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# the **Bridge**

February 2026

A community magazine for Bridport supported by churches in the town

## THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT

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The Revd John Rees Day off Monday  
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Kathrine O'Brien, Virginia Bowley, Helen Thomas.  
*If you cannot get to church and would like home  
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<b>St Mary's Church House Hall</b>	Mish Bartlett
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<b>Walditch Village Hall</b>	Jane Weyman
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<b>Christian Fellowship, King St</b>	Jackie Edwards
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<b>The Christian Fellowship</b>	458227
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**St Mary & St Catherine (Roman Catholic)**

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bridport@pcredtr.org.uk	07544 595633

**Bridport Quaker Meeting**

clerka@bridportquakers.org

Room hire enquiries roomhire@bridportquakers.org

**United Church (Methodist & United Reformed)**

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jane.wilson@methodist.org.uk	
Jane Clinton, secretary	bucchurchsec@gmail.com

*All phone numbers are Bridport (01308) unless otherwise stated.*

**The advertising and copy deadline  
for the March 2026 issue is  
5pm on Monday 9 February**

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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.*

# Reflecting on Bridport town centre's 2025 'health check'



**Every two years, we at Bridport Town Council take a moment to pause and look closely at the health of the town centre – not just the shops and services, but the life that flows through its streets, too.**

Armed with clickers, a small team of volunteers lurk on street corners over four days between July and October to count passersby in key locations around town. We document every shopfront, categorising businesses; sometimes a tricky task when a single store sells everything from tubs of Haribo to surfboards. We send out a shopper's survey and a retailer's questionnaire. The data provides a snapshot of what is working and what needs attention.

The 2025 Health Check offers a picture that is both reassuring and challenging, and it invites us, as a community, to think about the kind of town we want to nurture. By regularly tracking these key indicators, we build a compelling case for securing much-needed funding, which requires clear evidence of local needs; the health check plays a crucial role in planning decisions as it helps us make informed choices about local priorities.

One of the most encouraging findings is stability. The number of shops in the town centre has held firm at 211, and the number of empty premises is unchanged from 2023. Most retail categories have stayed the same, and nine have even grown. Only a handful have declined, though the loss of a high street bank and the continued absence of a greengrocer and fishmonger are felt keenly.

A heartening change is in how people feel about the town. In 2023, more than half of respondents felt Bridport was getting worse; this year, that figure has dropped to 30%. Nearly half of shoppers now rate the town centre as "excellent," and a growing number believe things are improving. Footfall has risen sharply,

up 17.5% from 2023. More people are coming into Bridport, and that is no small thing.

## Persistent challenges

Of course, the survey also highlights familiar concerns. Parking remains expensive and sometimes elusive, pavements are uneven, and public transport is limited. Empty shops and poorly maintained premises affect how the town feels. These issues matter because they shape the everyday experience of residents, visitors and businesses alike.

Most retailers expect trading to remain steady rather than improve, and feel the serious challenges are parking, high rent and costs, seasonal reliance on tourism, and empty shops. While several traders are adapting through online expansion and diversification, others are considering closure or retirement due to mounting pressures. Opportunities lie in better promotion, infrastructure improvements and collaborative support to sustain Bridport's unique independent character.

Bridport's story is part of a much bigger national picture. Across the country, high streets are changing. Traditional retail is no longer the sole anchor of town life, and high streets offer leisure, hospitality, green spaces and public services. Many towns are finding new life by repurposing empty units for cafes, community services and flexible workspaces.

A town centre is more than its buildings. It is the people who walk its streets, run its businesses and gather in its cafes. It is the conversations, the markets, the events, the familiar faces. The Health Check is firmly rooted in local experience and reminds us that Bridport is resilient – but also that it needs attention, imagination and shared commitment.

*Caroline Pearce, Project Manager, BTC*



## FEBRUARY 2026 – 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
<b>Sun 1</b> <i>4th Sun of Epiphany</i>	8am BCP HC	<b>10am Parish Eucharist</b> 4pm CC (hall)				
<i>Mon 2</i>						<b>10am MPR</b>
<i>Tues 3</i>				<b>2.30pm HC</b>		
<i>Wed 4</i>	<b>2.30pm HC</b>					
<i>Thurs 5</i>		<b>10am Eucharist</b>				
<b>Sun 8</b> <i>2nd Sun before Lent</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am MP	9.30am MP	<b>10am MPR</b>	<b>11am HC</b>
<i>Mon 9</i>						<b>10am MPR</b>
<i>Wed 11</i>		<b>2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)</b>				
<i>Thurs 12</i>		<b>10am Eucharist</b> 3.30pm Wild & Messy Church				
<b>Sun 15</b> <i>Sunday before Lent</i>	8am BCP HC 11am All-age MP	9.30am MPR	11am HC	9.30am HC	<b>11am MPR</b>	<b>11am MPR</b>
<i>Mon 16</i>						<b>10am MPR</b>
<b>Wed 18</b> <i>Ash Wed.</i>	<b>6pm HC</b>			<b>10am HC</b>		
<i>Thur 19</i>		<b>10am Eucharist</b>				
<b>Sun 22</b> <i>1st Sun of Lent</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am MP	<b>11am HC</b>	<b>11am HC</b>
<i>Mon 23</i>						<b>10am MPR</b>
<i>Wed 25</i>		<b>2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)</b>				
<i>Thurs 26</i>		<b>10am Eucharist</b>				
<i>Sat 28</i>						<b>4pm Service of Wholeness and Healing</b>

## MARCH 2026

<b>Sun 1</b> <i>1st Sun of Lent</i>	8am BCP HC	4pm CC (hall)	<b>10am Parish Eucharist</b>			
<i>Mon 2</i>						<b>10am MPR</b>
<i>Tues 3</i>				<b>2.30pm HC</b>		
<i>Wed 4</i>	<b>2.30pm HC</b>					
<i>Thurs 5</i>		<b>10am Eucharist</b>				

*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 (Centering Prayer is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays).*

*For more details email carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com*

## Aiming for the highest standards

There's a fascinating documentary on Netflix about The New Yorker magazine, which celebrated its centenary last year.

That respected publication has some of the highest journalistic standards in the world. In a dumbed-down world dominated by sound bites, it remains dedicated to the 'long read' – proper articles full of analysis and insight – and as a left-leaning magazine it pushes back determinedly against the anti-intellectualism of the current administration. Its style guide is famously meticulous, laying down the law for its copy editors on semicolons, the Oxford comma, the which/that convention (the joy!) and so much more. (Try this example of how they hilariously combined updates to their style guidelines with political dissent: [www.tinyurl.com/mu6m437b](http://www.tinyurl.com/mu6m437b).)

Of course I'm not comparing The Bridge to The New Yorker – I can only dream of reaching their lofty heights of elegance and humour – although it doesn't hurt to aspire to something that's out of reach. What struck me about daily life in that Manhattan office was the creative buzz, the constant to and fro of collaboration. I'm jealous! Putting The Bridge together is a solitary task – yes, we have regular contributors in our churches and elsewhere, but nearly all communication is by email and I sit at my computer alone. There's no bouncing around of ideas.

What I'd really love, then, is some feedback from readers. Please let us know what you've enjoyed, what you've disagreed with, and what you'd like to see more of. We want to make The Bridge relevant to as many people as possible: how are we doing? My contact details are at the bottom of page 2.

*Olivia Daly, Editor*



Olivia Daly  
Editor

## Share the love this month

Many people this month will be thinking about LOVE, perhaps sending cards or flowers or sharing a meal with a loved one to celebrate St Valentine's Day on 14 February.

