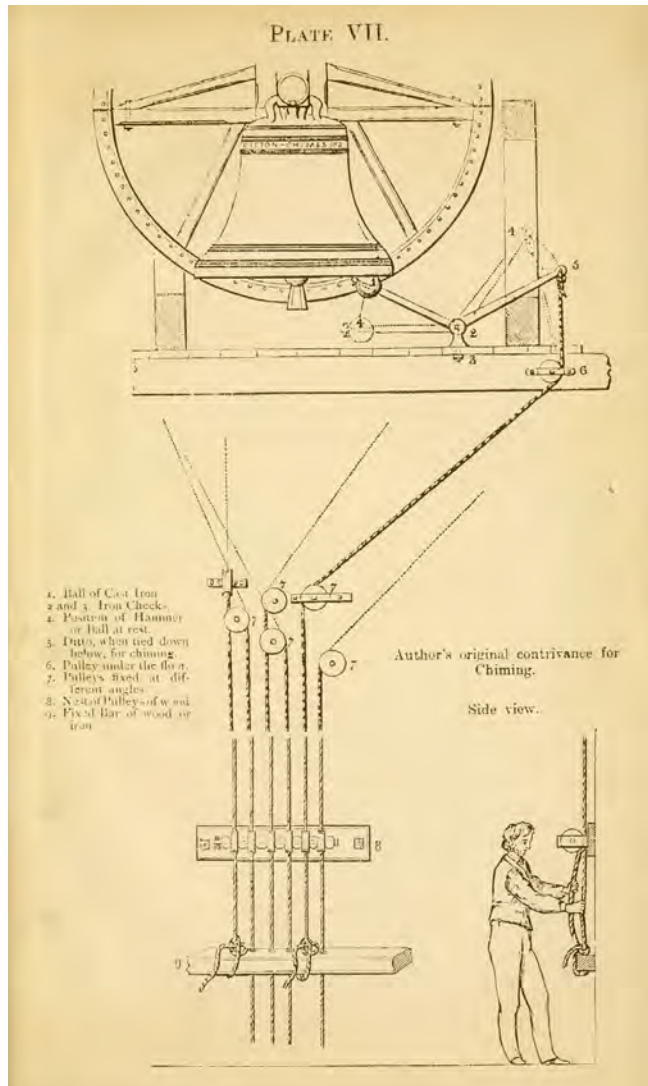
**The Eco Church Bronze Award presented to St Mary's Bridport**

In early September we welcomed those taking part in the annual Ride + Stride event to raise money for Dorset Historic Churches Trust. St Mary's benefited from a sizeable gift from the trust a few years ago when we had major roof repairs, so we always support this event.

This year all the churches in the Parish of Bridport will be meeting for the harvest service at St Swithun's Allington on Sunday 1 October at 10am, so there will be no harvest service at St Mary's. However, since so many people call in during the week, we have decided to decorate the church with a harvest theme. To this end, we held a harvest craft workshop in St Mary's Church House Hall on 30 September, when adults and children made seasonal decorations. The display will be in place for a couple of weeks, so those coming to the midweek 2.30pm communion service on Wednesday 4 October will be able to celebrate God's gifts to us at harvest. The themes of the decorations are the fruits of four different areas: land, sea, hedgerow and orchard.

It was good to see the church tower open twice in September and see the bellringing chamber and the clock room, and I enjoyed having a go at playing the Ellacombe chimes. This device, invented 200 years ago by the Revd Thomas Ellacombe, allows the bells to be played by one person instead of by a team of ringers. When the chimes are in use, each bell is static and is struck with a hammer connected to the room by a series of ropes. During lockdown, when the bellringers could not meet, the St Mary's Ellacombe chimes rang out across Bridport. Ours is one of only two churches in Dorset with this equipment.

There are two quizzes in the parish to look forward to. On Saturday 7 October at 7pm, the Big Quiz Night at St Swithun's Allington is part of a national quiz event to raise



**The Ellacombe chimes at St Mary's (left), their inventor, Thomas Ellacombe, and (top) his design for their operation**

money for Tearfund, supporting communities across the world that are experiencing extreme poverty. Then on Saturday 18 November at 7pm in St Mary's Church House Hall, there is a quiz to raise funds for the Christmas Hampers & Stockings appeal for Bridport families in need.  
*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

October is the time when we think of harvest festival services and give thanks for the crops produced by the farmers. Many growers have had a difficult time this year and we are grateful for their work in producing our food. There will be a Parish of Bridport harvest festival at St Swithun's on Sunday 1 October, and on Sunday 8 October we shall celebrate harvest at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton. This service will be followed by a ploughman's lunch in the church. If you are not a regular worshipper at Holy Trinity, but would still like to go to the lunch, please contact Heather on 423220 or email [heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk).

There will be another meal this month when the Luncheon Club returns to the village hall on Thursday 12 October following the summer break. These occasions are a very pleasant way of meeting other residents in the village, and they were much enjoyed by diners earlier in the year. Please see the panel on the right for details.

