



the Bridge

November 2025

A community magazine for Bridport
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THIS ISSUE IS

A. G. DOWN
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First Allington Arts Weekend brings joy to many with its wide range of events

The first Allington Arts Weekend at the end of September brought top-quality music, performance, visual art and more to St Swithun's Church.

Events and activities covered the whole range of the arts from ragtime, rock and classical music to drama, painting, print making and even a history talk, as well as an art exhibition and sale. There was something for everyone and it was an opportunity for many people to see the newly redecorated exterior of the church.

The festival started on Thursday 26 September with a musical performance by Bridport Primary School, followed by local folk band Rough Assembly.

Then on Friday evening there was the Bridport premiere of the play *Every Brilliant Thing*, which is about living with depression and suicidal thoughts. This is a life-affirming production that shows the healing power of connection, and the Bridport audience received it with the same enthusiastic sense of wonder that has greeted it worldwide, most recently in London's West End.

On the Saturday, following a successful print-making workshop in the morning, renowned local musician Matt Kingston ran an afternoon 'come and sing' event followed by a short concert. In the evening, Jess Upton, Robbie McIntosh and Steve Wilson performed a much-loved programme of rock classics that got several members of the audience up to dance.

On the Sunday morning, the recently retired Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Revd Christopher Foster, celebrated a festal sung mass. Appropriately, the church was keeping the feast day of St Michael and All Angels, and the bishop's sermon covering that and the festival inspired all to see the arts as a vehicle for reconciliation and joy.

The Sunday also saw Julian Phillips and Mike Denham return to the church for a four-hands ragtime performance on the grand piano. And, for the grand finale, local pianist Duncan Honeybourne gave a superb recital of sea-themed music.

Over the weekend there was an art exhibition in the hall. James Hartey, MD of the Billy Mumford Gallery, donated a painting in the style of Jackson Pollock by Mumford, who is a reformed and celebrated art forger. Visitors were invited to make sealed bids for the work.

The St Swithun's team and their helpers were thoroughly and gloriously tired out by Sunday night but the many visitors had enjoyed an entertaining few days.

The festival week started with the relighting of the St Swithun's cupola by Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard. Turn to page 17 to find out more.

Pictured clockwise from below: Anna Sullock and Brian Smith led a print-making workshop; Duncan Honeybourne's piano recital closed the festival; there was a short concert after Matt Kingston's choral workshop; Robbie McIntosh, Jess Upton and Steve Wilson performed a popular programme of rock classics



NOVEMBER 2025 – see below for an explanation of the abbreviations						
Date	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
Sun 2 <i>All Saints</i>	8am BCP HC 3pm All Souls service	4pm CC (hall)	10am Eucharist	3pm All Souls service		
<i>Mon 3</i>						10am MPR
<i>Tues 4</i>				2.30pm HC		
<i>Wed 5</i>	2.30pm HC	2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)				
<i>Thurs 6</i>		10am All Souls Eucharist				
Sun 9 <i>Remem- brance</i>	8am BCP HC 10.50am Remembrance	9.30am Eucharist	10.50am Remembrance	9.30am MP / Remembrance	4pm Remembrance	10.50am HC / Remembrance
<i>Mon 10</i>						10am MPR
<i>Thurs 13</i>		10am Eucharist 3.30pm Wild & Messy Church				
Sun 16	8am BCP HC 11am MP	9.30am MP	11am HC	9.30am HC	11am MPR	11am MPR
<i>Mon 17</i>						10am MPR
<i>Wed 19</i>		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)				
<i>Thurs 20</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Sat 22</i>						4pm Service of Wholeness & Healing
Sun 23 <i>Christ the King</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am MPR	11am Matins	9.30am MP	11am HC	11am MPR
<i>Mon 24</i>						10am MPR
<i>Thurs 27</i>		10am Eucharist				
Sun 30 <i>Advent 1</i>	8am BCP HC 11am MP	9.30am Eucharist		9.30am HC	11am Songs of Praise	11am HC

HC = Holy Communion / BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CC = Contemplative Church / MP = Morning Praise / MPR = Morning Prayer
 * Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina take place on alternate Wednesdays. For more details email carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com or yvonne.welch1943@gmail.com



Saying farewell to Chris

The town lost a much-loved, active member of the community in October with the death of Chris Hilburn (pictured). Chris was involved with many local organisations, including Bridport Food Bank, Bridport Museum, Hopeful Hampers, Pathways to Care, St Mary's churchyard gardening group and St Mary's 'Eight o'clockers', and he also worked to improve life for homeless people. There will be a memorial service for Chris, including the burial of his ashes, on Saturday 15 November at 12.30pm in St Mary's South Street, followed by refreshments in the church. All are welcome. There is a book of memories of Chris at Bridport Museum that anyone can add to. It will be given to his family after the service.

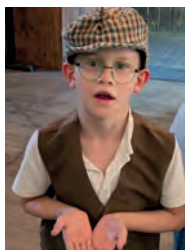


David Parnell

A crowded Bridport Town Hall played host to the recent investiture of Monique Pasche as a Bridport Honorary Townsperson. This is the highest award the town can bestow on one of its citizens and goes to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to the community. It is awarded once per council term at most. Monique is pictured above with Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard and Daryl Chambers, Town Surveyor.

Enjoy 'Oliver – with a Twist'

The Bridport Stage Company's production 'Oliver – with a Twist' is at The Bull on 22 and 23 November, with eight-year-old Leo Baker (*pictured*) in the lead role. Leo is the grandson of Geraldine, landlady at The Ropemakers.



The play is an edit of the original Dickens novel, with a running time of under an hour and all new songs specially written for this production.

Tickets are £10 from The Bull's website. As with past productions, profits will go to Samaritans.

The courage to confront abuse

I recently attended a safeguarding course, which clergy do every three years.



**The Revd
Ann Ayling**

One of our tasks was to identify just one thing – a song lyric, an aspect of nature, a quote from a book or a religious teaching – that has influenced our individual relationship with safeguarding. The course leader's contribution was from the film of Cinderella: "Have courage and be kind."

Today we hear and see so much abuse in society. A poster in the Medical Centre reads "Abuse is not in a day's work"; shop assistants complain about spoken and physical abuse, and shoplifting is rife; we hear of violent confrontations in schools; racist abuse is common; internet trolls are active.

How can those of us who would like to live in peace counteract this? "Have courage and be kind" is all very well, but it takes courage to get involved. Yet we ought to support the victims and express our concerns to the perpetrators.

My 'one thing' was part of the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven." We are called to help people live the untroubled, joyous lives that God intended for us all. We can offer support, hope and encouragement to victims of abuse.

We must also think of the abusers. What makes people behave like this? Several years ago, on the main street of a Somerset town, I saw a mother knock her son, aged about eight, to the ground and kick him. My young granddaughter was frightened, so I'm sorry to say I didn't intervene. Where is that boy today? How was he treated behind closed doors? A victim of abuse, he may have become an abuser.

We have to have courage to face difficult situations if we are to combat abuse in our society. And we have to be kind and understanding to victims and abusers. In the 13th century, Francis of Assisi wrote: "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy." Have courage and be kind!
The Revd Ann Ayling

Gifts & decorations
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Parish Green Day sows seeds of connection

There was a day filled with joy and sharing for those who joined us for the Parish Green Day at St Mary's Bridport on 27 September.

This was a community engagement event where the seeds of new partnerships were sown and we learned so much about Creation. We were engaged by the first interactive session led by The Revd Lorna Johnson and Miriam Digy, a young leader at Wild & Messy Church. This lively start to the day continued with representatives from local green groups talking about their organisations, then an interesting talk by Dana Assinder from West Dorset Wilding and the Brit Valley Project. Deputy Mayor Jonathan Bourbon spoke about eco friendly lifestyles.