Tradition has it that Valentine was a Christian priest who was martyred for marrying Roman soldiers in contravention of the Emperor's decree that they should remain single, and he became associated with the celebration of love and affection.

Plenty has been written about love, including these words from five- and six-year-olds explaining their understanding of it:

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs."

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you."

And a personal favourite: "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."

Love is an amazing gift, but sometimes it can be hard work in terms of the energy & commitment it takes.

As someone once said, "There will come a time in every relationship when we are called to love not *because of*, but *in spite of*. Love has at its heart not just the *feeling* of love but the *will* to love. Unless we hold on to that, it is impossible for love to last."

Perhaps that's what St Paul meant when he said, "Love is patient and kind, doesn't hold grudges, or insist on its own way." This is often quoted at weddings, but was written with the wider purpose of reminding us that love is what lies at the heart of who God is.

Jesus urged his disciples to love God, love each other, and even love their enemies.

So perhaps this month, we can celebrate love by sharing it with someone else, maybe with a smile, or a thank you, or telling them what we appreciate about them, or forgiving them. Because to quote the children's song, "Love is something if you give it away... you end up having more."

*The Revd Jane Wilson  
Bridport United Church*



The Revd  
Jane Wilson

**On the cover:** This issue's cover image of a historic Bridport house is by Dorset photographer Kevin Borrill and is from an online photo library. We haven't been able to work out exactly where it was taken, though, so if it's your house – or your dog – please let us know!

# Churches Together host Friday lunches in Lent

**Churches Together in Bridport & District are again inviting everyone to come along to various churches in the town for a simple lunch on Fridays during Lent.**

The lunch, which will be available from 12 noon, finishing at 1.30pm, will consist of homemade soup, bread and cheese, in return for a donation to a charity (the specific charity is to be confirmed). No booking is necessary – just turn up.

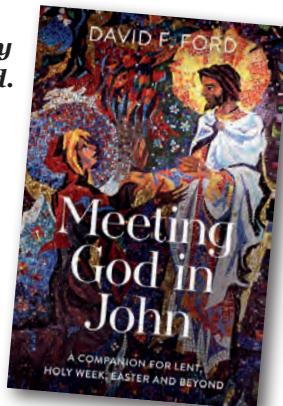
## The venues are:

- 20 February – Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton
- 27 February – St Mary and St Catherine Roman Catholic Church, Victoria Grove
- 6 March – St Mary's Church, South Street
- 13 March – St Mary's Church, Walditch
- 20 March – Bridport United Church
- 27 March – Beacon Church, Priory Lane

## *For this year's Lent study, the Parish of Bridport has chosen David Ford's book*

**Meeting God in John: A Companion for Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Beyond. This introduction to John's Gospel is full of inspiration and encouragement for today's world.**

**Copies are available to order from Good Books via Di Sinclair in the parish office (admin@parishofbridport.org).**



# New seed resource will foster a growing passion

**The brand new Bridport Seed Library will open on 7 February in the lending library on South Street, bringing the first Bridport Seed Week to an exciting conclusion.**



Markus Spiske / Unsplash

The seed library will offer more than 100 varieties of vegetable and flower seeds – absolutely free to everyone. The seeds have been donated and packaged by several local seed savers, and will be available all year whenever the main library is open.

The project's instigator, Steve Meek, explains: "The aim is to encourage more people to grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers, encouraging greater diversity and making locally adapted varieties freely available. This will help strengthen our local food system and our growing community. It's also a source of fun for both adults and children."

The project is run by a group of 10 volunteers, who say they would be delighted if people could learn to save seed and return it to the library, although this is not essential. Advice and help will be available from members throughout the year.

The Bridport Seed Library is a project of West Dorset Commons, which aims to create and support shared and community-owned resources. It opens at 11am on Saturday 7 February, and seed-inspired children's activities are planned for the occasion, too.

For full details of other events during Bridport Seed Week, visit the West Dorset Commons website at [westdorset.news](http://westdorset.news).

# Join in with this year's World Day of Prayer

**Everyone is invited to join the people of Bridport and the surrounding area at this year's World Day of Prayer service.**

Come along to St Mary's Church in South Street, Bridport, on Friday 6 March at 10.30am. Refreshments will be served after the service.

This year's celebration has been written by women in Nigeria and it is a service that reflects on the biblical theme 'I will give you rest'. The women have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their Christian faith and

experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa in the South Pacific and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa.

It truly is a worldwide day of prayer to which you are all welcome.

*Sue Bird, Bridport World Day of Prayer Group*



# Home-Start Wessex among winners at the 2026 Bridport Business Awards

**Home-Start Wessex was one of three winners of the Best Place to Work title at the Bridport Business Awards 2026. The winners were crowned at a special awards ceremony attended by over 60 local business representatives.**

The awards, organised by Marketing West, recognise local businesses that have significantly contributed to the local economy. Other awards included Independent Business (Baboo Gelato and Mercato Italiano), Customer Service (Smith & Smith and Sunny Days Nursery) and Hospitality (Rubicon Kitchen and The Stables Restaurant).

The Best Place to Work Award recognises organisations that have created an outstanding workplace based on values that have fostered a committed, effective and motivated workforce. The other two winners were ASCape, a charity that provides supportive socialisation for children and young people on the autism spectrum, and Head Sheerin' barbers.

Home-Start Wessex offers friendship, practical support and emotional advice to parents in Dorset who have at least one child under five and are in crisis. The charity provides specialist groups and home visits and



**Pictured: Debbie Phillips-White (right) of Home-Start Wessex accepting the Best Place to Work award**

over the last year has helped a record 526 families, transforming 1,716 lives.

Supported families struggle for a wide variety of reasons, including poor mental health, postnatal depression, disability, domestic abuse, bereavement, isolation, financial hardship and multiple births.

Judges commended Home-Start Wessex for the results of its recent internal survey, which showed that staff and volunteers were 100% behind the organisation and its work to help local families in need.

The charity is actively recruiting kind, compassionate volunteers to offer emotional and practical support to parents with young children in Bridport and beyond. If you could spare a few hours a week to help local families through challenging times and make a difference in your community, please contact [office@homestartwessex.org.uk](mailto:office@homestartwessex.org.uk). No experience is needed as full training and ongoing support are provided.

## Bridport Food Matters receives National Lottery grant

**The National Lottery Community Fund has awarded local food group Bridport Food Matters (BFM) an 18-month grant to deliver its latest project, Extending Community Engagement, which focuses on developing a local, sustainable and resilient food system.**

Building on four years of networking and awareness raising, BFM will expand community collaborations, strengthen its online network, and lay the groundwork for a future physical hub.

The funding will enable closer partnerships with local food-related groups including Bridport Youth and Community Centre, Family Hub, Harmony Mental Health, Community Food Stall and Friendly Food Club.



Together they will host more regular events celebrating the growing, cooking and sharing of nutritious, sustainable food.

“Food has always been at the heart of our community life in Bridport,” says BFM founder Candida Dunford Wood. “This funding helps us take that further, creating opportunities

for everyone to get involved, contribute, and feel nourished in every sense of the word.”

Looking ahead, BFM plans to establish the Nourish Cafe, a permanent community space and hub for events, learning and food sharing. The cafe will welcome all members of the community, with a focus on supporting people experiencing food insecurity, while also providing a shared space for other food and climate initiatives.