Our regular coffee morning is on Saturday 7 October, 10am–12 noon, and the following one is on 4 November.

We really appreciate all the helpers who tidy up the Old Church yard twice a year. The next working party afternoon

**Below: Repairs to the lych gate (left) and the church's lime mortar pointing have been completed. The scaffolding gave those using it a different view of the church**



## Luncheon Club

**at Bothenhampton Village Hall  
 restarts on Thursday 12 October  
 From 12 noon; lunch served at 12.30pm**

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

- Fish or vegetable potato pie
- Apple & blackberry pie

Cost £5.50

Please book so we have  
 numbers for catering:

Heather Purse 423220 /  
[heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk)



is on Saturday 14 October (see panel, right). If you can help, please meet there with gloves and some gardening tools if you have them.

The village hall committee invites you to a Big Breakfast in aid of village hall funds. There will be two sittings (see details below). Please book with Pennie or Heather if you would like a relaxed start to the day among friends.

When Holy Trinity was last inspected by the diocesan architect, it was found that repairs were needed in the lime mortar pointing around the lower areas on the outside of the church, and three large cracks had appeared in the masonry inside. These repairs are now complete. Filling the inside cracks required scaffolding, from which there was a rather different view of the church interior (see photo, left). Our thanks go to Pete Mason for his excellent work.

Also, the lych gate is now in good order. Rotting wood on the lower part of the structure and on the seat on one

## Coffee morning

**Saturday 7 October, 10am to 12 noon  
 Holy Trinity Church, Bothenhampton**

All welcome. Enjoy chatting with others over a drink and something to eat. There will be books, jigsaws, produce and cakes on sale, plus a raffle (contributions to these are very welcome). Money raised will go towards the running of this church.

**Bothenhampton Village Hall  
 invites you to a**

## Big Breakfast!

**Saturday 14 October • £8 per head  
 First sitting 9.30am, second sitting 10.30am**



Please buy tickets in advance from Pennie 458006 or Heather 423220 (please state your time preference). Proceeds to the village hall.

## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

side has been replaced, making it safe and secure. We are extremely grateful to Tony and James Hatch for doing a superb job.

Autumn has arrived and British Summer Time is finishing at the end of the month. Please remember to put your clocks back one hour on Sunday 29 October.

Barbara Ffooks

### FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

**Saturday 28 October** showing **Barbie**

**Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm**

**Refreshments available**

Please book by emailing [lcnc2413@outlook.com](mailto:lcnc2413@outlook.com)

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232

[douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com](mailto:douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com)

Distribution – Janet Robinson

07913 549946 / [jrb-jrb@outlook.com](mailto: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)

### Village lunch club

The club will meet on Tuesdays 10 and 24 October at 12 noon in The Kings Head. Please let Daphne King (01308 427552) know if you would like to come so she has numbers for catering.

### Church activities

Bradpole Brunch will take place on Sunday 15 October at 11.30am in the village hall.

### Bradpole Parish Council

The council met on 3 August. Parish electors are reminded that the meetings have two ten-minute slots when they can ask questions or put proposals to the council.

## The Friends of Holy Trinity Bradpole

invite you to join them for

## Afternoon tea

**Saturday 7 October, 2.30–4.30pm**

**Holy Trinity Church, Bradpole**

A chance to relax and chat with friends and neighbours and enjoy a delicious variety of cakes and sandwiches and endless cups of tea. There will be a cake/produce stall and a raffle.



## Garden working party

**The Old Church yard, Bothenhampton**

**Saturday 14 October at 2pm**

Please help us tidy up these lovely grounds. Bring your own gardening gloves and tools to clear ivy and weeds, trim areas that aren't cut, and reduce compost and overgrown areas. Work areas will be allotted on arrival depending on ability and tools brought.



Dorset Council (DC) had proposed that Footpath 8 should be diverted and Footpath 24 at Spray Copse Farm be extinguished.

Following a meeting between councillors and a DC transport planner, and a site meeting with a DC officer, it was confirmed that Footpath 24 will be extinguished along the fence line of Spray Copse Farm, with DC landscaping the area as a one-off (it will then become the responsibility of the landowner).

The parish council considered a number of planning applications, including changes to the single-storey side extension at 4 Bishops Farm Cottages, Higher Street, and the reinstatement of an external flue at 4 Bishops Farm Cottages, Higher Street. The council supported these two applications.

The deputy clerk said she had received a response from the DC planning department explaining that there is a difference in consultation times between statutory consultees and members of the public because statutory consultees receive notification of planning applications as soon as they are validated. The public consultation period, on the other hand, cannot start until site notices are published. Both statutory consultees and members of the public have a 21-day consultation period.

The meeting heard that the new signage along the cycle path had been damaged with spray paint. The clerk confirmed that this had been reported to DC.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with the parish council, please email the parish clerk: [bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk).

### Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The annual general meeting of the village hall trustees will be held on Monday 9 October at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to the public.

The main hall (pictured) is available for hire by local community groups and private hire and is fully accessible with facilities for the disabled. All enquiries for bookings to Jane Bryant: 01308 427493 / [oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com](mailto:oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com). See also the parish council website: [www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall](http://www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall).