After a simple lunch sourced locally, there was a chance to explore the 'eco-marketplace' and speak with local groups. In the afternoon there were workshops for sustainable flower arrangements, poetry and regenerative textiles. Some people chose to take a walk in the church's wilded churchyard with Alan, while others visited Sarah, who shared her enthusiasm for the work in the edible garden at St Mary's School.



Pictured: The Revd Lorna Johnson with young leader Miriam Digy; a sustainable flower arranging workshop

The feedback after the event was excellent and many went away with the aim of making significant changes to their buying habits and everyday lives. That is testament to the enthusiasm of the local organisations who ran stands at our eco-marketplace. I thank them all for giving up their time and interacting with our visitors so thoughtfully. Together we will continue to tread lightly on this earth – and make a difference.
Janet Robinson, Eco Church, Parish of Bridport

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Honouring Bridport's fallen as the town remembers



Remembrance Sunday is this month, and preparations have been in progress for a while for Bridport's annual Remembrance Parade, coordinated by the town council on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Claire Peters-Way works tirelessly with around 30 local groups to plan every detail, from timings and routes to road closures, marshals, and even the maroons that sound the traditional bang marking the minute's silence.

Meanwhile, Cemetery Superintendent Paul Violet places fitting tributes in the town centre, the Town Hall clock becomes a striking display of four giant poppies, the Tourist Information Centre hosts a remembrance display, and the war memorial is dressed with flags and lights with help from Head Groundsman Sean Coombs. All this ensures that Bridport provides a dignified setting for reflection and remembrance.

Commemoration in Bridport extends far beyond a single day, however. Throughout the year, quiet acts of remembrance guarantee that the town's soldiers and civilians are never forgotten.

At Bridport Cemetery, a plot of 10 World War 2 graves is maintained monthly by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Beside them grows a commemorative oak, planted by the mayor and local schoolchildren in 2018 to mark 100 years since the end of World War 1.

Scattered elsewhere across the grounds are several World War 1 military graves. These are cared for by Paul Violet — often in his own time. Each grave is marked by a rose and is kept spotless, with flowers or crosses laid on key anniversaries. "I give up a few

hours," says Paul, "but they gave up their lives."

Outside the cemetery office, visitors can find a display telling the stories of every soldier buried in Bridport, and those named on family memorials. Each account outlines the soldier's local connection, service history and final resting place, including those who died in the air raids on Bridport in 1942.

This display is unusual for a cemetery but has become a much-loved local feature, both moving and educational for visitors and relatives alike. So next time you're in Walditch, take a moment to stop by and see it for yourself.

Caroline Pearce, Project Manager, BTC

**Clockwise from right):
the grave of William
Stone; the tomb
of Thomas Colfox;
Commonwealth War
Graves beside the
commemorative oak tree
planted in 2018; Paul
Violet with Bridport
Cemetery's display about
the town's war dead**



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Similar instruments, different styles: two bands play in Bridport this month

Bridport Big Band is a community band with players from Bridport and surrounding towns.

It was set up many years ago by the late Rex Trevett, the head of music at Colfox School. After Rex's death, the band continued under the leadership of his daughter Julie, then under current musical director Matt Barge.

The Big Band's concert at the Electric Palace on 22 November will include the world premiere of *The Bridport Dagger*, a commissioned suite by Weymouth composer Lucy Hackett. Lucy's music has been played and published worldwide and last year she received a Sound and Music Seed Award.

Bridport was historically a centre of rope and net making using hemp and flax. The town became so well known for these products that the rope used for hangings was nicknamed the Bridport Dagger, and the phrase "stabbed by a Bridport dagger" meant to be hanged.

The Bridport Dagger tells the story of a woman who works making rope and a foreign sailor who comes into the local port. They see each other at a tavern where there's music – they dance and begin to fall in love. Meanwhile there's a scuffle outside between locals and some of the ship's crew. An unlucky blow ends with a local being fatally injured. The sailor, who was trying to stop the fight, is arrested. From there the story becomes unclear: some say he escaped using a rope made by his love, and others say he was hanged with it. We let the audience decide the characters' fate...



Wessex Military Band

The Wessex Military Band started in 1981 as a youth ensemble.

In 1990 it was invited by the British Army to become the Volunteer Band of the Army Air Corps, based at Middle Wallop. When the Corps was granted its own regular band in 1993, the spirit of the volunteers endured and the Wessex Military Band was born. Today the band remains a voluntary group of all ages and abilities, united by a passion for music, service and tradition.

This year the band has performed at the Bath and West Show, the Veterans Parade in Weymouth and in Bucky Doo Square during Saturday markets. The Electric Palace concert on 30 November is the highlight of their calendar. Audiences can expect an uplifting and varied programme from stirring military marches and traditional favourites to lighter pieces and popular Christmas classics, all performed with the enthusiasm and pride that make the Wessex Military Band so cherished across the South West.

See the opposite page for details of these concerts



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Recitals at St Swithun's Church, Allington

Both these events are on Sundays at 3pm:

16 November	Paul Cheater (organ)
23 November	Nicholas Brown (piano) and James Olsen (cello)

Admission free with a retiring collection in aid of church funds. There's free parking at the church.

The AGM for the Bridport Local Food Group/ Bridport Food Festival is on Tues 18 November at 6.30pm in Bridport Town Hall. All welcome. As well as the usual business of running the group and the Food Festival, there will be refreshments using local food and drink. Visit www.bridportfoodfestival.co.uk for more info.



A place to remember among the trees of the National Memorial Arboretum

Regular contributor Robin Stapleton marks Remembrance Day with a visit to an inspiring place commemorating the lives lost in war...

The 150-acre National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire honours those – military and civilian – who have served and continue to serve the nation. Planting began in 1997 and there are now around 30,000 trees, both native and from temperate zones overseas. There are also nearly 400 memorials as well as dedicated trees. Buildings include the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Reconciliation, three exhibition galleries, a restaurant and coffee shop. Entry is free.

The Armed Forces Memorial is sited prominently on a mound and records over 16,000 names from 50 operations since 1948. A gap in the two southern walls allows a shaft of sunlight into the heart of the memorial on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.

There are memorials for the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force plus commonwealth, foreign and civilian losses. Almost any visitor will find something relating to their family. I found memorials for National Service, the Royal Hampshire Regiment and the Korean War; others in the Royal Navy, Gibraltar and Women's Land Army sections; a tree dedicated to the 7th Royal Fusiliers (my great-grandfather's regiment) and another to the Gloucestershire Regiment (the 'Glosters') in which I did my National Service.

The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment has an impressive memorial in three sections: a soldier at the Battle of Kohima represents Dorset; Devonshire is at the Somme; and the combined regiment is in Northern Ireland.

Many National Servicemen (1948–60) were deployed in war zones, guerilla wars and riots, often with inadequate training, in Malaya, Korea, Kenya, Cyprus, Suez and elsewhere. The Armed Forces Memorial bears the names of 395 killed.

Around 68,000 British civilians were killed in WW2 (compared to 2,000 in WW1), 43,000 of them during



Pictured: Memorials for (from top) the Devonshire & Dorset Regiment; the National Service (left); the Women's Land Army and Women's Timber Corps

The Blitz in 1940–41. The British-German Friendship Garden remembers citizens of both countries killed in bombing. There is also a woodland area in memory of the Merchant Navy.

Every day at 11am there is an Act of Remembrance with two minutes' silence preceded by the Last Post and followed by the Reveille.

It is impossible to do justice to this special place here; there is just so much to see and take in. Arriving for the first time it can seem rather overwhelming, but plenty of help is available as well as maps to guide visitors to the locations they want to see. There is rather lot of walking, although there is a land train for a guided tour. If you have a number of particular interests you will probably need a whole day, especially if it is your first visit.