## Wanted: Parish of Bridport Church Council Secretary

**This is a pivotal role in supporting the organisational functions of a church.**

- Are you a good administrator with sound people skills who can deal with sensitive, confidential information about church and community members?
- Do you have good computer skills?
- Are you skilled at minute taking and can you follow the processes for agendas, minutes and resolutions?
- Do you enjoy having a variety of duties ranging from responding to emails to tracking information and meeting dates?

You will be key to enabling effective and efficient operation of the church to meet its legal requirements. You need not be a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

If this voluntary post has caught your interest, please contact the Revd Cally Burch ([cally@parishofbridport.org](mailto:cally@parishofbridport.org)) for more information and an application form.

### West Dorset Beekeepers' Association

Our beginners' course for 2026 will run from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March on consecutive Tuesdays in Bridport. If you are interested please email [secwestdorsetbees@gmail.com](mailto:secwestdorsetbees@gmail.com) or ring 01308 456210 for more information.



### Saturday @ St Swithun's GRAND PIANO

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## The Bridge needs more help!

**Thank you so much to the volunteers who have come forward to take on the jobs of coordinating deliveries of The Bridge in West Bay and delivering copies in West Allington. Welcome to the team!**

We are still looking for someone to deliver along West Bay Road (you would collect your copies from St John's in West Bay – this round could be divided between two or more people), Wych Hill (collect from Bothenhampton Church) and Orchard Avenue (collect from St Swithun's). There are 10 issues a year and the 2026 dates are available on request.

If you can help, please contact the editor:  
[editor@thebridgemagazine.org](mailto:editor@thebridgemagazine.org) / 07710 805029.

### Donate to our work

If you enjoy reading the magazine, and would like to make a donation towards our expenses, the easiest way to do so is online via the Charities Aid Foundation at [cafdonate.cafonline.org/14198](http://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14198). This method allows you to apply Gift Aid automatically if you are eligible. If you need to pay by another method, please contact the editor as above.

**The Bridport Stage Company's November performances of Oliver: With a Twist raised more than £2,000 for Samaritans, thanks to generous audiences and match funding from Fuller's, who own The Bull. The group's next production is Juliet (and her Romeo); see their entry on p24 for details of how to get involved.**



### Bridport Food Bank

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# Homes for Heroes: the development of Bridport's own 'garden suburb'

**At the end of World War 1 there was a severe housing shortage.**

Prime Minister David Lloyd George launched the Homes for Heroes initiative to construct inexpensive council homes for returning service members, prompting Bridport Town Council (BTC) to launch a house-building programme financed by the 1919 Housing Act subsidies.

BTC bought land that had been part of Skilling Farm, on the slopes of Skilling Hill – which at the time was outside the council's boundaries – and proposed building 60 to 70 houses on the site, although the government would require 278 from BTC overall.

The council commissioned architect Barry Parker, who was best known for his collaboration with Raymond Unwin (his half-cousin) and their significant contributions to the Garden City projects of the early 20th century including Letchworth and Hampstead. The main idea behind this movement was to enable the occupiers of these houses to



**An early aerial view of the Skilling 'Homes for Heroes' development**

lead more fulfilling lives, in turn improving society itself. They followed two main principles in house design: first, that houses for all classes must be designed for quality; and second, they must encourage healthy lives.

When Parker and Unwin dissolved their partnership in 1914, Parker began working on town

planning projects. He insisted on complete control over the planning, design and building of this 'garden suburb' in Bridport. In order to allow residents to walk to the mills where they worked, he decided to limit the size of the community. He took great pleasure in creating homes with spacious gardens, allowing families to grow their own food and providing space for the children to play.

The houses at the northern end of Alexandra Road were the first to be built (1920–23), with houses in Queens Road next (1923–27). Unfortunately, because of delays, promised funds were not forthcoming, and the Housing Subsidy Act expired before all of the dwellings could be completed. The Ministry of Health refused to pay →



**Left: Builders working on new homes in the 1920s**

# Homes for Heroes: Bridport's 'garden suburb' continued

towards a gas main and to permit use of septic tanks for drainage.

When the first occupants moved in in 1923, the homes lacked heating, cooking facilities and hot water. A few private residences had been built along Coronation Road by the middle of the 1930s. Many interlocking estates and the addition of semi-detached, detached and flats between the 1950s and 1990s expanded the development.

Marilyn Sealy, who now lives in West Bay, recounts her time living in one of the properties in Alexandra Road. "We were lucky to have a three-bedroom house," she says. "I remember my mum and brother-in-law planting a hedge on the property – a hedge which is still there today. We all had to help cut it with shears. There were fields nearby with cattle and where the shop is now was once an abattoir. It was a lovely place to live, everyone knew each other."



Land at Skilling Hill in the early 1900s, before development

Skilling's role in the development of Homes for Heroes, and its connection to Barry Parker – one of the most well-known Arts and Crafts architects of the early 20th century – is significant. It also serves as an example of how the

'garden suburb' concept continued well into the 20th century.

*Article by Amy Stephenson, Ward Clerk, West & Allington Ward.  
Photos courtesy of Bridport Museum Trust.*

## Charlie Quirke treks in support of Broadchurch star mum

**Everyone was saddened by the news a few years ago that the actress and national treasure Pauline Quirke had been diagnosed with dementia, writes David Brazier.**

After appearing in Broadchurch – written by Chris Chibnall, who still lives in Bridport – Pauline settled in West Bay for a few years with her husband, Steve. She loved it and thought Dorset a magical place.

I knew Pauline years ago as I taught her son Charlie at Davenies Prep School in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. I was his form teacher and English teacher, and he appeared in my play Rhyme and Reason, based on Norton Juster's novel The Phantom Tollbooth.

Charlie was a lively, fun student with a big heart, so I wasn't surprised to see him on TV recently supporting his mum with a walk to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK.

There was never any 'side' to Pauline; she was friendly and straightforward. Occasionally I would meet her in Waitrose doing the shopping and she would always stop for a chat. I recall one occasion when she was starring in Emmerdale and I asked her as a joke whether Amos Bearly was still in the Woolpack. "Bloody hell, David," she replied, "he left years ago!" And we both fell about laughing.



Charlie Quirke

We kept in touch over the years and Pauline and Charlie both came over to be judges at our school talent show when I was headmaster at St James Senior Boys' School in Ashford, Surrey. Pauline could hardly believe it on the second occasion when

her fellow judge was legendary singer and rock god Robert Plant (whose grandson I also taught), lead singer of Led Zeppelin.

Charlie has completed his walk and raised almost £244,000 plus Gift Aid – a fantastic achievement. Donations are still very welcome and you can donate online at [trek.charliestrek.org](http://trek.charliestrek.org).

## ST MARY'S Bridport

**Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967**  
**Director of music – Tim Linsley**  
**07830 308701**  
**Tower captain – Bob Hardwick**  
**07977 988263**

### Impactful Christmas

As the dark, cold days of February grip us, it is a good time to look back to those action-packed days of December. Here at St Mary's we welcomed well over 1,000 people to the church during the month – people of many different ages, nationalities and languages entering this 800-year-old building for many different reasons. The small core of 20 to 30 regular worshippers came as they have throughout the year to meet together, to sing, to pray, to worship and to remember that first Christmas when God's son came to be born in the poverty of a stable in Bethlehem. Others came because that is what they do at Christmas – sing the well-known carols and be touched afresh by the enormity and yet simplicity of Emmanuel, God with us. Others came because it was raining and the open door and quiet space gave them an opportunity for peace and prayer in a busy month.