## 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)

### Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our regular monthly garden group meeting on Thursday 26 October at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. We're a very friendly bunch and look forward to welcoming you for seasonal topics and garden discussion. We meet throughout the year (except December) on the last Thursday of the month.

#### Garden tips for October:

Finish collecting seeds from the garden for sowing next year; divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants; prune climbing roses; cut back perennials that have died down, or leave foliage in place to shelter wildlife; lift and divide overcrowded perennials; take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs; move tender plants into a greenhouse or conservatory.

Jane Mowatt

### Forgotten history in the Baltic and Crimea

Does history repeat itself? Maybe, maybe not. Nevertheless, in the story I'm about to tell, substitute Estonia for Ukraine and add in the Black Sea and Crimea, and it's possible to see similarities. See what you think. This article is adapted from the diary and later memoirs of my father, at the time a midshipman on HMS Caradoc, part of a light cruiser squadron. Place names are present day.

Robin Stapleton

*26 November 1918:* The squadron sailed at full speed to the Baltic. Their mission was to support Estonia in evicting the Bolsheviks from their country in what became known as the "Estonian Liberation War", by providing weapons, munitions, training and other support

*28 November:* Arrived Copenhagen. Stayed on to provide W/T communication with the Admiralty.

*4 December:* Rejoined the squadron

*5 December:* HMS Cassandra struck a mine and sank. Caradoc returned to Copenhagen with the survivors.

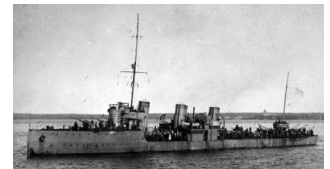
*13 December:* Landed machine guns and ammunition at Tallinn, with another party sent to HMS Princess Margaret to unload about 25,000 rifles.

*14 December:* Bombarded a gun battery and a bridge close to the Estonian frontier.

*17 December:* Back at Copenhagen

*23 December:* At Tallinn – "frightfully cold". Caradoc not designed for service in cold waters.

*26 December:* A Bolshevik ship was coming to bombard Tallinn. Caradoc was quickly under way. However, the captain and some of the crew were ashore instructing the Estonians and could not be reached in time, so the ship sailed without them. The Bolshevik ship, Spartak, a modern destroyer, put up little resistance and captured.



From top: HMS Caradoc; Robin's father pictured later as a paymaster lieutenant; the Russian destroyer Avtroil; a group photo outside the Summer Palace near Yalta, with Robin's father fourth from left



*27 December:* Another exciting day. It had been discovered, from prisoners, that the Oleg, a Bolshevik cruiser, was out and "we hoped to bag her". It was not found, but another destroyer (Avtroil) was captured and prize crew was put on board with the prisoners brought onto Caradoc. The officers were pressed and under the orders of a Commissar. "If they did not do what they were told, or refuse to go to sea, their families are held as hostages, either murdered, tortured or violated." Both ships and prisoners were handed over to the Estonians.

*3 January:* Sailed for Helsinki with refugees onboard. 100 Finish soldiers embarked and taken to Tallinn, on the way doing some more bombarding along the coast.

The diary ends and is taken up as a memoir. In January 1919 the ship was at Portsmouth and departed for the Mediterranean. At Malta, General Allenby came on board and rushed at full speed to Alexandria to deal with "troubles in Egypt" (British Protectorate). Then went to Odessa in the Black Sea. Here, British citizens and about 9,000 Russian women and young girls were taken on board, members of their aristocracy. Other ships then took them to Istanbul. The Bolsheviks (Red Russians) were on the outskirts and occasional rifle shots were heard. "We had to keep below deck, especially at night."

More refugees were taken off at Yalta. Caradoc was now

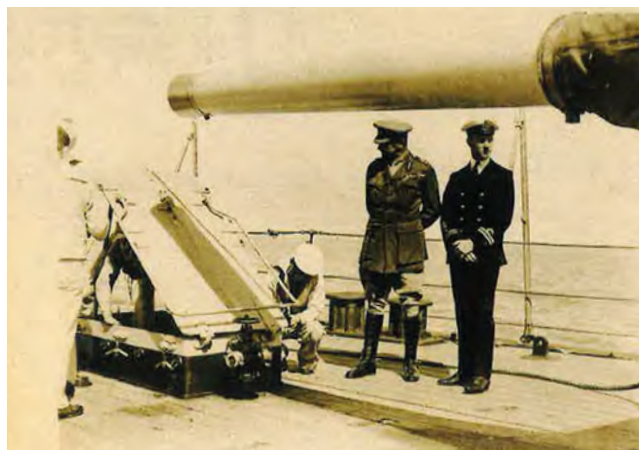


## ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

on its own, although HMS Marlborough arrived to take off a grand duchess and her retinue. While at Yalta there was a conducted tour of the Summer Palace and my father poignantly recalls seeing a child's comic in the nursery. Tsar Nicholas II and his family had been brutally murdered on 7 July 1918.