Local coach firms offer tours to the arboretum as an alternative to driving there. Our recent visit was our second, while others in our party had not been before. A typical reaction was "way beyond expectations". Our coach driver had been on HMS Coventry, sunk during the Falklands War, for which there is a memorial area.

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ST MARY'S Bridport

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 07830 308701
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 07977 988263

From the parish editor...

When a church has been present in a community for 800 years, not only will it have witnessed massive social and political change, but also its very fabric will have been altered and added to as civic and spiritual demands change. As the town and the congregation grew, so did the capacity of St Mary's Church with the addition of galleries and an extended nave. As technology advanced, organ replaced band, and a fire that burnt the pews created the opportunity to have new moveable pews, giving greater flexibility for worship and events.

In the last few weeks, as part of this church's responsibility for civic services, we have hosted two events. The first was a service of dedication for the new standard of the Bridport branch of the Royal British Legion. The standard will be on parade at the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall on 8 November. The second event was the installation of the High Sheriff of Dorset, attended by judges, magistrates, local mayors and other civic dignitaries.

We also hosted the Parish Green Day, when the nave was cleared of pews so stalls could be set up, showcasing the range of local organisations committed to challenging climate change, to fair trade, to sustainability and to creation care. Each organisation gave us a five-minute talk about their particular concern and walks took place around the churchyard and St Mary's Primary School's edible garden.

Peter Wright

Searching for minibeasts in the churchyard

During the season of Creationtide, our Sunday School children had a minibeast hunt in the St Mary's churchyard. We had great fun and were amazed to find beautiful dewy cobwebs with spiders, lots of woodlice under the logs, and millipedes in the compost heap. We heard lots of birdsong and bees buzzing in the sunshine, and hoped to see our resident slow worms, although this was not to be.

The children were delighted to find so many minibeasts. They recreated what they saw in modelling clay, and their creations are now displayed in St Mary's.



Above: Branch standard bearer Kevin Boon (centre) with the Revd Cally Burch, Phil Wright and Gareth Thomas at the Royal British Legion's standard dedication service. Right: Some of the children's creations inspired by minibeasts in the churchyard



We talked about looking after God's creation and helping by creating food and habitats in a peaceful, harmonious way in our living churchyard.

The community churchyard gardening group plans to create a swift garden at St Mary's this autumn and winter so we can support Bridport's swifts next summer. If you can offer advice, support or opportunities for funding this small project, we would be most grateful. Please contact me on 07568 461024 – thank you.

Jane Trower

Covid-19 made an impact in many ways, and a lot of our regular donors haven't been able to support the church as they once did. If you can make a donation, whatever you can give, you'll be helping to maintain our beautiful church and its ministry in the heart of Bridport.



Bridport Town Council CENTRAL WARD

Contact 01308 456722
enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

Queenie the Stalking Dog returns home!

Bridport's much-loved Queenie, the Stalking Dog, has reclaimed her place on Brewery Bridge, thanks to the dedication of the local community. Originally part of the Bridport Sculpture Trail curated by Cleo Evans and the town council, Queenie was created by sculptor Greta Berlin, inspired by her own family dog. Greta describes Queenie as "a tribute to all dogs – to their loyalty, love, and companionship through the ages."

After three years delighting residents and visitors, the original sculpture sadly deteriorated. Refusing to let Queenie be lost, Cleo Evans and writer Ros Huxley led a passionate fundraising effort, supported by a drone video from Neil Barnes. Their campaign raised over £6,000 with generous match funding and support from Palmers Brewery and the wider community.

The funds allowed for the creation of a new resin casting, secure fixings and a well-deserved artist's fee for Greta, whose work continues to enrich the town's public spaces.



Now permanently restored, Queenie (*pictured above*) once again greets walkers and schoolchildren crossing the bridge – a joyful symbol of loyalty, community



Above: The team behind the creation of the new Queenie sculpture are (from left) Ros Huxley, sculptor Greta Berlin, Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard, Town Clerk Sally Freemantle and Cleo Evans

spirit, and the enduring bond between humans and their faithful dogs.

Next ward meeting

Please come along to the next Central Ward meeting on Tuesday 25 November at 3pm in the WI Hall, North Street, to discuss topics specific to the ward. We will have a display about the review of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan. The display has been a valuable resource for the local community and has been drawn on extensively in planning-related matters. The review of the plan looks at the changing housing needs and the need for affordable housing, among other considerations. You will be encouraged to comment on the proposal amendments.

Meanwhile, if you're a Central resident and want to contact the town council about something in the ward, you can use the email address or phone number above.

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

From the parish editor

A joyous service on 12 October marked Harvest Festival at Holy Trinity. The church was decorated with beautifully coloured autumn fruits and flowers, and members of the congregation were welcomed

by handbells ringing. During worship we gave thanks for our food, our homes, for friendship and everything that we have. Following the service, food and fellowship was on offer at a splendid ploughman's lunch (*pictured right*), which everyone very much enjoyed. Donations given are going towards the Christmas hampers and the Christmas Day luncheon in the United Church Hall. Our grateful thanks go to everyone who decorated the church and supplied and



prepared the lunch, and to Graham Purse for taking the service for our harvest celebration.

On Sunday 2 November, the parish Holy Communion service will be in Holy Trinity Bothenhampton at 10am. A Service of Remembrance will be held in Holy Trinity on 9 November, which is Remembrance Sunday. We will start at 10.50am so we can observe the two minutes' silence at 11am.

As November has five Sundays, we would have been having an Evensong service in Holy Trinity at the end of the month, but this will not be taking place this time. Instead, Churches Together are planning a service of Advent carols in the United Church on Advent Sunday, 30 November, to which everyone is welcome.

The next coffee morning at Holy Trinity is on Saturday 1 November, 10am till 12 noon. These popular gatherings are an opportunity for people to get together over a hot drink and a biscuit, and are a way of meeting new friends. They also raise a lot of money towards the upkeep of the church. This year, up to October, over £3,300 has been raised. Thank you everyone for your support – it is a huge help.

The village hall committee are holding their AGM

on Wednesday 26 November at 7pm in the hall. The committee members work hard to keep the building in excellent condition, and it is well used. All are welcome to the AGM, particularly hall users.

Holy Trinity will become a play venue when This is My Theatre visits Bothenhampton again on Thursday 27 November. The company will be presenting Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, and judging by their past performances we are in for a treat. Doors open at 6.30pm when refreshments will be served. The proceeds raised from these are in aid of The Churches Conservation Trust, which maintains the Old Church. Tickets are available from thisismytheatre.com or by phoning 07732 253311. See the advert on page 8 for more details.

Barbara Ffooks

FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 29 November – title to be confirmed

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5

Refreshments available

Please book by emailing lncnc2413@outlook.com

ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725
walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

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



director-general of the Army Medical Services, had appealed repeatedly for motor ambulances, these had not been sanctioned.

Motor ambulances had never been used before in war, and the general BEF staff feared that such convoys would congest the roads. The early wounded were therefore shaken and rocked in horse-drawn ambulances and lumbering motor wagons over the stone roads of northern France.

On 12 September 1914, a few members of the Royal Automobile Club offered to put themselves and their cars at the disposal of the Red Cross. These vehicles were often used to supplement motor ambulances, carrying patients who could sit up.



The heroes of the military medical services

As is no doubt the case for many readers, both my grandfathers and several of their brothers fought on the Western Front in World War 1. More than 887,000 British servicemen were killed during this war, although without the dedication, skill and bravery of the Royal Army Medical Corps and a vast network of voluntary organisations such as the British Red Cross, St John Ambulance and the Friends Ambulance Unit, these numbers would be far higher.