This year children from the local primary schools came to engage in the Christmas Experience – a retelling and reliving of the Christmas story through engaging in different 'stations', starting in their schools, then walking to Bethlehem recreated in St Mary's. Their journey finished with them writing on paper angels the message: "To..... Peace be with you this Christmas. From.....". The children then either took the angels home to hang on their Christmas tree, or put them on the St Mary's tree to join stars that had been made in memory of loved ones by members of Lifeline, the parish bereavement group.

The two concerts held in December drew large audiences. The Ridgeway Singers and Band entertained us with their mix of Dorset tales, poems and songs with plenty of Thomas Hardy added in. This was appropriate

**Pictured:** the Christmas tree at St Mary's was decorated with paper angels and stars made by local people



for St Mary's, as Thomas Hardy – then an apprentice architect from Dorchester – was involved in the reordering of the church in the 1860s.

In contrast, chamber choir Cantamus filled the church with exquisite choral singing from across the ages. How good it was to see this town-centre historic space filled with music to lift the soul!

The visitors' book chronicles the range of people who drop into the church during the week, some seeking long-lost relatives, some remembering an earlier age when they sang in the choir or attended Sunday School, and others welcoming the space for quiet meditation and prayer.

Now that February is here, the illuminated crib – which was clearly visible from the path outside and drew people in – has been packed away for another year and the Christmas tree (*pictured above*) with its many homemade stars and angels has gone. However, the good news of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, is as fresh and true as in those busy December days. So, if you are passing St Mary's, do call in. You will be most welcome.

*Peter Wright*

*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](mailto:enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk)**

### Bridport market

Bridport is home to one of the best markets in the UK. The bustling market takes place on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the year with up to 100 stalls along East Street, South Street and West Street. There's a variety of producers and sellers to suit all shoppers.

It was Queen Elizabeth I that gave Bridport a new →

## BTC Central Ward continued...

charter in the 16th century and allowed the town to hold twice-weekly markets as well as three annual fairs. The market is now renowned.

If you would like to have a stall on the market and have not applied before, you will need to complete an application form. There's more information on the town council's website ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk)) or you can pop into the Tourist Information Centre where staff will be able to help you.

Bridport's long, wide pavements, which are perfect for hosting the market stalls, used to be a drying place for ropes. In the early 13th century, Bridport (originally known as Bridian) was already famous for its rope making. The land was perfect for growing hemp and flax, so rope making was a natural progression. Rope makers worked day and night to produce the rope needed for King John's navy in 1213, and later Henry VIII valued the rope so much that he ordered all hemp grown within five miles of the town to be reserved for making rope for his navy. Hemp growing in Bridport eventually died out in the 19th century as there were cheaper imports on offer.

*Amy Stephenson*



Bridport market

Eddy Pearce

### Ward news and meetings

To keep up to date with news from Bridport Central Ward, please look at the town council website ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bridport-central-ward](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bridport-central-ward)), which shows past meeting minutes and details of future meetings. These meetings are generally held in the WI Hall during the day and are open to all ward residents.

If you are a Central Ward resident and you want to get in touch with the council about something in the ward, please contact Sally Freemantle, Town Clerk, using the details on the previous page.

## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

### From the parish editor

February is soon upon us after the Christmas and New Year celebrations. Bothenhampton looked very festive with cheerful lights adorning houses and gardens, and the Christmas tree (*pictured*) in Holy Trinity was truly magnificent. Thank you to David Weston for organising transport of the tree, and to everyone who responded to Graham Purse's plea to help put it up and decorate it. Holy Trinity likes to support the Children's Society at Christmas time and the church was pleased to be able to send a donation of £400, with grateful thanks to all those who contributed to the collections at the Brownies' carol service, the Taizé Prayer in Advent and the service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

If you want to cheer up a winter weekend, come to



Mary Kay Cresswell

**Pictured: Holy Trinity looked wonderful in December, with the magnificent Christmas tree and Advent candle**

the coffee morning in Holy Trinity on Saturday 7 February from 10am to 12 noon. These popular events are held every month for people to get together over a cup of tea or coffee, visit the bookstall and raffle table, and buy a delicious homemade cake. The money raised

is a great help towards meeting the running costs of our village church.

Ash Wednesday is on 18 February and marks the beginning of Lent. Study groups will be held in various venues in the parish and will run throughout March.

This Is My Theatre is returning to Bothenhampton on Friday 13 March with its production of Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë. This young, vibrant theatre company has delighted audiences in Holy Trinity on three previous occasions, and we look forward to welcoming

them again. Details will follow in The Bridge next month, but you may wish to visit [thisismytheatre.com](http://thisismytheatre.com) in the meantime.

*Barbara Fooks*

## FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 28 February – title to be confirmed

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5 • Refreshments available

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

### Foods for thought this Lent

This year the liturgical period of Lent lasts from 18 February (Ash Wednesday) to 2 April (Maundy Thursday). Worldwide, many Christians use this 40-day period for spiritual study, reading Lent-themed publications and/or fasting, and in the UK many people eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, even if they don't know the connection between this tradition and the church calendar. So what Lenten delicacies do Christians around the world eat?

Capirotada (*pictured*), which is similar to a bread pudding, is a treat served in Mexico on Fridays during Lent. Though recipes vary from one family to the next, the traditional sweet and savory ingredients carry rich religious symbolism linked to Jesus' crucifixion. The bread represents the body of Christ, while piloncillo syrup, made from cane sugar, symbolises the blood of Christ, whole cloves represent the nails of the crucifixion, cinnamon sticks symbolise the wooden cross, and the melted cheese coating the pudding represents the shroud used for Jesus' burial.

In Ecuador, fanesca, a soup eaten during Lent and Holy Week, is made with cod and 12 kinds of beans and legumes to represent Christ and the 12 apostles at the Last Supper.



Capirotada

Alejandro Jugo / CC

## The尔ma's hymn notes

### Forty Days and Forty Nights

I have chosen this Lenten hymn because at Loders Village Primary School, where I was once a pupil, every Ash Wednesday the whole school would walk to St Mary Magdalene Church in the village for a Lent service, at which this hymn would be sung.

The hymn was written in 1856 by the Revd George Hunt Smyttan (1822–70). He was the son of an eminent Edinburgh surgeon, who helped run the medical missionary society in India.

After graduating from Cambridge in 1845, George was ordained priest and eventually became Rector of Hawksworth, Nottinghamshire, in 1850. He wrote other hymns such as *Jesu, Ever Present With Thy Church Below*, and poetry, some of which was published, including *Mission Songs and Ballads*. Sadly he died at a relatively young age in Frankfurt, Germany, while travelling alone.

The hymn promotes a message of steadfastness through obedience, spiritual growth during prayerfulness, and perseverance in one's faithfulness as a Christian despite life's trials.

The well-known German tune is by Martin Herbst (1654–81) and its name means 'out of the deep'.

*Thelma Pulman*

*Organist at St Mary's Walditch*



The Maltese kwareżimal – whose name comes from the Latin 'Quadragesima', meaning 'the 40 days of Lent' – are sweet cakes made with almond paste, honey and orange rind. This sweet treat is also given to children who want to embark on a day-long, 14-church pilgrimage to remember Jesus' 14 Stations of the Cross.

