

the **Bridge**

March 2026

A community magazine for Bridport
supported by churches in the town



THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT**Team Rector** vacant**Interim Team Rector**The Revd Cally Burch Day off Friday
cally@parishofbridport.org / 07746 561144**Associate Priests**The Revd Lorna Johnson Day off Saturday
lorna@parishofbridport.org / 341520 / 07501 408221
The Revd John Rees Day off Monday
john@parishofbridport.org / 07340 589375**Permission to officiate**The Revd Janis Moore Day off Wednesday
janis@parishofbridport.org / 425644
The Revd Ann Ayling
annayling7@gmail.com / 424896
The Revd Philip Ringer (Hospital Chaplain)
philipringer@aol.com / 425774**Licensed lay ministers**

Graham Purse 423220 Peter Wright 456967

Lay pastoral assistantsDiana Wright, Caroline Cooke, Anne Rees, Jane Trower,
Kathrine O'Brien, Virginia Bowley, Helen Thomas.
*If you cannot get to church and would like home
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pcc@parishofbridport.org / 459875

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John Adams 425766
cwteam@parishofbridport.org**HALL BOOKINGS****St Swithun's Church Hall** Anne Ansell

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Bradpole Forster Village Hall Sarah Kilcoyne

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Bookings at www.hallbookingonline.com/bradpole**St Mary's Church House Hall** Mish Bartlett

stmaryschhbookings@gmail.com

Walditch Village Hall Jane Weyman

janeweyman@btinternet.com 424299

Christian Fellowship, King St Jackie Edwards

538028

United Church Sue Herman

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info@bridportfoodbank.org 07443 596096

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Father Colin Groombridge / Faith Leborgne (secretary)

bridport@predtr.org.uk 07544 595633

Bridport Quaker Meeting

clerka@bridportquakers.org

Room hire enquiries roomhire@bridportquakers.org

United Church (Methodist & United Reformed)

The Revd Jane Wilson 341159

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
April 2026 issue is 5pm on Monday 9 March****The Bridge** Editor & production: Olivia Daly 07710 805029 editor@thebridgemagazine.org
Advertising: Chris Senior (Mrs) 427451 advertising@thebridgemagazine.orgAdvertising rates appear at www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the editor. Otherwise send copy to parish editors (details in Parish Pages) at least three days before the deadline, or a week for handwritten/typed copy. We cannot guarantee to include unsolicited contributions.*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.*

Jazz for all at ‘Birth of the Cool’ festival

Live music will take centre stage across the town this month as ‘Bridport – Birth of the Cool’ returns for a month-long festival celebrating jazz in all its forms.

Running throughout March, the festival spreads across multiple venues, from theatres to record shops and pubs. While rooted in jazz, the programme reaches far beyond traditional boundaries, embracing soul, funk, blues, Latin and indie-influenced sounds designed to tempt even those who wouldn’t usually count themselves as jazz fans.

Among the highlights is Dom Pipkin, whose piano-led performances channel the infectious energy of New Orleans boogie-woogie, delivering foot-tapping rhythms and crowd-pleasing flair. The festival also shines a light on emerging and local artists, such as the Leonian Dream Trio, a local indie band striking an acoustic note with a contemporary edge.

Another standout feature is the Soul Divas series at Bridport Electric Palace, celebrating female-led performances by local artists.

Festival co-sponsor Roy Gregory, owner of Clock Tower Records, says: “Birth of the Cool grew out



Chaire Gillo

Festival acts Joanna Cooke and Jazz Funk Emporium

of conversations about the amount of great music happening locally and the idea that jazz shouldn’t feel exclusive. We wanted to create something welcoming, fun and rooted in Bridport, where people can discover brilliant artists in relaxed, intimate spaces.”

Julie Sheppard, director of Jazz Jurassica, which also co-sponsors the festival, adds: “This festival is about variety and accessibility. Jazz can be groove-based, soulful, funky or stripped back — and that’s what we’re presenting. If you think jazz isn’t for you, then this is exactly the festival to change your mind.”

Tickets and listings at bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets/bridports-birth-of-the-cool-2026

Bridport Youth Dance marks its quarter century

Over the last 25 years, Bridport Youth Dance (BYD) has touched the lives of thousands of local children and young people.

Its aim is to ignite everyone’s creative spark and show young people the transformative power of dance. As well as an after-school dance education programme, BYD also has an outdoor project, Choreography Geography, and an emerging-artist initiative.

In celebration, Bridport Youth Dance, the BYD street dance crew and BYD alumni present Revelations & Dance Snippets at the Electric Palace on Saturday 7 March at 2.30 and 7.30pm.

Dance Snippets is a showcase of dance including soulful contemporary, high energy street/Hip Hop and dynamic tap. Revelations is an original story performed by BYD contemporary dancers. Directed by founder Nikki Northover and teacher Aimee Symes, it is a tale of young love, friendship and compassion between Jett of the darkness and Aria of the light.

For more details of classes, see BYD’s entry on page 24 or visit www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk.