The White Army had retreated to defend the Kerch Peninsula. The ship was connected by telephone to the White Army HQ, and had a Russian liaison officer on board. Eventually the White Army started to advance, and as they progressed along the Crimea, positions were bombarded at their request. When Theodosia was captured they were welcomed by the inhabitants, who entertained them to a lunch party. "It was a bit of a trial, as the Russians have a habit of drinking toasts to you in which you have to drink your glass and then turn it upside down. One or two of the officers were somewhat worse for wear when they got back to the ship."

By now the White Army was making rapid progress, driving the Bolsheviks out of Odessa. "We did some bombarding on the outskirts of the city with a carrier providing a spotter plane." While in Odessa, several officers visited a Bolshevik prison and saw nasty examples of brutality for which a woman was responsible. The White Army had advanced towards Moscow, and Caradoc left for



Above: General Allenby (centre) on board HMS Caradoc

a refit at Gibraltar. Later returned to the Black Sea but that was uneventful and the ship had departed before the Bolsheviks eventually recovered.

The capture of the two destroyers in the Baltic enabled the officers and ratings to claim "prize bounty". This was thought to be the last time it was paid. The memoir continued to 1948, when my father retired as a captain.

*The Royal Naval Association's Trafalgar Day service takes place on Sunday 22 October at 3pm at St John's Church, West Bay. All welcome.*

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

### News from St John's

St John's had a busy weekend at the beginning of September, with a wedding on the Saturday followed by the Parish of Bridport service on the Sunday, a glorious sunny day. More than 80 people came to the service, and the singing resounded throughout the Bay.

You may remember that I mentioned in last month's Bridge that some of our model boats had gone missing. I had a nice surprise with a phone call from a Mrs Gruitt to say she had attended a christening recently at St John's and had noticed that there were some bare windowsills. She wanted to donate some boats-in-bottles to fill the empty space – and they are now in place (pictured). Many thanks



to Mrs Gruitt.

In addition to the regular services at St John's, the Royal Naval Association will be holding its Trafalgar Day service on Sunday 22 October at 3pm.

**Left: Thanks to a kind donor, we have some new boats on our windowsills!**

### West Bay WI

The first meeting this month will be on Wednesday 4 October for Knit & Knitter, 10am–12pm, and then on Wednesday 11 October at 2.30pm the Revd Jonathan Herbert will come along to talk about life at Hilfield Friary.

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

At the end of August, the Bridport Gig Rowing Club launched their latest gig, Beacon, bringing their total to four boats. The gig was blessed by the Revd Philip Ringer, and the gig builder, Brian Hobbs, joined the ceremony and then sat in the pilot seat with his granddaughter for the maiden row.

The torchlight procession seems to get larger and larger each year, and this year's event went on for ages. Since we've lived on the West Bay road, we have on rare occasion found spent torches in our garden. It was not good to hear this year that one of our neighbours had one of the torches thrown onto his property, hitting the drainpipe and starting a fire that damaged his conservatory roof. This happened despite the presence of marshalls along the route with buckets of water readily available to douse the torches.

How many of you know the history of the Bridport Arms? The pub was originally called The Sloop, then The Ship before becoming the Bridport Arms. The chemist Dr Giles Roberts, who invented the ointment called Poor Man's Friend, was born here. The ointment was sold around the world and was used to treat wounds, burns, chilblains and eruptions of every description. However, the ointment's ingredients included lead and mercury – both of which are highly toxic – so it's obviously no longer available. Dr Roberts was a staunch Wesleyan Methodist who used to →



**ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...**

preach in the open air in West Bay and surrounding areas. The pub (pictured above) is the oldest surviving building in West Bay, built around 1700, and is now one of 53 pubs owned by Palmers. It was refurbished in 2022 and is run by the Collyns family.

Things were really busy in the Discovery Centre during the school holidays. The cancelled workshop at the beginning of August was rescheduled to early September, when the weather was glorious. The centre remains open Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 4pm during October and we hope there will still be a steady stream of visitors. The centre won a gold award at the West Dorset Business Awards in the category Green/Eco Business, something that the team there really focus on.

After a rather dismal summer, the first week of September



saw a heatwave and many people took the opportunity to make the most of it. Unfortunately some of the last remaining campers did not heed the flood warning that was issued, and ended up being flooded. Photos of this were in the local and national papers. The harbour, which has been pretty quiet during the season, saw an influx of boats with the calm sea conditions (pictured above).

The West Bay Community Forum will be holding its open meeting on Thursday 5 October at 7pm in the Salt House, and local photographer Neil Barnes will be giving a talk. Newcomers are welcome to join us for this event and we hope they will decide to join the forum. Please contact me for membership details ([rognsuewbay@btinternet.com](mailto:rognsuewbay@btinternet.com)) or ask on the night.

*Sue Pollock*

**ST SWITHUN'S Allington**

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[graham\\_williams11@sky.com](mailto:graham_williams11@sky.com)

**A visit to two fascinating churches**

The beginning of October sees our parish harvest service and special harvest lunch. This is a celebration of all things fruitful, a time to share food, reflect and maybe chat about our holidays. Sometimes, when you're away on holiday, something unexpectedly turns up that teaches you a bit more, or reminds you of home or where you've come from.