Zenkoul is a Lebanese dish of balls made from bulgur wheat or pumpkin with chickpeas, rice, garlic, onion ➔

## ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

and pomegranate molasses, and is enjoyed during Lent and on Good Friday. Some families add vinegar to their recipe instead of lemon juice to remind them of when Jesus told the Roman soldiers "I thirst" (John 19:28) before dying on the cross and fulfilling the prophecy "for my thirst they gave me vinegar." (Psalm 69:22)

German pretzels – bread twists (*pictured*) simply made with salt, yeast, flour and water – are believed

to have been invented specifically as a Lenten food by an Italian monk in the early Middle Ages. Designed to help Christians to live the penitential season with prayer and simplicity, the treat's shape resembles hands in prayer, forming three holes representing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*James Craddock*



## Bridport Town Council BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH WARD

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

### Your ward clerk writes...

At our last ward meeting in November, we had an update on the 20mph application for Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward that was submitted to Dorset Council (DC) in August 2025. DC confirmed that all applications submitted during 2025 will be presented to the internal 20mph panel in February 2026. The panel's role is to authorise progression to Stage 2, a formal public consultation. In November there were 19 similar applications across the DC area, so given the high volume of applications the panel may recommend a staggered approach to Stage 2 consultations to ensure the process remains manageable. We will provide further updates as we know more.

Work to clear vegetation and make repairs to the Hollow Way high pavement was well under way during January, and was scheduled to be completed by the end of that month. The pavement has been closed for over a year, so residents will be pleased to have it reopened. Despite the necessary closure of the Hollow Way road during the works, thanks go to the DC team for allowing the road to be reopened each weekday between 4pm and 8am and at the weekends.

Continuing the road theme, we enjoyed a bright, dry and cold festive period followed by hard winter frosts, before Storm Goretti brought strong winds and heavy rain, and these alternating weather conditions are having quite an impact on our road infrastructure. As a reminder, if you spot any issues on our roads such as drainage and flooding, potholes, hedge, tree and verge problems, please use the reporting portal on



**Pictured: Work on the Hollow Way pavement progressed well during January**

the Dorset Council website: [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement). You will need to provide the location and description of the issue and, if possible, photographs to help with investigation. Reports submitted to the portal can be made anonymously if you prefer.

Our next ward meeting is on Thursday 12 February at Walditch Village Hall from 11am to 12 noon – all welcome. If you cannot make the meeting but want to raise an issue, do get in touch. You can email me at [bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk).

Do also keep an eye on our ward Facebook page and the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward page on the town council website ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bothenhampton-walditch-ward](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bothenhampton-walditch-ward)) for all the latest news and updates.

*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)

### Church Christmas Fair

The fundraising fair in November beat the elements! Despite the wind and rain, all the hard and generous work of so many, together with all the friends and families who came along, made the event a great success. Father Christmas was there and people bought crafts and produce, sang carols and had fun. The event raised more than £800 to help with church maintenance and utility bills. Thank you to all who contributed in any way.

### Church giving

At the Christingle service in December, a special collection raised nearly £100 for the Give Hope work of the Children's Society, a national charity that works to transform the hopes and happiness of young people. From providing specialist mental health support for children in crisis, to teaching young people how to stay safe online, the society tackles their most serious life challenges.

Meanwhile, £504 was raised at the carol and Christmas Eve services for Christian Aid's Christmas appeal for the desperate plight of displaced people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The country now has more displaced people than anywhere else in the world, and the nations bordering it (except Rwanda) hold another 100,000 DRC refugees between them.



### Village Lunch Club

The club will be having lunch at Long's Fish Restaurant in King Street on Tuesday 10 February at 12.30pm. Numbers may be restricted so please contact Thelma Pulman (458533) for details if you have not already booked. All welcome.



Pictured: Nicola Herbert and her grandchildren met Father Christmas and his elfin helper at Holy Trinity's Christmas Fair in November

### Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Tuesday 17 February. The Knitting Group will meet on Thursdays 5 and 19 February. 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. There are toys to play with and lots of space (*pictured*). Refreshments are served. There is no charge.



### Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The main hall 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](http://www.hallbookingonline.com/bradpole), where you'll also find more information and photos of the facilities.

### Bradpole Buzz Group

The group will meet on Wednesday 11 and Saturday 21 February.



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](mailto:bradpolebuzz@gmail.com).

## Bridport Town Council

### BRADPOLE WARD

**Ward clerk – Sandy Goldsmith**

**07944 523084**

**[bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk)**

#### The ward clerk writes...

December 2025 saw our new flood warden for Bradpole in action – and his swift actions and the quick response from Dorset Council Highways prevented properties in Lee Lane from flooding.

The new year has started with very wet and windy weather, which has led to localised flooding. As always, I ask that you all please keep an eye on gullies and drains in your area and report any blockages to Dorset Council using the online portal at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement) or the 24-hour number, 01305 221020.

You can also use this portal to report flooding in your area, or call the Environment Agency's Floodline on 03459 881188. If you would like to receive flood warnings for the your area, you can register online at [www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings).

The 20mph applications for Bradpole village and Jessopp Avenue have been submitted to Dorset



**Happy Island in the winter sunshine**

Council. This is just the start of a lengthy process and there are no guarantees that the applications will be successful. I will keep you all updated as and when I receive further information.

Your ward councillors were busy in December working with residents to address issues including antisocial behaviour, parking and overhanging trees on land not owned by the town council adjacent to properties on the King Charles estate.

The January ward meeting was cancelled and will now be held on Monday 16 February at 7.15pm in Bradpole Village Hall.

To get in touch about anything in the ward, please email me at [bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk).  
*Sandy Goldsmith*

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

**Parish editor – please contact the magazine's editor (details on p2)**

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**[payne.kevin6@gmail.com](mailto:payne.kevin6@gmail.com)**

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**07969 826430**

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

#### Images of 'Georgian gem' St Swithun's

St Swithun's is one of Bridport's most distinctive buildings. Set just north of the east/west orientation of the town, it rather "hides its light under a bushel," to quote from the Sermon on the Mount.

Plans for this Georgian building of note began when the congregation of the early 1800s decided to relocate their worship closer to town. The new church was designed by Charles Wallis and completed in 1827, and

as Sir Nikolaus Pevsner writes in *Buildings of England*, it is a "Georgian gem" noted for its "delightful front".

Fast forward to the 2020s, and after the present congregation realised that the building badly needed a fundamental refurbishment, it has been through a very thorough external makeover, with improvements and repairs that have made it ready for its 200th anniversary in 2027.

When we first invited the general public to come in and give their views at an open day in 2022, we started to attract some artistic interest. We were lucky enough to receive two images from local artist Brian Smith. The one reproduced here (*opposite page, top left*) is a very striking representation using digital art techniques.

Brian says: "The St Swithun's depiction was a digitally produced image using my iPad and pen. I had a little fun experimenting with a new art program! The colours were supposed to represent the light and vibrancy of the church and its people."