In August 1914 there was no efficient method of hospital transport for the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France. Although Sir Alfred Keogh, then the

Right: early in World War 1, many casualties were transported by horse-drawn ambulance (photo dated August 1914)



Bibliothèque nationale de France



Left: by the end of 1914, many more motorised ambulances had been sent to the Western Front in France and Belgium (photo dated December 1914)

ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

The Times appealed for ambulance funds in October 1914, and within three weeks had raised enough for 512 vehicles. By the end of January 1915, more than 1,000 ambulances and motor vehicles of all kinds had been dispatched to carry 100,000 patients.

The Red Cross established the Motor Ambulance Department, which sent 3,446 motor vehicles (including 2,171 ambulances) during the war. In total, 94 ambulances were destroyed by the enemy and subsequently scrapped by the Joint War Committee.

Red Cross volunteers unloaded trains and placed the wounded in ambulances, attended to luggage and stretchers, and provided hospital squads to await the ambulances' arrival. They also accompanied wounded officers from one hospital to another. Voluntary Aid Detachments were constantly on standby.

Additionally, the UK flour millers' association presented the Red Cross with two ambulance trains, specially built and equipped by Great Western and Great Eastern Railways. The three trains carried 461,844 patients throughout the course of the war.

Although most ambulance drivers were men, many women drove ambulances, too, often putting themselves directly in the line of fire when transporting the wounded from the Front.

This is an often-forgotten aspect of this terrible conflict, which scarred a generation, but shows the best of humanity in the theatre of war.

James Craddock

Bougainvillea and mandevilla in Walditch

I first came across these plants more than 50 years ago when I lived in Jamaica. Bougainvillea are vibrant, spiky flowering vines with modified leaves that form beautiful, papery blooms – what you're actually seeing are bracts, not petals. They typically thrive in a conservatory, but even though I haven't had one in over 10 years, they've done spectacularly well this year.

Mandevilla have smooth, less woody stems, more delicate flowers and grow very quickly, although not to the same height as the bougainvillea. They are both tender perennials, grow by twining themselves around a support, and create a gorgeous colourful display when in bloom, although they are otherwise unrelated and belong to different plant families.

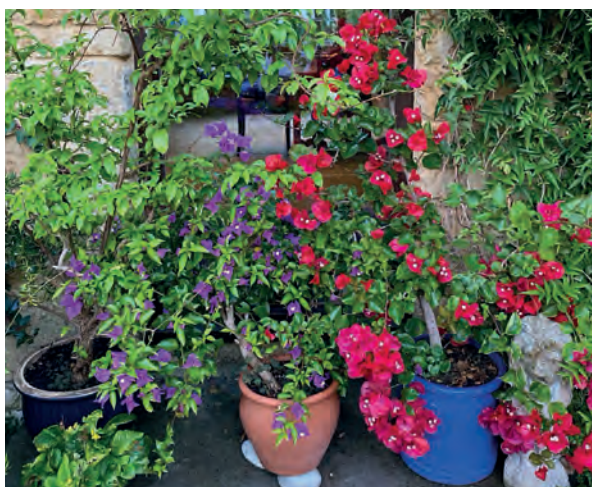
In my collection, I have red and pink mandevilla (the latter is the most common colour) and a Jamaican white. The three you see in the photo below I've had for over a decade. Each winter, I bring them into the lounge and put them in front of the double glass doors to protect them from the cold.

I've seen mandevilla growing successfully in places like Mallorca, where winters can bring quite severe frosts, so I believe it's not just the cold that's the issue – it's the combination of cold and wet that really harms them. Before bringing them inside for winter, I give them a light trim, and then another in spring. I'm careful not to prune too hard; I once gave a plant to a friend who did a severe prune, and sadly it didn't survive. Overwatering, especially in winter, is the most common cause of death for these plants, aside from frost.

I feed them regularly throughout the summer. This year, for the first time, I used Boost, and I think it made a real difference. I don't fully repot them but instead refresh the top layer of soil with new compost. As you can see, they have looked absolutely amazing this year – perhaps for the first time, all three bloomed together. Maybe it's the wonderful heat we had this summer!

Lynne Boot

See page 27 for details of Walditch Garden Group



Bridport Town Council BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH WARD

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

Your ward clerk writes...

The heavy wind and rain at the beginning of September unfortunately resulted in the jubilee tree, *Malus Evereste*, on Valley View losing its top half as the main trunk snapped in two. The situation wasn't helped by the weight of its fruit-laden branches. Thankfully, a resident with considerable horticultural knowledge and experience (an MHort!) has been on hand to help save the tree and we hope that with more careful pruning over the winter, and extra attention next year, it will continue to flourish. The tree was planted in 2022 by Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council to mark the platinum jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Our September public engagement session at Walditch Village Hall was well attended. Ward councillors Anne Rickard and Bridget Bolwell were there, as was Cllr Dave Bolwell, who came to help answer questions on the Dorset Local Plan. This document identifies potential land sites for development to help meet the future needs of Dorset, and is the subject of a widespread consultation. Across the Bridport area 17 sites have been identified, and Bridport Town Council has put together a response

Right: The jubilee tree on Valley View, Lower Walditch, was snapped in two by a storm. It has now been pruned, had its excess fruit removed, and should do well



that includes reasons for taking out unsuitable sites. The full response is at bridport-tc.gov.uk.

Other issues raised at the meeting included a blocked drain and flooding concerns at Spinners' Lane, ongoing concerns over the leaning chimney stack on a property on Spinners' Lane, landowner obligations regarding tree preservation orders, the Hyde Residential Home planning application, and traffic concerns from the A35. The full notes of the ward meeting, including updates, are on the Bridport Town Council website under Wards: Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward.

Our next public engagement session will be on Tuesday 18 November at 2pm in Bothenhampton Village Hall. Residents will be able to look at the town council's consultation draft of the revised Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, which will be available for comment until 30 December.

To get in touch about anything in the ward, please email me at bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk.
Jo Hughes

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232
douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com
Bell enquiries – Wendy Carnell 420716
htbrabells@parishofbridport.org
For pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644
(Wednesday is her day off)

Christmas Fair

We are having a Christmas Fair on Saturday 22 November to raise funds for the upkeep of the building. See the advert on the right for details. Please do pop in!

The Friends of Holy Trinity

In early October the Red Kyte Band from Sherborne



Christmas Fair

Saturday 22 November

10am to 1pm at Holy Trinity Bradpole

*Refreshments, gifts, home produce, tombola,
children's activities and much more.*

Father Christmas will be there!

delighted an audience of some 50 people in the church with their very enjoyable and entertaining mix of music from the 60s, 70s and 80s for everyone to sing along to – and indeed dance to!



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

The audience enjoyed magnificent cheese platters with French bread and lots of extras. Many raffle prizes had been generously donated and people bought lots of tickets. Together with donations for the drinks, the proceeds amounted to an amazing £641.60.

The band very kindly did not charge for the evening, as they were keen to contribute to the fundraising, which is much appreciated.

Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child

The national collection week for this year's shoebox appeal is 11–18 November, so boxes will be presented in the church on Sunday 16



November. Anyone can make up a shoebox and there is a leaflet (available at the back of the church) giving advice on what to include and what not to include. It also explains how

to get Samaritan's Purse do the hard work for you by building a shoebox online.

Ride + Stride

Peter Carnell, who organises Ride + Stride at Holy Trinity, reported that he paid £710 to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) following this year's event. Our church will eventually receive £355, while any Gift Aid will remain with the DHCT.

Peter passed on his sincere thanks to everybody concerned – cyclers, striders, church sitters and sponsors. Several sponsors this year were not from the immediate congregation, and it was heartening that they wanted to be involved since the money will be used to help maintain the historic Grade II Listed Building.

Village Lunch Club

The club will be having lunch at Long's Fish Restaurant in King Street on Tuesday 11 November at 12 noon. Numbers are restricted so please contact Thelma Pulman (458533) for details if you have not already booked. All welcome.

Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Tuesday 18 November and the Knitting Group (formerly the Craft Group) will meet on Thursdays 6 and 20 November. Contact Daphne King (427552) for more details.

Tots@Ten

Pre-school children are welcome to join others, with parents and carers, normally every Wednesday during term time at 10am in the church where there are toys



Martin Whiting



Above: The Red Kyte Band went down a storm and had the audience up and dancing in the church

to play with and lots of space. Refreshments are served. There is no charge. The final session of the year runs from 5 November to 17 December.

Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The main hall (pictured) is available for hire by local community groups and for private events and is fully accessible with facilities for disabled people. Hall bookings can be made online at www.hallbookingonline.com/bradpole.



Bradpole Buzz Group

In November the group will meet on Wednesday 19 and Saturdays 8 and 29. We'd love practical help with planting as well as offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden, suggestions and general support. For more information, phone Rose Van den Akker (425756) or email bradpolebuzz@gmail.com.



Bridport Town Council BRADPOLE WARD

Ward clerk – Sandy Goldsmith
07944 523084

bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

Councillors have had a busy September and October, spending a considerable amount of time dealing with Bridport Town Council's response to Dorset Council Draft Local Plan. The response is online at *www.bridport-tc.gov.uk*.

Four of the proposed 17 sites are in the Bradpole Ward area. Dorset Council will publish its next draft of the Local Plan in August 2026, hopefully after taking in residents' views as well as the town council's response. This will give you another chance to have your say, after which Dorset Council will have to submit the final plan to the government for approval.

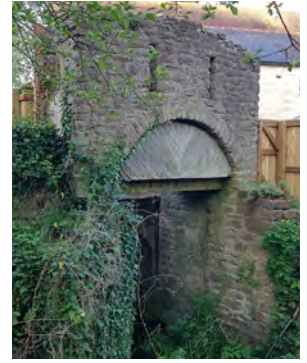
Councillors have also been discussing and progressing a request from residents in Jessopp Avenue for Dorset Council to consider a 20mph speed limit or other traffic calming measures.

To get in touch about anything in the ward, please email me at *bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk*.

Pymore village

A few interesting facts that you might not know about the history of Pymore:

Pymore was once described as "a place of swampy ground infested with insects." Flax was grown there in Roman times, although it wasn't until the 18th



Above, left to right: The redeveloped mill buildings in Pymore; the mill workers' privy on the bridge

century that Pymore flourished with the production of shoemaker's twine and flax sailcloth.

Pymore Mill was described in 1789 as a flour and hemp balling mill. By 1812 Joseph Gundry, Samuel Gundry, J G Downe, William Fowler and John Gale had formed the Pymore Flax Mill Company. In 1834 there were 63 female and 13 male employees working up to 69 hours per week there.

Hidden behind the residential houses in the village is a Grade II listed 19th century arch bridge with two compartments. This was the privy for the employees of Pymore Mill.

The Victorian school house was built in the 1870s by a member of the Gundry family in memory of Edward Gundry, who drowned at West Bay.

Records show that the millpond at Pymore was a favourite place for locals to fish and became a skating rink in the winter, attracting large crowds.

Today, Pymore is a pleasant residential village and still has some light industrial units.

Sandy Goldsmith

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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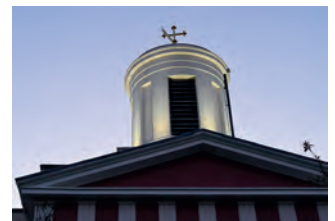
Let there be light!

On 22 September, Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard, accompanied by her husband and consort, Cllr Dave Rickard, turned on the new lighting system

around the cupola of the architectural 'pepperpot' topping off St Swithun's Church.

Also at the ceremony were the Revd Cally Burch, Interim Team Rector, and Geoff Jones, the chair of the church committee. Cally

led with prayers and, as Graham Williams, the church's verger, put his finger to the remote control in answer to the mayor's command to switch on the lights, a trumpeter from the St Swithun's Band played a fanfare and a church member shook a jubilant tambourine. ➔



Above: The cupola at St Swithun's is newly lit



ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

After a heart-stopping pause the lights came on, changed intensity, and demonstrated a range of colours to great applause.

In the churchyard to witness the event were members of the civic community including the deputy mayor and his wife, plus members of the church family and neighbours from houses around the church.

The lighting was installed by R N Stephenson

Left: Present at the cupola lighting ceremony were (left to right) the Revd Cally Burch, Interim Team Rector; Cllr Dave Rickard, the mayor's consort; Geoff Jones, chair of the St Swithun's committee; Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard: Deputy Mayor Cllr Jonathan Bourbon and his wife, Janice

Electrical Services and is modelled on a similar system at Sherborne Abbey. The proposed next stage of the renovations at St Swithun's is the interior redecoration, including a new heating and ventilation system.

Philip Sturrock

Happy birthday Evelina

St Swithun's member Evelina Malyon celebrated her 90th birthday on Friday 10 October. Evelina is Armenian and lived and worked in London before retiring to Dorset with her late husband Basil. Many happy returns, Evelina!



Bridport Town Council WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

The Allington Hillbillies are looking for more volunteers to join their team at working parties. They maintain and enhance Cooper's Wood and Field on the north side of Allington Hill. The sessions are on Wednesdays, meeting at 10am at the main gate on Hospital Lane. They run for up to three hours, but you don't have to stay for the whole session and can work at whatever pace suits you. Roles are available for all capabilities. The activities are seasonal and include coppicing, hedge laying, dead hedging and general maintenance. Just bring your enthusiasm, sense of humour, gardening gloves and a drink. All sessions are run by one of their qualified project leaders, who are also first aid trained.

The Hazelmead development has been shortlisted for two awards: the Neave Brown Award for Housing 2025 and the RIBA Client of the Year 2025. This already award-winning development is the UK's largest completed cohousing project and has 53



Above: Allington Hillbillies created a dead hedge around the wellbeing area earlier this year

climate-resilient homes, a common house and shared green spaces, reflecting a commitment to affordable, sustainable, community-focused living. As I write, the results of the awards are not known, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for news.

Our next public engagement session will be in the new year – more details to follow. We try to hold one of these sessions every three months at various venues around the ward. They are open to all our ward residents and are advertised on our noticeboards, the town council website and on Bridport West & Allington Ward Matters on Facebook. But don't feel you have to wait for one of these sessions to contact us about any concerns or queries you may have. We will always do our best to respond to you, no matter when it is.

Amy Stephenson

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

News from St John's

Regular Sunday services are held at St John's as well as Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am, with a monthly Service of Wholeness and Healing on the fourth Saturday of every month at 4pm (note the earlier start time for the autumn and winter months).

West Bay WI

The regular Knit & Natter session will take place on Wednesday 5 November from 10am to 12 noon. At the meeting on Wednesday 12 November (2.30–4.30pm) the speaker will be Cherry Ludgate with a World War 2-themed Show & Tell.

If you are interested in joining the WI, please contact either Alison Ridge on 01308 897293 or Maggie Hooper on 07720 056310.

Round and about the Bay

Scouts from Bridport, West Bay, Beaminster and Charmouth descended on the Brit Valley Campground over the weekend of 20–21 September for their annual district activity camp. They were obviously having a great time judging by the noise coming from the site and this isn't surprising as there was so much for them to do, including kayaking, axe throwing, rifle shooting, archery, climbing and a mini field gun race against the clock (*pictured below*). Despite the heavy rain on the

Below: Scouts enjoyed a mini field gun race during their annual activity camp at West Bay



Above: In September, John West (left) accepted the King's Award from Michael Dooley, Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, on behalf of Discovery Centre volunteers. Also pictured are Cadet Sgt James Buck, Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, and Dougie Scarfe, Deputy Lord Lieutenant

Saturday, their tents were dry in time for them to leave, calm down and relax.