Recently I was in a small ancient church called St Hywyn's in Aberdaron, Wales. Inside there was a coracle boat by the smaller altar in the side aisle, and at the back of the church there was some information and poems by RS Thomas. I'd forgotten whether I ever knew that he was a priest and was the vicar of this church – almost on the beach – for almost a decade. When he retired he moved to Y Rhiw, a village on the southwest tip of the Llŷn Peninsula, where he would often watch the birds, and when he died in 2000 his ashes were buried at St John's Church, Porthmadog. By happy coincidence I had bought a book of poems by another,

similarly named poet, Edward Thomas, at the well-attended Whitchurch Canonicorum Flower & Dog Show.

Later on we visited another ancient church named after St Beuno (sometimes anglicised as St Bono). He was a Welsh abbot who lived at Clynnog Fawr. The only church in England dedicated to St Beuno is Culbone Church near



Porlock in Somerset – it's also thought to be the smallest parish church in England. I recall visiting this small church, which is only accessed by walking

**Left: inside the ancient church of St Beuno. Below: the interior of St Hywyn's, where RS Thomas preached**



## ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

more than a mile through woods, with some friends years ago. My friend Heather had her 4/5-year-old son with her. The church has a few pews and it inspired Jacob to sing one of his favourite songs at the time. So I was momentarily transported to when we had a row of pews each and heartily sang *The Wheels on the Bus!*

There is an anchorage cell – where an ‘anchorite’, most often a woman, would self-isolate in contemplation by building literal walls around herself – to the north of Culbone, although whether St Beuno used it we don’t know. Born in the late 6th century, he was well known on the Llŷn Peninsula and died in 640.

I wonder if you have had recollections this last season that have prompted other thoughts and feelings. As for

feeling the humidity and heatwave conditions during early September, it all seemed rather unnatural.

*Anna Sullock*

*This is Anna's last issue as parish editor for St Swithun's. James Craddock, the Walditch parish editor, will be looking after this column until we find a permanent replacement. Please contact James (details on page 16) with any St Swithun's items for November.*



**Above: On the path to the lych gate of the 5th-century Llandudwen Church**

## Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson  
01308 341159

Church secretary – Sue Herman  
422598 / [bridportsec@gmail.com](mailto:bridportsec@gmail.com)

incorporating

**UPLODERS CHAPEL**

Correspondent – Carol Hall  
423163 / [carol@gribb.plus.com](mailto:carol@gribb.plus.com)

### What are we doing to make the world better?

Last time I wrote a piece for *The Bridge* – over a year ago – I reflected on whether, in the context of the many terrible things going on across the world, it was inappropriate for us to rejoice in the world that we ourselves experience, and all the good things it gives us. I concluded that we should give thanks for our wonderful world, while remembering in prayer and action all those who are suffering.

Sadly, nothing much has changed and we feel helpless in the face of everything we see on the news. War, famine, floods, searing temperatures, fires: it all seems too big for us to do anything about. Remember, though, that all these horrific happenings are either caused by or exacerbated by mankind – we are part of the human family and I think we must share some of the responsibility.

We may not have started wars, but at some point we’ve all had arguments, belittled others or made them feel insecure or just angry that they were not being listened to. Maybe we’ve started a chain of events passing our anger or unkindness on to others – the beginning of a chain of hate.

We may not have started fires or floods or caused extreme temperatures, but climate change is the responsibility of all of us. What are we doing individually to lessen our carbon footprint and look after God’s world? Are we using our cars less and walking or using public transport when possible, even if it’s not as convenient? Are we flying less and using trains more? Are we allowing parts of our gardens, if we have them, to rewild, creating a habitat for insects, small mammals and birds? Are we buying fewer new clothes, instead buying from charity shops or one of the vintage and

recycled outlets springing up? Bridport Fashion & Textile Network has been taking part in Sustainable Fashion Week – actually a fortnight – with talks, workshops, clothes swaps and more. ([www.facebook.com/bridportgreenfortnight](http://www.facebook.com/bridportgreenfortnight))

We definitely need to think about the environmental impact our western love of buying new clothes has. To make one pair of jeans apparently produces as much CO<sub>2</sub> as a 58-mile car journey and, shockingly, about 300,000 tons of clothing is binned every year, 20% to landfill and the rest incinerated. And some people here and throughout the world cannot afford to buy clothes at all.

What are we doing? Or are we in fact doing nothing, feeling the problems are too big for us?

Famine in many countries is at least partly a result of climate change, but here in Bridport, hunger is the result of poverty. Low wages in this area and high food costs mean it is often impossible for families, even with both parents working, to feed themselves after paying to keep a roof over their heads. The gap between those who can afford the essentials and some luxuries too, and those who can barely survive, is growing, so perhaps we shouldn’t wonder at the increase in violence and theft by some of those on the wrong side of the divide. And do we contribute to the problem with our greed, buying more than we need? Do we often buy out-of-season produce that’s flown thousands of miles and for which the producers are paid a pittance? Do we have the luxury of throwing food away? Surely those who can afford good, plentiful food shouldn’t have to use those little plastic bins that the council supplies for ‘food waste’...