More recently, local illustrator Terry Whitworth made a wonderful colour print of St Swithun's (*above right*) following its external renovation. Terry often

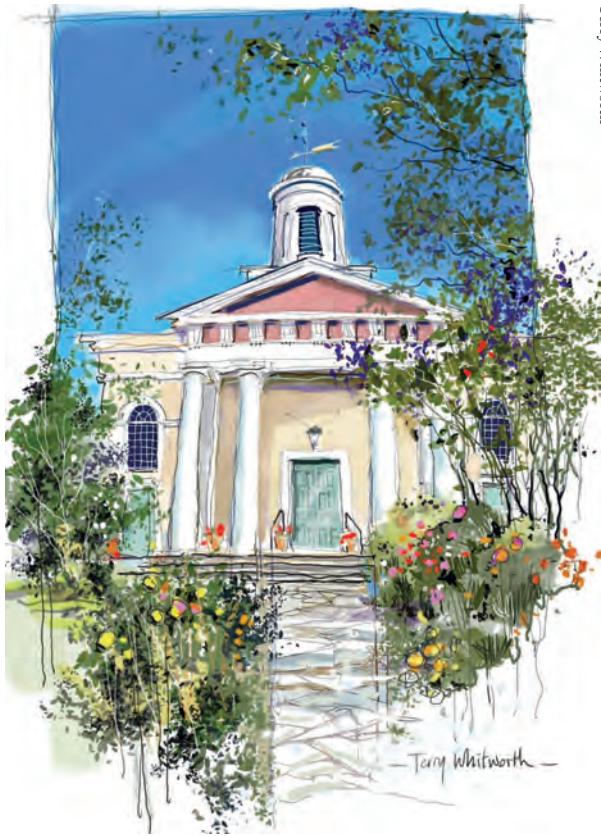


Brian Smith

Pictured: prints of these three depictions of St Swithun's Church are available to buy



Nigel Green



Terry Whitworth

sketches local buildings and frequently writes down his musings to accompany the artwork. Here is an excerpt from the piece he wrote as he sketched St Swithun's:

"Not so long ago, I headed out towards North Allington. Through a heavy, squeaky wrought-iron gate and up a well-trodden, narrow pathway, overhung with flowering shrubs – and there it was! A beautiful neo-Greek-styled church, circular bell tower, four sturdy columns, all painted white with pastel pink and ochre elevations. With deep azure sky above and a soaring temperature... was I still in Bridport or had I been somehow transposed to some remote hilltop chapel on a small Greek island? I chose the Greek option... and settled down for some serious scribbling!"

"After about an hour, the relentless sun told me it was time to leave. Maybe stop off at a small hillside taverna... just a few steps back down the crazy-paved

path and out through the same heavy, squeaky wrought-iron gate and I realised that the taverna was just a fantasy too far!"

Rounding off the recent refurbishment, the final task on the church exterior was to light its cupola and gild its weathervane. These works were a wonderful way to 'top off' the extensive restoration of the exterior. This wonderful photo (*above left*) was taken by Nigel Green just after the mayor of Bridport had formally switched on the lights to the sound of a triumphant trumpeter!

If you haven't been along to view the newly refurbished building, do go and take a look. Any time is good but, after sunset is particularly atmospheric.

All three images are available to buy on high grade paper. Please email [msturrock@pancathay.com](mailto:msturrock@pancathay.com), putting 'St Swithun's image' in the subject line.

*Mandi Sturrock*

## Bridport Town Council WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

Ward clerk – Amy Stephenson  
[bridportwest.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bridportwest.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk)

### The ward clerk writes...

As we are all well aware, St Swithun's Road in Bridport is rather riddled with potholes and problems. After receiving various reports of a particularly bad pothole, as well as a large undulation in the road near the junction of Armstrong Road, I had various conversations with Dorset Council Highways about



**CELEBRATE 2026**

Community events and activities in celebration of...

15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Allington Hillbillies

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Woodland Trust purchase of Allington Hill

## BTC West & Allington Ward continued...

this area. They were able to confirm that the two mentioned items are being monitored (the pothole has since been filled). This is ongoing. St Swithin's Road had been marked for potential re-surfacing in 2025 but because of other works going on in the road this date was not achievable. Dorset Council hopes to resurface this road in 2026. We await information about a date for these works and will publicise once known.

The Allington Hillbillies continue to prep for their 'Celebrate 2026' Country Fair event on Allington Hill in May. Before Christmas they raised funds through a raffle, which included amazing prizes such as a short break at Seymour Farm, a paragliding tandem flight, various hampers and many more. This brought in more than £1,180 to help fund the upcoming celebrations.

Further to the information in the last Bridge magazine about the event, I'd like to add that you can see their progress and get more up-to-date news by following their Facebook page, 'Celebrate 2026 Allington Hill'.

Our next public engagement session will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 February at Cherry Tree Communal Room. If you live in the ward and have a query, question or concern, then please do pop along and you will have the opportunity to chat with your ward councillors in a relaxed, friendly setting. Don't forget you can keep up to date with ward news on our Facebook page, 'Bridport West & Allington Ward Matters'. All notes from our meetings are displayed on our noticeboards, the ward page on the town council website ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bridport-west-allington-ward](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bridport-west-allington-ward)) and our Facebook page.

*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 11am at St John's (*see services, page 4*) as well as Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am, and a monthly Service of Wholeness

and Healing on the fourth Saturday of every month, currently at the winter time of 4pm.

The lighting of the Christmas tree brought a large crowd (*pictured left*) who sang carols and enjoyed mulled wine and

mince pies courtesy of The George. This followed a service in St John's where £30,000 was distributed to a number of local charities. This money was raised through West Bay Days' various events throughout 2025 – well done to them.

### West Bay WI

The regular Knit & Natter session is on Wednesday 4 February, 10am–12 noon. At the meeting on Wednesday 11 February, 2.30–4.30pm, Maggie Hooper will speak about her life as a primary school teacher.

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

How many of you look up to the sky and marvel at how it continually changes? In early December we were treated to a very unusual 'anvil' cloud formation (*cumulonimbus incus*). The rising red sky formed the backdrop for large, flat anvil-shaped clouds; this usually means severe weather and is most commonly found





Pictured: one of the gigs out for a row in early January; a rockfall on the Promenade brought down some large boulders

in the Amazon, South East Asia and the Congo Basin, so it was indeed a rare treat for us. That night also saw the 'cold' moon – so called because it signifies winter's arrival – and the 'supermoon' because its orbit brings it close to Earth, making it brighter than usual.

There have been another two rockfalls recently. The one in the photo (*above right*) is at the end of the promenade and produced some rather large boulders. The one on East Beach came in the afternoon when people were walking along the beach – some had lucky escapes as the tide was quite high at the time.

The Boxing Day swim was cancelled out of respect for the two swimmers who sadly lost their lives on Christmas Day at Budleigh Salterton. The difference in the sea between the two days was remarkable: rough on Christmas Day, calm on Boxing Day. We can only marvel at our world with its constantly changing seas,

climates and sky... maybe we just don't appreciate it all.

Despite the cold, the swimmers have been taking the plunge, and have been making use of the sauna to warm up. Also spotted at the beginning of January on a cold, calm, sunny, cloud-free day were two of the gigs out practising (*one is pictured left*). They definitely would have needed something to warm them up!

The tea shop by the car park has changed hands and undergone a revamp; the owners hope to open again in February. It's always popular with those arriving by coach. The Cornish Bakery also does really well over the Christmas period and has kept its summer opening times for those hardy souls out first thing.

Today as you walk round the harbour there are kiosks and the harbourmaster's building on the Mound, but do you know what was there previously? In 1901 the Pavilion was built on a raised area near the harbour's West Pier, part of the development of West Bay as a tourist destination. It provided refreshments for the holiday trade but there was a constant battle with the sea, land slippage and destructive gales all taking their toll. It was demolished in 1942 and then work started on what today is known as the Mound.

*Sue Pollock*

## Bridport Town Council WEST BAY WARD

**Ward clerk – Amy Stephenson**  
**[enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk)**

### The ward clerk writes...

Dorset Police hope to have a pop-up community contact point at West Bay in the future. We will publicise details of this on our Facebook page once we have them.

Dorset Council is dealing with a large backlog of 20mph applications from around the county, and it plans to submit these (including the application for West Bay) to an internal panel in February 2026 for

consideration. There will then be a public consultation further down the line.