I now have a photo from the presentation at the Discovery Centre of the King's Award by the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Michael Dooley (*pictured above*). I reported on this in the October Bridge.

It's hard to believe that it's time for the centre to revert to weekend-only opening (from 1 November). The popular winter talks started again in late October with one titled The Bridport Railway. The next one is at the Town Hall on Thursday 27 November at 2.30pm, when Jeni Bell and Karen Heaney, editors of the book 111 Places in Dorset That You Shouldn't Miss, will talk about some of the interesting destinations in its pages. Tickets are available online or in person from the Tourist Information Centre (www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk).

The work in the main West Bay car park caused a few problems. First we had a traffic light system operating on the West Bay road while the cables were being run across the road. The Sunday car boot was cancelled for two weeks as it was not considered safe for cars and people to be in the back section of the car park. However, I'm glad to say that the car boot has now returned and will be operating until it stops for the winter. While the work was being carried out, the level of noise from cars and motorbikes certainly decreased.

The benches have now been removed from the Hub area (*pictured overleaf*). Apparently, when the plans were originally submitted for this work, the outside area was designated as overflow parking for →



ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

motorbikes, something I was not aware of. Re-painting of the double yellow lines round this area and by the kiosks (plus hatching) is now complete in an effort to keep this area clear of both bikes and cars.

The dredging trials in the harbour, and the east basin chain maintenance work, will start at the beginning of November. Hopefully all the boats have been removed

Left: These benches have now been removed from the Hub area

in time. The next phase of the timber piling works is also hoped to take place then, so it sounds as though it will be a busy time for the harbour.

An unexpected event took place on 27 September on Fisherman's Green when Emerald Ant staged an outdoor performance of The Iguanodon Restaurant at the end of their Iggy Tour. Emerald Ant is an arts organisation and community interest company working with schools and communities across Dorset and south west England.

Sue Pollock

Upcoming events in West Bay

30 November: Lighting of the Christmas tree
Church service at 3pm in St John's followed by the lighting of the tree on Fisherman's Green with mulled wine and mince pies.

Bridport Town Council WEST BAY WARD

Ward clerk – Amy Stephenson
enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

In September we held our ward meeting, which as always generated a very good turnout from residents. Various items were discussed, some of them emotive such as bikers in West Bay and parking issues at Meadowlands. Harbourmaster James Radcliffe came to give an update on activities in the harbour, including the ongoing works to the harbour wall and the plans for the Black Hut. This project involves the Black Hut being rebuilt with a modest extension to accommodate a small kiosk as well as changing facilities for swimmers, and will hopefully be achieved by March/April 2026, subject to final approvals and procurement.

West Bay Harbour has its own website as well as a very informative newsletter keeping readers up to date with the harbourmaster's news and other matters. Anyone can sign up at www.bridportharbour.co.uk to receive the newsletter.

A 20mph application for the whole of West Bay has been submitted to Dorset Council (DC), who will look at it in due course. This is a long process and it could be 18 months or more until we potentially see this established if a public consultation and DC agree.

Right: Amy's photo of a beautiful sunset at the Esplanade, West Bay



DC will initiate the public consultation further down the line.

Don't forget that West Bay Discovery Centre is still open for you to enjoy its various exhibitions, events and pop-up sessions. The centre's aim is to provide a wide range of enjoyable experiences and activities for the community, all relating in some way to the life, culture, nature and landscape of West Bay. Their pop-up exhibitions change regularly so the centre is somewhere you can visit time and again. There's more information at www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk and on their Facebook page.

The next ward meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 January at 6.30pm at The Salt House. All residents from the ward are welcome to come along and raise any issues or concerns they may have. Meetings and/or drop-in sessions are generally held every other month but you can contact your ward councillors (details at www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/councillors-2024) and me by email at any time.

Amy Stephenson

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159

Church secretary – Jane Clinton
bucchurchsec@gmail.com

Church bookings – Sue Herman 422598
bucoffice1@gmail.com

The joy of taking part and enjoying life

As I write this column, sitting in our conservatory looking out, the sparrows are eating the sunflower



seeds and the blackbirds are eating the suet pellets we've put out. Along with the beautiful different flowers still blooming, this reminds me that we have a lot to thank our

good Lord for, right in front of our eyes.

We are so blessed to live in this part of Dorset where the whole area is blessed with God-given pleasures – and we must never stop thanking him for them.

Another God-given pleasure is taking part and enjoying ourselves. As both my wife and I are ardent rugby union supporters, the recent Women's Rugby World Cup was so enjoyable to watch – especially as our ladies, the Red Roses, won the final in brilliant style. However, we were particularly struck by the attitude and enjoyment of the Samoan ladies, beaten 92-3 by England but still dancing and enjoying themselves afterwards. The love and pure joy in taking part and working together for all their teammates showed in their faces. That sight was truly amazing and proves it's not all about winning but also about the satisfaction and enjoyment of taking part and looking after each other. The Pacific Islanders' faith is wonderful.

You could say that about life in general, where it's not about getting to the top of the ladder of success but to stop on every rung, have a good look around and enjoy your surroundings and the people around you, irrespective of what you are trying to attain in life.

We were brought into this world primarily to help each other, and God's love and trust helps us to do exactly that. However, we sometimes get distracted from God's guidance, so we need to keep our door open to that guidance. God could use the song Welcome to my World by Jim Reeves for all of us – look up the lyrics and sing them if you know the tune!

Bridport United Church has an outreach to the whole town and surrounding areas, with Sunday Morning

services, Soul Space, Wednesday prayer mornings, Little Lambs, Messy Church, Wednesday and Saturday coffee mornings, Big Breakfast, Lunch Club and Friendship Club. Come along to any of these and you will be welcomed with open arms. So many people and volunteers work to make sure every event is a success, and we give thanks and praise to God that we can all be part of the team working for each other and to make Bridport United Church not only a place of prayer and worship but also an enjoyable and welcoming community hub.

As I come to the end of my column, I am looking out of the window again. The sparrows and blackbirds have finished feeding and probably flown off for a sleep... sounds like a good idea to me.

Richard Plummer

November services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 2	10.30am	The Revd Jane Wilson Morning Worship & Holy Communion
	4pm	Soul Space
Sunday 9	10.30am	The Revd Brenda Stephenson Morning Worship
	4pm	The Revd Jane Wilson 'In loving memory' service
Sunday 16	10.30am	A Turner Smith Morning Worship
Sunday 23	10.30am	Explore Together
Sunday 30	10.30am	Tony Boyden Morning Worship
	4pm	Churches Together Advent carol service

Regular events

Mondays	9.30–11am	Little Lambs toddlers group (term time only)
Wednesdays	9.30–10am 10am–noon	Prayer meeting in church Coffee morning in the hall
Wednesdays	12.30pm	Lunch Club (4th only) Please book on 422598
Thursdays	2.30–4pm 3.30–5.30pm	Friendship Club (3rd only) Messy Church (4th only)
Saturdays	10am–noon 9–11.30am	Coffee morning in the hall Big Breakfast in the hall (1st only – not November)

For more details of our services and other events, please visit our website www.buc.cool or our Facebook page.

We have a number of rooms available for hire. For more information and to make a booking, please contact Sue Herman: bucoffice1@gmail.com.

St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

Parish priest – Fr Colin Groombridge
colin.groombridge@prcdtr.org.uk
 Secretary – Faith Leborgne
bridport@prcdtr.org.uk
 Phone 07544 595633

Sunday Mass is at 10am

at the Roman Catholic church
 in Victoria Grove and is
 streamed online at www.bridportcatholics.org.uk
 and on the Bridport Catholic Parish
 Facebook page.

For updates about Sunday and
 weekday Mass, see the weekly
 newsletter on the website or look
 for updates on Facebook.