These are all small things, but from little acorns mighty oaks grow. I believe a world without famine, war, weather extremes and so on can only be built through ordinary →



## Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

people upwards. It won't happen by government decree – the only way it might happen is through ordinary people working together, doing what they can individually and joining together to demand change. We may not like or approve of Extinction Rebellion's tactics, but climate activists are certainly making people listen and maybe think, too. Locally there is a lot of work going on quietly to make Bridport a greener, more sustainable place. And at BUC, as at other churches, we are beginning to take our responsibilities seriously.

So yes, I think we should rejoice in God's wonderful world and our beautiful part of it where we are so lucky to live – but we should also remember that we are stewards of God's world and all it contains. We should all be trying, however we can, to make a fairer society where all feel wanted and cared for at the same time as trying to protect the earth – our only home.

So this autumn let us revel in the natural world in all its glory while resolving to do what we can to protect and nurture the earth and all life on it. And may God go with us as we go forward.

*Sue Herman*

### October services at Bridport United Church:

<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Chris Warren (HC)</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Soul Space</b>
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Jane Wilson</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Brenda Stevenson</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Jane Wilson</b>
<b>Sunday 29</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gwyneth Owen</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>In Loving Memory with Jane Wilson</b>

### Regular events at BUC

Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 12 noon – all welcome. Light bites Wednesdays 11.30am to 1pm. Lunch Club fourth Wednesday.

Mondays	10am–noon	Art group (inner hall)
	1.30pm	Archaeology (inner hall)
	2pm	Art history
	2.30pm	National Trust (fourth only)
	7.30pm	Bridport Choral Society
Tuesdays	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first & third)
	2pm	Bridport u3a (fourth only)
	4.30pm	Rainbows
	5.30pm	Brownies
	7.30pm	West Dorset Singers
Wednesdays	7.30pm	Bridport Big Band (in church)
	12.30pm	Lunch Club (fourth only). Two-course home-cooked meal. Please book: 422598
	5.30pm	Kickboxing (inner hall)
	6pm	Fitsteps
	7.30pm	Kickboxing (main hall)
Thursdays	2pm	Thursday Club (third only). Tea, games, crafts and chat
	2.30pm	Bridport History Society (second only)
	3.30pm	Messy Church (fourth only)
Fridays	5pm	Slimming World
	6pm	Kickboxing (main hall)

### Special events

Sat 7 October	9–11.30am	Big Breakfast
Sat 21 October	10am	RNLI coffee morning

### From Uploders Chapel

We're now well into autumn, although the high temperatures and sunshine in early September certainly made it feel like it was still summertime – at least we can never say we get bored with our weather! Our first service in September was taken by the Revd Peter Clark, but he didn't have the challenge of including Mickey Mouse in his sermon this time, like he did last September.

Unfortunately the weather wasn't so well behaved just before the Lodgers Fete, so the venue had to change and we were unable to have our stall. Disappointing, but in some ways it was a blessing as it meant we didn't have to struggle getting everything to and fro. As usual, what is sometimes a disappointment ends with a positive result.

The Ride + Stride fundraising event took place on Saturday 9 September. We had kindly been given lots of great items that were on display with the intention that they'd be snapped up by those riding or striding or others who were just happy to pop in for cuppas and cake and a good rummage. We raised £357, of which £250 was sponsorship money raised by Joseph Pullan and £107 was donations for refreshments and bric-a-brac.

Huge thanks to everyone who did their bit to make Ride + Stride go well, particularly Joseph, who cycled to 20 churches. With my treasurer's hat on, if anyone reading this (hopefully before the end of October) would like to give a belated donation for his efforts, please let me know.

As we move forward, we will be enjoying our harvest service with the Revd Jane Wilson. So hopefully you can be Optimistic in October, having enjoyed some Sunshine in September. I wish you well and hope we see you at the chapel sometime.

*Carol Hall*

### October services at Uploders Chapel:

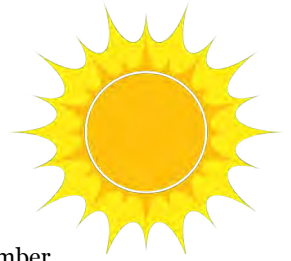
<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Harvest service with Jane Wilson</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>John Yarrien</b>

## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

Parish priest – Monsignor Keith Mitchell  
[keith.mitchell@pcdtr.org.uk](mailto:keith.mitchell@pcdtr.org.uk)  
 Presbytery 424754  
 Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594  
[bridport@pcdtr.org.uk](mailto:bridport@pcdtr.org.uk)

### Making sense of all the chaos

'Chaos' might be a good word to describe the world of today, both nationally and internationally. We are possibly living through one of the biggest upheavals in human history. The physical state of our planet and its natural



## ROMAN CATHOLIC Church continued...

resources is more delicately poised than ever. Our NHS is struggling to cope, in what is perhaps the greatest crisis since its foundation in 1948. The recent debacle of the asylum seekers' barge in Portland is a symptom of the growing inability to dialogue in addressing the crisis of migration at a time when there is the biggest migration of people ever.