The West Bay/Bridport weekend shuttle bus service currently has funding to continue running until Easter. Funding after this point is being considered, and grants and other funding streams are being investigated. It costs £600 per weekend to run this service. Unfortunately, bus services will never cover their own costs, hence the need for alternative funding sources.

Paul Wyatt and other volunteers have been continuing their beach cleans, for which we are very grateful. It is amazing to be blessed with such fabulous locals who care so much for their environment.

A reminder that West Bay Discovery Centre will be open over half term (14–22 February) every day from 11am to 4pm. Then from 28 February to 15 March it →

## BTC West Bay Ward continued...

will be open on Saturdays and Sundays only from 11am to 4pm. From 17 March to 1 November it will be open Tuesday to Sunday from 11am to 4pm. The centre offers a treasure trove of information about West Bay in a beautifully restored Methodist chapel on the beach. Their award-winning visitor centre has something to interest all ages and the interactive activities are particularly popular with families. It's a fun way to learn about the Jurassic Coast, forces of nature, shipbuilding, tourism, local industry, trails and walks and information about the filming of Broadchurch. There's a range of visitor information and a small gift shop whose range includes quality local products. Admission is free but donations are welcome.

The next ward meeting is on Wednesday 11 March at 6.30pm at The Salt House. All ward residents are welcome to attend. This is a relaxed and friendly environment for you to raise items of concern in the ward to your councillors.

Thank you to James Pitcher for the lovely photo.  
Amy Stephenson

James Pitcher



## Bridport UNITED CHURCH

**Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson  
01308 341159**  
**Church secretary – Jane Clinton  
[bucchurchsec@gmail.com](mailto:bucchurchsec@gmail.com)**  
**Church bookings – Sue Herman  
422598**  
**[bucoffice1@gmail.com](mailto:bucoffice1@gmail.com)**

### Hope and promise for the new year

*Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? (Isaiah 43:19  
The Message Translation)*

At the start of a new year, acutely aware of new starts, resolutions and hopes, I was speaking with someone who, looking back at all the world and national events



of 2025, rather depressingly suggested there wasn't much to look forward to in 2026. Initially I was left in a sort of silent agreement – and to be honest the first weeks of January haven't exactly been encouraging.

But then I thought to look back over my own personal year, and I surprised myself with how many positive things I had experienced. From short trips to longer trans-continental journeys, wonderful art exhibitions, exciting choral events, lovely local walks, and beautiful interactions with lovely folk in churches and around the town. Oh, and then I found that, although I had always professed having zero artistic ability, I could actually prepare and oversee children in Messy Church to produce really quite presentable craft work!

At a recent Soul Space service (a monthly informal cafe-style afternoon service) we all worked together in one activity, producing stunning paper stars. Who knew that worship could be so creative and such fun?

This reminded me that when this prophecy in Isaiah was written, its positive message was to people still in exile, several generations after their nation had been conquered and its capital destroyed. Amid all that, it proclaimed a message of hope and promise.

I wonder if it is too easy to look at the negative elements of life and concentrate on problems rather than looking for solutions. Some elements of the media seem obsessed with catastrophising, so negativity is not surprising if we follow their lead.

Is it too much to suggest that we take a gentle breath and remember that there are positives in there too? Climate change is indeed a massive challenge – but, slow though our responses have been, there are positive developments in renewable energy and greater awareness of the cost of our western lifestyles. Looking back at services I have led in the past, I see that some places I was praying for then are now in relative peace. So maybe, just maybe, if we keep on praying for the current trouble spots, the situations there will settle too.

We can but hope so, not to mention being encouraged to remember the positives in our lives – those little bright spots that surprise us, make us smile and bring joy into our lives. Can we see the brand new 'something' that is bursting out and waiting to be seen?  
*The Revd Peter Clark*

#### February services at Bridport United Church:

<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship with Holy Communion</b> <b>The Revd S Jenner</b>
	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Soul Space</b>
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> <b>R Lownsborough</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> <b>The Revd Jane Wilson</b>

<b>Wed 18</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Ashing service with Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Revd Jane Wilson</b>
	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> <b>A Boyden</b> <b>Taizé service</b> <b>The Revd Jane Wilson</b>

#### Regular events

Mondays	9.30–11am	Little Lambs toddlers group (term time only)
Wednesdays	9.30–10am	Prayer meeting in church
	10am–noon	Coffee morning in the hall
	12.30pm	Lunch Club (4th only)
		Please book on 422598
Thursdays	2.30–4pm	Friendship Club (3rd only)
	3.30–5.30pm	Messy Church (4th only)
Saturdays	10am–noon	Coffee morning in the hall
	9–11.30am	Big Breakfast in the hall (1st only)

For more details of our services and other events, please visit our website [www.buc.cool](http://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](mailto:bucoffice1@gmail.com).

## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

**Parish priest – Fr Colin Groombridge**  
**[colin.groombridge@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:colin.groombridge@prcdtr.org.uk)**  
**Secretary – Faith Leborgne**  
**[bridport@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:bridport@prcdtr.org.uk)**  
**Phone 07544 595633**



#### The hand of greed

Recently, after our weekday Mass in Beaminster, I was discussing with one of our regular parishioners the meaning of Matthew 19:24 – "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." He remembered reading an article about John Densmore, who is best known as the drummer with the rock band The Doors. According to Densmore, at the height of the band's fame, he found himself addicted to money. He remembers a time when he had a little sports car and thinking: just a little more and I'll be happy! That

feeling of wanting more and more was getting to him.

In the 1980s he began to tithe 10% of his income to environment organisations such as Rainforest Action Network and other organisations. Recalling Oliver Stone's 1991 film about The Doors, which paid the band handsomely for the use of their music, Densmore said: "I looked down at my hand signing those tithing cheques and it was shaking. It was the hand of greed, right there in me!"

We might like to reflect this week on whether we to are addicted to money. Is it an instrument for good in our lives or do we find ourselves making decisions based on our desire for material things? Do we recognise ourselves in the rich young man (Mark 10) who, when challenged by Jesus, sadly walks away?  
*Deacon Mark Brown*

**Sunday Mass is at 10am** at the Roman Catholic church in Victoria Grove and is streamed online at [www.bridportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.bridportcatholics.org.uk) and on the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page.

For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, as well as special services during Advent and Christmas, see the weekly newsletter on the website or look for updates on Facebook.

## 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)

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

If you'd like to volunteer at the Community Kitchen, please email us as above. Or you can help financially: a monthly donation is particularly useful as it helps us to budget, but we hugely appreciate any donations, no matter how small. Our bank details are as follows: Sort code: 08-92-99 / account number: 65773479 Reference: Kitchen

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

Wherever you are at with your own faith, you are always welcome to come and join us. We pray you can find a home from home with us at Beacon.

## 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 every Sunday at 10.30am for worship and Bible teaching, and at other times during the week.

We seek to bless the community of Bridport with the Good News of Jesus; you would be most welcome to join us on Sundays or at any of our other meetings during the week.

Our normal weekly meetings are as follows but can change during festivals such as Christmas and Easter – please see our website for more information.