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

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

We are a member church of the UK Evangelical Alliance and an Ichthus Link Church.

We meet for worship every Sunday at 10.30am and at various times during the week.

We seek to bless

the community
 of Bridport
 with the Good
 News of Jesus,
 and everyone is

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays: House groups meet at 10.30am–12 noon and another at 7–9pm. Precious Ones Baby & Toddlers Group, for under-4s and their parents or carers, meets in the church at 9.30–11.30am.

Fridays: Come along and join in our Art Group, 10am–12 noon. You don't have to be brilliant at art!

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

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



BRIDPORT
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP



Above: Music in Bucky Doo Square during the Christian Fellowship's special 'twinning' event

Bridport Christian Fellowship 'twinning'

We had the tremendous pleasure of receiving our friends from the Ichthus Belvedere congregation in London for a 'twinning' weekend at the end of September. It followed on from their first visit in September last year.

What a joyful weekend of outreach it was! We were sharing the gospel and worshipping in Bucky Doo Square on the Saturday (pictured above), reaching out with our usual coffee bar plus fun snooker, table football, games and crafts for all ages at the church, and sharing food, fun and fellowship throughout the weekend with our friends.

It was of huge benefit for both our very different congregations; we learned so much about the Lord and received great encouragement from each other.

A big thank you to the Lord, and to the members of Bridport Christian Fellowship for all their hard work.
 Theresa Gordon



The Community Kitchen is open Wednesday and Friday every week from 10.30am to 2pm. Please feel free to drop in for a chat and a meal.

We meet on Sundays from 10am for prayer, worship and coffee.

BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

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

Quiz night at the Beacon Church

Everyone at Beacon Church would like to invite you to our quiz night on Friday 21 November at 7.30pm. Teams can have up to eight people and there will be prizes for the winners. It's free to enter, but if you'd like to make a donation it will go to the Bridport Community Kitchen.

The evening is a chance to come and have some fun with friends and family. The rounds will include music, sport and a tasting, to name just a few. Please come along and have some fun with us!

Seb Gawen

Bridport QUAKER MEETING The Meeting House 97 South Street

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

The art of listening

Radio, television, social media – nowadays words and pictures come at us from all directions. Something happens, someone makes a pronouncement with which we don't agree. It is easy to find others who back up our view of what is right and wrong. It seems the world is on our side, so we must be right. Extremes are established.

But there is another way – “Where words are strange or disturbing to you, try to sense where they come from, and what has nourished the lives of others. Listen patiently and seek the truth which other people's opinions may contain for you. Avoid hurtful criticism and provocative language. Do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue.

Think it possible you may be mistaken.” (Advices and Queries 17b)



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

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

Jeni Edwards

Get involved: local clubs, groups & societies

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

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

Bridport Bridge Club at St Swithun's Hall Tuesday afternoons (beginners/rusty players; not 4th Tuesday), Wednesday evenings & Friday afternoons (relaxed; not 3rd Friday), plus online Thursday evenings. Beginners' lessons started 13 October. Phone Martin Angold 01308 861120 / www.bridgewebs.com/bridport

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

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

Bridport & District Gardening Club will meet at the WI Hall, North St, on Thursday 20 November at 7 for 7.30pm, when Steven Powles will present 'The Unbelievable Truth: wildlife stories that must be seen to be believed'. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

Bridport Stage Company theatre group is preparing to perform 'Oliver – with a Twist' at The Bull Hotel on 22 and 23 November, with proceeds to Samaritans. See page 5 for more info. To get involved in future productions, email Valerie: tasterella@hotmail.co.uk. No experience is needed; all ages are welcome.

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

West Dorset Music Community Orchestra

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

Bridport Choral Society rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Fiona Kenward fekenward@gmail.com

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 info contact the membership secretary, Jill Edwards: membership@westdorsetsingers.org

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

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. Fridays at 11am in Borough Gardens (off South St) or The Chapel in the Garden if wet. Suggested donation £5. janesilvercorren@gmail.com / 07887 675161.

Playful Singing – open circle singing and structured improvisation with fun exercises. Create raised vibes together. Tuesdays 1pm at BYCC, Gundry Lane. Led by Pen 07713 008290. All notes are the right notes. All abilities can join in. Donations welcome.

West Dorset Flower Club at the WI Hall, North St, 2.30pm on the 2nd Monday each month with speakers and demonstrations. On 10 November there will be a Christmas workshop. Phone 456339.

Bridport Community Carnival Committee enables both carnival processions to happen on the third weekend of August each year. Would you like to get involved with planning this sociable event for 2026? Contact joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.bridportcarnival.co.uk

Bridport Branch Royal Naval Association meets on the 3rd Thursday each month at 7 for 7.30pm in the Bridport & District Social Club, North St. Ex-matelots & all other ex-military welcome. Refreshments available. Contact elainestephenson2019@gmail.com

Bridport Community Shed, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, has drop-in sessions Mon, Weds & Thurs 10am–12 noon and stitching on the 1st Tuesday each month 7–9pm. Also a weekly Arts for Wellbeing group, a monthly creative session for 11–18yr olds and a weekly peer group session for 18–25yr olds. Email bridportcommunityshed@gmail.com

Citizens Advice is here to help

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



Bridport Health Walks are free gentle walks around town: 30 minutes every Wednesday and about 60 mins on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays each month. Meet in front of the United Church on East St at 9.45am and return for hot refreshments. No need to book, just turn up. 01305 252222 / sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
ASCape offers social opportunities and support for autistic young people and those with social anxiety aged 4–25 and their families. Contact info@ascapigroup.org or visit www.ascapigroup.org

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

Bridport Community Front Room offers face-to-face and phone support with mental health practitioners and peer specialists for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Thursday to Sunday 2.15–9.45pm at The Harmony Centre, address above. Phone 07385 290804.
Bridport Access Wellbeing is a new drop-in service for advice on mental health and emotional wellbeing, or practical help on topics such as finances, work, housing or support for carers. No appointment or referral needed. Wednesdays 10am–3pm at The Harmony Centre as above.

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

Bridport & District u3a is for people no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings 2pm on the 4th Tuesday each month (except December) in the United Church Hall, East St. The talk is about an hour, plus Q&A and refreshments. Members free, visitors £3. More than 60 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. On 25 November Colin Divall will talk about the closure of the Bridport railway in 1975. Contact Alastair Forbes 07962 099530 / chair@bridportu3a.uk / www.bridport.u3asite.uk
The u3a Singers Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month at the WI Hall in North Street, 10am for a 10.30am start. All welcome (no audition). Contact Heather 425219 / www.bridport.u3asite.uk.
Friends at Greenfields is a social get-together for those on their own or simply needing a bit of company. Every Thursday 10am–3pm at Greenfields, Bridport Community Hospital. Contact Lyn Goward 488272.

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

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

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

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

Bridport Food Bank provides support for anyone in the Bridport area in need of food, household supplies, advice and support, or just a cuppa and chat. St Mary's Church, South St, on Monday evenings 5–7pm and Wednesdays 11am–1pm. [www.bridportfoodbank.org / info@bridportfoodbank.org / 07443 596096](http://www.bridportfoodbank.org/info@bridportfoodbank.org/07443596096)

Bridport Clothes Bank collects good quality, clean clothing and redistributes it free of charge. St Swithun's Church Hall Thursdays 9–10.15am; BYCC Hall, Gundry Lane, 1st Saturday each month 12–12.45pm; Prout Bridge Community Centre, Beaminster, 2nd & 4th Mondays each month 10am–noon. Clothing is also available in the St Swithun's Hall entrance so the public can help themselves if the building is open. Contact 07596 077385 / BridportCB@outlook.com / Bridport ClothesBank on Facebook.