What can we learn from all this chaos? Perhaps it is that we need to recognise – and address – this apparent inability to listen to one another, and to God. It does seem sometimes that not only God but also common decency has been banished from public life. We need to re-learn how to



listen to each other with courtesy.

And what of God? A well-known political spin doctor said some years ago, "We don't do God". Has the banishment of

God from public life gone hand in hand with even greater chaos? There are many who wish to consign religion to the peripheries as a kind of private eccentricity. Some even want to replace Christmas with 'Wintermas'! As long as we keep our mouths shut about the things that concern people, we Christians are tolerated.

Might it not be, however, that the secular world and religious belief need to actually listen to one another? Might they not need to dialogue for the good of civilisation? Some words of the late Pope Benedict XVI, speaking in September 2010 to the combined Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall on the legitimate role of religion in the public square, are prophetic: "I would invite you all to seek ways of promoting and encouraging dialogue between faith and reason at every level of national life."

*Monsignor Keith Mitchell*

**Regular Sunday Mass is at 10am** and is streamed online at [www.bridportcatholics.org.uk](http://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

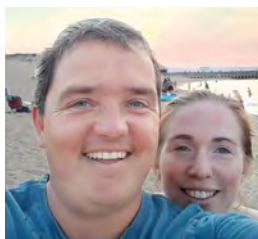
Church office 456031  
[office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk](mailto:office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk)  
[www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk](http://www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk)

### Meet our family

We know God is working in our town and we hope to encourage you by sharing a story each month of a follower of Jesus.

### Who are you?

My name is Seb. I am 36 and I am one of the leaders at Beacon Church. I have been married for 14 years to my beautiful wife Justine. We have two wonderful children, one in primary school and one at secondary school. I'm very excited to be starting two new roles: I am working part time as a specialist teacher in a special educational needs (SEN) hub at St Mary's School, and part time as a leader at Beacon Church.



### Tell us about your walk with Jesus

I became a Christian at the age of 22. I would say I always

believed there was something bigger than myself. My wife (my fiancée at the time) and I went along to a church in Exmouth in 2008 – she wanted to go, I just wanted to find somewhere to marry her! We ended up doing an Alpha Course, which changed my life. I discovered so many truths about the bible and Jesus that I gave my life to him, and I have followed him ever since. I wouldn't say it has always been easy and it has been quite a journey. Through all the highs and lows, God has been faithful and has been with me every step of the way.

### How do you see God at work during your week?

I see God moving in so many places throughout the week. I see God in school and how the pupils really shine through all the love, care and support they receive. I see God in my home life just supporting and guiding us through parenting and being the best parents we can be for our children (although we still make lots of mistakes along the way!). God is working hard on me being a better husband each and every day, too.

I now have the privilege of joining the amazing people at the Community Kitchen at Beacon. God is teaching me how to come alongside people, talk with them, pray and be open. It is incredible to see the heart of all those who come and serve as well as those who use the kitchen. I can see God's hand and his peace on everyone. And I really see God move on a Sunday through worship and seeing the bible taught.

You are always welcome to come to Beacon Church. Wherever you are in your journey in faith, and whatever you believe, we would love to meet you. Our service is at 10.30am every Sunday in the Beacon evangelical hall, DT6 3RW.

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

Office 424437 • David Collins 458227  
[info@bridportchristianfellowship.org](mailto:info@bridportchristianfellowship.org)  
[www.bridportchristianfellowship.org](http://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. →

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP continued...**

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

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

**BRIDPORT  
CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP**

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](http://www.bridportchristianfellowship.org)

## Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

*Please contact the editor 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](mailto:bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com). More details online at [www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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.

**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 9 October Rosemary Legrand will give a talk, 'Spring in Japan'. Phone 456339.

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will meet on Thursday 19 October at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St, when Charles Chesshire will give a talk on Japanese gardens. Charles is a designer, author and nurseryman, and owner of the nursery at Symondsburry that specialises in rare and special plants. Open to non-members at £2. More information at [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://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. Friday sessions (not third Fri) are more relaxed. See [www.bridgewebs.com/bridport](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridport) or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298. New course for beginners and returners in Bradpole Village Hall, Mondays 2–4.30pm from 23 October (see p4). For details or registration contact Martin Angold 861120 / [bridportbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:bridportbridgeclub@gmail.com)

**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.

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

**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](http://www.westdorsetmusic.org.uk)

**West Dorset Singers** (formerly the New Elizabethan Singers) meet for choral rehearsals in the United Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from September to May. For more information please contact the secretary, Sarah Stamford [sastamford@outlook.com](mailto:sastamford@outlook.com) / 425312

**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](mailto: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](mailto:margefoster1956@gmail.com)

**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](http://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](mailto:bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com) / [www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk](http://www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk)