***Churches Together in Bridport & District is an ecumenical organisation that works to connect and unite local churches. For details of their fundraising lunches during Lent, turn to page 6.***

## BRIDPORT COMMUNITY KITCHEN



OPEN WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY  
10.30AM-2PM

HOT MEALS & REFRESHMENTS

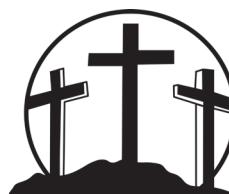
SHOWER AND CLOTHES WASHING  
FACILITIES

BEACON CHURCH PRIORY LANE DT6 3RW



[BRIDPORTCOMMUNITYKITCHEN.ORG.UK/](http://BRIDPORTCOMMUNITYKITCHEN.ORG.UK/)

FOOD HYGIENE RATING



## BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Mondays:** Meals outreach project for those who find themselves in difficult times. Weekly discipleship group meets at 5.30pm.

**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 at 7–8pm.

**Saturdays:** From 10.30am to 12 noon we have our 'Pray: Chat' coffee bar with free refreshments.

**Sundays:** 10.30am–12 noon is our weekly service. Once a month we have a meal after the service.

## Bridport QUAKER MEETING

### The Meeting House

### 97 South Street

Correspondent – Jeni Edwards  
538105 / [jeni.edwards69@gmail.com](mailto:jeni.edwards69@gmail.com)

#### The Quaker approach to peace

In an increasingly uncertain world, we are called to live “in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars”.

The Peace Testimony is one of the key challenges of a Quaker way of life. Publicly it can take the form of peaceful protest at military bases or when matters of arms or war are being debated by political powers; and behind the scenes it is part of how we are involved in building treaties and peace plans.

But privately it is about how we work separately and together at living a Quaker way of life. How we respond to threats is a challenge to each one of us: “Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God.” (Advices and Queries No. 31)



**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](http://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](mailto:BADASHUB@outlook.com). More details online at [www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk)

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will meet at the WI Hall, North St, on Thursday 19 February at 7.30pm, for a members' meeting on the topic of 'How does my garden grow?' [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk)

**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.

**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.

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

**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. Martin Angold 861120 / [www.bridgewebs.com/bridport](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridport)

**West Dorset Singers** meet for choral rehearsals in the United Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from September to May. Contact membership secretary Jill Edwards [membership@westdorsetsingers.org](mailto:membership@westdorsetsingers.org)

**Bridport Choral Society** rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Fiona Kenward [fekkenward@gmail.com](mailto:fekkenward@gmail.com)

**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)

**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 in The Chapel in the Garden if wet. Suggested donation £5. [janesilvercorren@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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.

**Bridport Youth Dance** offers classes in tap, contemporary dance, street and hip-hop for children and young people aged 5–19 (street) and 7–19 (contemporary). Also **Move & Groove** for age 40+ – find your flow with creative dance/improvisation classes every Friday 10.15–11.15am at Steps studio, Crepe Farm Business Park, Symondsbury. Limited space available. To enrol or for more details contact Nikki Northover on 07378 387806 or [nikkinorthover43@gmail.com](mailto:nikkinorthover43@gmail.com) [www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk](http://www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk).

**Bridport Stage Company** theatre group performs plays (sometimes musical) at The Bull Hotel, with proceeds to Samaritans. To get involved in future productions, email Valerie: [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk). No experience is needed; all ages are welcome.

**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](mailto:joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [www.bridportcarnival.co.uk](http://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](mailto:elainestephenson2019@gmail.com)

**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.

### 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 Street, Bridport (Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).



**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.

**ASCAPE** offers social opportunities and support for autistic young people and those with social anxiety aged 4–25 and their families. Contact [info@ascapegroup.org](mailto:info@ascapegroup.org) or visit [www.ascapegroup.org](http://www.ascapegroup.org)

**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 24 February, Ashley Jones presents 'Bill Slim, Britain's Forgotten Hero' about the WW2 campaign in Burma. Contact Alastair Forbes 07962 099530 / [chair@bridportu3a.uk](mailto:chair@bridportu3a.uk) [www.bridport.u3asite.uk](http://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](http://www.bridport.u3asite.uk).

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

**West Dorset Flower Club** at the WI Hall, North St, 2.30pm on the 2nd Monday each month with speakers and demonstrations. On 8 December Denise Jones will demonstrate 'Artful Flowers'. Phone 456339.

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

**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)

**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.

**MMMM! Monday Movie, Meal & Mingling** from West Dorset Commons & 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](http://www.westdorset.coop)

**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](mailto:sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**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 5–6.30pm and Wednesdays 11am–1pm. [www.bridportfoodbank.org/](http://www.bridportfoodbank.org/) / [info@bridportfoodbank.org](mailto:info@bridportfoodbank.org) / 07443 596096

**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](mailto: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](mailto:events@bridportunitarians.co.uk)

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

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

**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](mailto:htbrabells@parishofbridport.org)

**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](mailto:girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com) / [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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 23 February at 2.30pm, Peter Rand will talk about Mapperton House, Gardens and the Montagu family. Non-members £5. Sarah Nicks 459855 / [www.goldencapnt.org.uk](http://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](mailto:judy.clarke@nci.org.uk)

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

**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. [thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org/volunteering](http://thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org/volunteering) ➔

**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](mailto: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](http://www.bridportart.com) and on Facebook & Instagram.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bridportlionsclub@outlook.com) / [www.bridportlionsclub.org](http://www.bridportlionsclub.org)

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

**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](mailto:jenifer.morley@btinternet.com)

**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.

**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](mailto:mail@thelivingtree.org.uk) / [www.thelivingtree.org.uk](http://www.thelivingtree.org.uk)

**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](http://bridportmillenniumgreen.co.uk/friends)

**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](http://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](mailto:bridport.youth@gmail.com) / [www.bridportycc.com](http://www.bridportycc.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](mailto:jurassicamateurboxingclub@gmail.com)

**Somerset & Dorset Family History Society**  
(West Dorset Group) meets at Loders Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Email Jane: [jferentzi@aol.com](mailto:jferentzi@aol.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](mailto: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, at The Old Pizzeria, Bull Hotel, East St, Bridport DT6 3LF. Email [dorset@mssociety.org.uk](mailto: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 go to the Living Tree charity. Entry £5 incl. raffle tickets. 07528 189815 / Bridport Whist Drive on Facebook.

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



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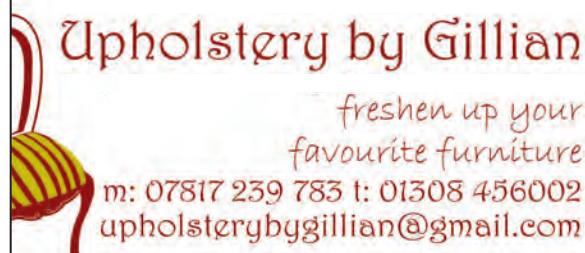
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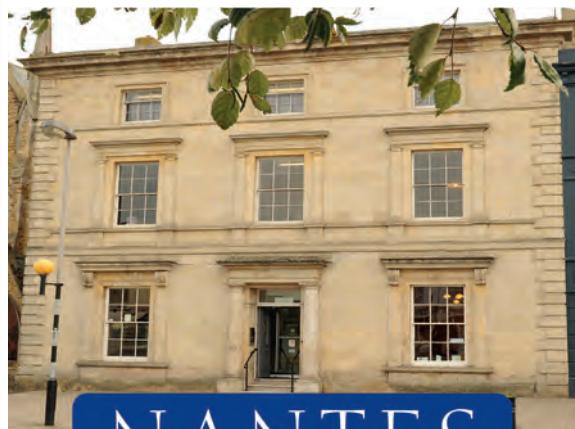
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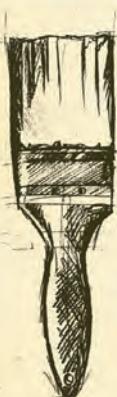
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