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

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

Bridport History Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month (except July & August) at the United Church Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £5pp. Membership £12 individual / £18 couple.

www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk

Bridport Royal British Legion meets on the 3rd Saturday each month at 10am for a coffee morning. Come along to our hall in Victoria Grove for a chat about membership and activities. The hall is also available for private/group hire. Contact Linda 425664 (hall bookings) or Mike Thompson 07974 534945 / mickey_thompson56@hotmail.com (membership).

Bellringers in the Parish of Bridport welcome new ringers and are happy to train you. St Mary's Bridport: 7.30pm Thursdays. Contact Bob Hardwick 07977 988263. Holy Trinity Bradpole (where there is a ground-floor ringing chamber and training simulator): 7.30pm Tuesdays. htbrabells@parishofbridport.org

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

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

The Rotary Club of Bridport meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6 for 6.30pm at Bridport & District Golf Club, Burton Rd DT6 4QT. Plus fundraising and social activities on other dates and elsewhere. We help good causes locally, nationally and internationally and support the local community. Mike Green 07909 990693 / mikegreen@greenmail.net

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) in support of the National Trust, holds illustrated talks in the United Church Hall, East St. On Mon 24 November, Paul Atterbury will talk about Arts & Crafts houses and gardens. Non-members £5. Sarah Nicks 459855 / www.goldencapnt.org.uk

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

Bridport Stroke Club meets weekly Sept–Christmas and Feb–July at the Community Room, Vernon's Court. Contact Chris Farmer: agricols@icloud.com

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

The New Arts Group meets at Bridport Town Hall for fascinating talks on a wide range of topics. £10 per person to cover costs (no membership fee). Tea/coffee from 1.30pm (£1), talk starts at 2pm. For details of the next meeting contact jenifer.morley@btinternet.com

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

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

Bridport Art Society is a friendly, non-profit group of artists at all levels of experience that aims to encourage interest in and practice of the visual arts. Its annual summer exhibition celebrates members' creativity. www.bridportart.com and on Facebook & Instagram.

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

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

West Bay Harriers Bridport-based off-road running group. One-hour trail on footpaths, etc, Mondays 7pm from in front of The Woodman, South St. Headtorches in winter. No charge. Pete Brown 07762 257212.

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

Bridport Embroiderers meet in St Swithun's Hall on the 3rd Friday, 10am–3.30pm. Programme includes visiting tutors and caters for beginners and those more experienced in machine and hand embroidery. Many other techniques covered. Monthly fee plus materials. Contact Bridget 07952 517764 / bmtrump@icloud.com

Colmer WI meets 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, North St. Visitors welcome for a no-obligation evening. sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk
Bridport & District RNLI holds five or six events (including Seatown BBQ) each year to raise money. Volunteers always needed. Contact Sadie 07811 470127 or Annie 07790 713156.

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

Bridport Lions Club meets 2nd Tuesday each month at 7pm at Haddon House Hotel, West Bay. Also social evenings on some 4th Tuesdays, plus fundraising events in aid of individuals and community groups. Sheila Greenaway 07930 636804 / bridportlionsclub@outlook.com / www.bridportlionsclub.org

Age UK's Forget-Me-Not dementia support group offers support and information to people living with dementia and their caregivers. Entertainment, speakers and refreshments. Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 1.30–3pm. £2.50pp. Phone 01305 269444.

Bridport Community Orchard & Allotment group is open to all for sociable monthly working parties in the two orchards in Bridport. The allotment group meets on Thursdays at 2pm to grow and harvest fruit and veg together. www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk

The Living Tree Cancer Support Group for anyone affected by cancer: patients, families, carers, friends. Counselling, complementary therapies, creative activities and friendship, all free of charge. Drop-in session every Friday 2.15–4pm at the Friends Meeting House, South St, to meet, relax and talk. All welcome. 07341 916976 / mail@thelivingtree.org.uk / www.thelivingtree.org.uk

Walditch Garden Group All welcome to our monthly meeting on the last Thursday each month (not December) at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Seasonal topics, 'plant of the month' and garden discussion with tea and coffee. Contact Jane Mowatt 07810 110461.

Bridport Camera Club meets most Wednesdays September–May, 7–10pm, at Bridport Town Hall. Members follow all kinds of photographic interests on smartphone, digital camera or film. Non-members £5. Come along or visit www.bridportcameraclub.co.uk.

Bridport Youth Club runs sessions in three age groups (7–11, 11–13, 13–17) on Wednesday and Friday evenings in term time. Activities range from art sessions, bike maintenance, crafts and various sports to a music room, recording studio, pool room and tuck shop. £2 a session at BYCC, Gundry Lane, DT6 3RL. bridport.youth@gmail.com / www.bridportyucc.com

Jurassic Amateur Boxing Club trains at BYCC, Gundry Lane, on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5.45–7.30pm and Sundays 9.45–11.30am. Under-18s £3 per session; over-18s £4. Minimum age 9/10. All coaches are England Boxing qualified and first aid trained with enhanced DBS checks. Friendly, inclusive club open to children and adults of both sexes. On TikTok @jurassic.abcon / email jurassicamateurboxingclub@gmail.com
Bridport & District Good Neighbour Scheme provides help for people in the community needing transport to medical appointments who cannot use public transport, do not qualify for the hospital car scheme, have no friends or family to help and cannot afford taxi fares. Donation to cover cost of the journey if possible. Contact 07778 211140.

Beaminster & Bridport Probus Club meets on the 2nd Monday each month at the Red Lion Hotel, Beaminster, 10.30 for 11am for a coffee morning and a talk by a club member on a subject of their choice. Also 4th Monday each month at the Haddon House Hotel, West Bay, 12 for 12.30pm, for lunch plus a talk by a guest speaker. probus.meakins@btinternet.com

Multiple sclerosis (MS) support group for those living with MS, their carers and partners. A chance to talk through your diagnosis, concerns and support, plus gentle exercise and Tai Chi with Françoise from Chi Zone Dorchester. 2nd Wednesday each month, 11am–1.30pm, Viking Village, Seals Cove, Shoe Lane, Bridport DT6 3EX. Contact dorset@mssociety.org.uk

Whist Drive at St Swithun's Hall, 2nd Friday each month. Beginners & improvers 7–7.15pm, experienced players from 7pm. Drive starts 7.30pm. Surplus proceeds will go to the Living Tree charity. Entry £5 to include raffle tickets. Phone 07528 189815 / find Bridport Whist Drive on Facebook.

Friends of Bridport Millennium Green: fundraising to support the open community garden, meadow and hill. Wildlife, birds and all things green foremost. Fundraising talks, other events throughout the year. Contact 423078 or visit bridportmillenniumgreen.co.uk/friends

www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising

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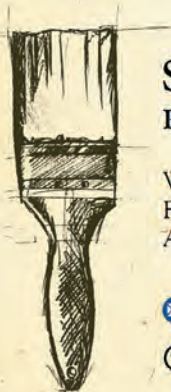
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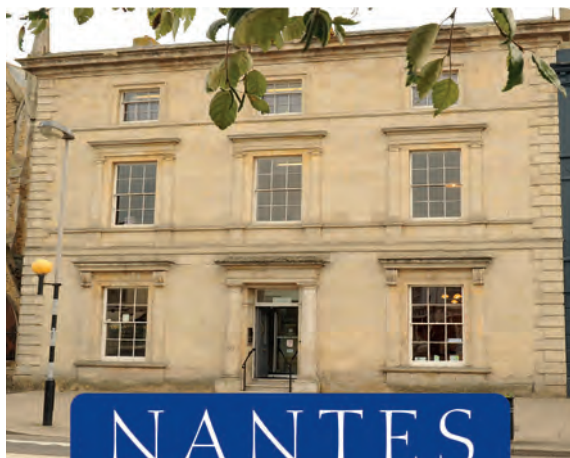
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