**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.

# Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

**Bridport Stage Company** (formerly Bridport Shakespeare Company) theatre group meets on Mondays 7–9pm at the British Legion. They are preparing to perform *The Importance of Being Earnest* around Easter 2024. All ages are welcome; no experience needed. For more details email Valerie: [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk)

**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](mailto:sarah.fletcher33@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:af.nantes@btinternet.com), for programme enquiries contact Jane at [jferentzi@aol.com](mailto:jferentzi@aol.com) or 425710, or visit [www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk)

**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 Lodgers Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Contact Jane: [jferentzi@aol.com](mailto:jferentzi@aol.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 Community Carnival Committee** enables both carnival processions to happen on the third weekend of August each year. Want to get involved with planning this sociable event for 2024? Contact [joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [www.bridportcarnival.co.uk](http://www.bridportcarnival.co.uk)

**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](mailto:wrightmail2@aol.com) or visit [www.bridportasd.wordpress.com](http://www.bridportasd.wordpress.com)

**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](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys)

**Bridport & District u3a** is for people no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings are at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday each month in the United Church Hall, East St, The talk lasts about an hour, followed by a Q&A and refreshments. On 24 October Emily MacCormack of the National Trust will talk about Stourhead and the Hoare family. Members free, visitors £3. More than 60 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. Contact Alastair Forbes 424166 / [chair@bridportu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@bridportu3a.org.uk) / [www.bridportu3a.org.uk](http://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](http://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.

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

**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](mailto:jrb-jrb@outlook.com)

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

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

**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. →

## 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](http://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

**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](http://www.ud.coop/mmmm)  
**Bridport Branch Royal Naval Association** meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7pm for a 7.30pm start in the Bridport & District Social Club, North St. Ex-matelots and all other ex-military are always welcome. Refreshments available. Contact Bob Bickers [thebickerage@aol.com](mailto:thebickerage@aol.com).

**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](mailto:j.perfect@bridportleisure.com). More info at [www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk](http://www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk)

**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](mailto:mickey_thompson56@hotmail.com) (membership)

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

**Bridport 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!

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

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## Introducing an extended ban on single-use plastics

**Single-use plastics are only used once before they're thrown away. The problem with plastic waste is that it doesn't break down, it only breaks up into smaller and smaller parts, impacting the environment and wildlife for years to come.**

Every year England uses an estimated 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery, most of which are plastic, and 721 million single-use plates. Only 10% is recycled.

Previous efforts to eliminate avoidable plastic waste include: one of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse-off skin care products (2018); restrictions on

the supply of single-use plastic straws, drink stirrers and cotton buds (2020); the Plastic Packaging Tax (2022) – a tax of £200 per tonne on plastic packaging made in, or imported into, the UK that contains less than 30% recycled plastic; the 5p single-use carrier bag charge (2021), later increased to a minimum 10p and extended to all retailers, taking billions of bags out of circulation.

Last year the UK Government consulted on banning other types of single-use plastic and reported that more than 95% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of the bans.

In October 2023 a new ban on other single-use plastics comes into force. It will include single-use plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers. The ban will include online and over-the-counter sales and supply, from new and existing stock.

It will mean that businesses can no longer supply, sell or offer these plastics to customers. Businesses will need to use alternative options instead. The UK government announced the ban in January this year, giving businesses time to prepare for the change.





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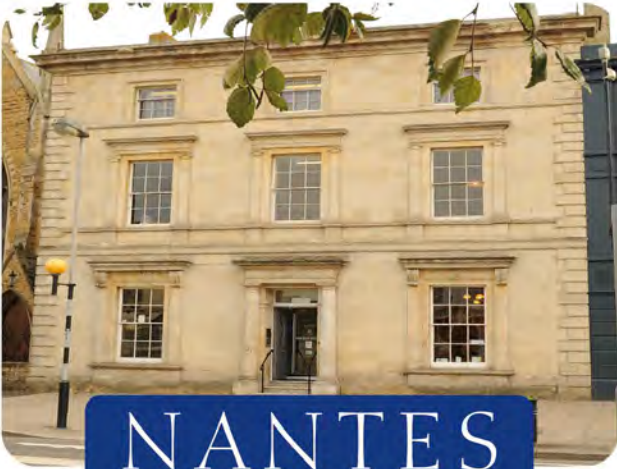
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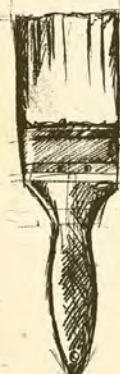
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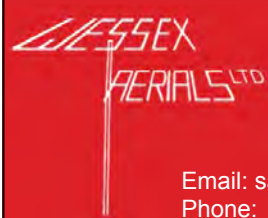
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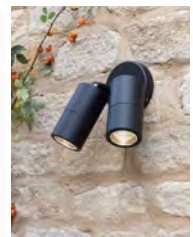
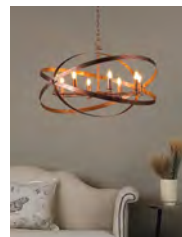
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