Bridport Youth Dance, the BYD Street Dance Crew & BYD Alumni present

Celebrating 25 years of BYD

Revelations & Dance Snippets



Saturday 7th March
2.30PM & 7.30PM

Ticket Line:
Bridport TIC
Tel: 01308 424901
Adults – £15/Under 18 – £9
www.electricpalace.org.uk/theatre

Photographs by Len Copland











Bridport Electric Palace
DT6 3NY

CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH 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
Sun 1 <i>2nd Sun of Lent</i>	8am BCP HC	12.30pm Meditation 4pm CC (hall)	10am Parish Eucharist			
<i>Mon 2</i>						10am MPR
<i>Tues 3</i>				2.30pm HC		
<i>Wed 4</i>	2.30pm HC					
<i>Thurs 5</i>		10am Eucharist				
Sun 8 <i>3rd Sun of Lent</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am MP	9.30am MP	11am MPR	11am HC
<i>Mon 9</i>						10am MPR
<i>Wed 11</i>		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)				
<i>Thurs 12</i>		10am Eucharist 3.30pm Wild & Messy Church				
Sun 15 <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	8am BCP HC 11am MP	9.30am Eucharist 12.30pm Meditation	11am HC	9.30am HC	10.30am MPR	11am MPR
<i>Mon 16</i>						10am MPR
<i>Thur 19</i>		10am Eucharist				
Sun 22 <i>5th Sun of Lent</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am MP	11am HC	11am HC
<i>Mon 23</i>						10am MPR
<i>Wed 25</i>		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)				
<i>Thurs 26</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Sat 28</i>						4pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
Sun 29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9am BCP HC 2.30pm Gather [†]	2pm Gather [†]	4pm Parish Choral Eucharist	2pm Gather [†]	3pm Gather [†]	2.30pm Gather [†]
<i>Mon 30</i>						10am MPR
APRIL 2026						
<i>Wed 1</i>	2.30pm HC					
Thurs 2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>		7.30pm Eucharistic Vigil		7pm HC		
Fri 3 <i>Good Friday</i>	2pm Meditation	2pm Liturgy	12 noon Prayers	1–2pm Vigil		2pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 4 <i>Easter Eve</i>	8pm Easter Eve service					
Sun 5 <i>Easter Day</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist 4pm CC (hall)	11am HC with baptism	9.30am HC	11am HC	6am Sunrise service 11am HC

HC = Holy Communion / BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CC = Contemplative Church / MP = Morning Praise / MPR = Morning Prayer
 * Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina take place on alternate Wednesdays (Centering Prayer is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays). For
 more details email carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com † See the Churches Together panel on page 7 for Palm Sunday information.

We're tightening our belts, too

In common with many other businesses and individuals in our community, The Bridge magazine is feeling the pinch this year.



Olivia Daly
Editor

Our income is down and our expenses, although very fair, are considerable, so we've been looking at ways to save money and balance the books.

One change is that, from the April issue, the Get Involved listings for local non-profit organisations, clubs and societies will move to our website: www.thebridgemagazine.org/get-involved.

The popularity of this section has surpassed our expectations and it now runs to four pages, although entries are free so it brings in no income.

This move will allow us to have more community features and interviews without increasing the number of pages. And instead of the listings, each month we will run an article about one or two of the organisations previously included in the section. Bridport Clothes Bank will kick this off in April.

In hope of boosting our income, we would absolutely love to find a confident, sociable volunteer to help us increase our advertising sales. This would involve chatting to local businesses to let them know what a good deal we offer – no hard sell! After all, we deliver about 5,800 copies of the magazine direct to potential customers, and our ad prices compare well with those of other local publications. If you could help with this, please contact me (details at the bottom of page 2).

We also have a couple of available months in our schedule of issue sponsors for 2026. We love our regular sponsors – get in touch if your business would like to join their ranks!

Olivia Daly, Editor

Spring brings renewal to all

In the United Kingdom, meteorological spring begins on 1 March and ends on 31 May.



The Revd Janis Moore

On 1 March we also celebrate the feast of St David, the patron saint of Wales. The daffodil is the Welsh national flower and blooms at this time, perfect in its simple beauty.

With its blossoming flowers and the approach of warmer weather and longer days, spring is often associated with new beginnings and fresh starts. It is a time of renewal and rejuvenation after the long, cold winter months.

One longstanding tradition at this time of year is spring cleaning, whose roots lie in many cultures. It is widely believed that Jewish families did their spring cleaning in preparation for the Passover festival. My childhood memory of spring cleaning was that it seemed to go on for days! Beds were stripped, thick heavy blankets and curtains were washed, bedsprings were cleaned, floors scrubbed – and all without the modern convenience of washing machines, dryers and other technology.

We are now in the Christian season of Lent, the 40 days of prayer, reflection and fasting as we prepare to celebrate Easter. We are reminded of the journey Jesus took into the wilderness. Is it a time for a spring cleaning of our hearts? If we can release any grudges or bitterness, if we seek the ability to love unconditionally, and embrace renewal with acts of love and kindness, we will be ready to meet the glorious Easter season.

In his poem *Lines Written in Early Spring*, William Wordsworth captures the beauty of spring and the emotions of human life as we observe it. Here are the last two verses of the poem:

The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

The Revd Janis Moore

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. 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.

Bridport Chamber Orchestra

SPRING CONCERT

"A journey through 500 years of British string music"

St Swithun's Church, Bridport
Sunday 22nd March, 3pm

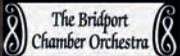
Conductor: David Hedges
Leader: Alexandra Chivers

Featuring works by Byrd, Dowland, Handel, Boyce, Vaughan Williams, Holst and Rutter with Harp Soloist – Emily Mullins

See the full programme:



www.bridportchamberorchestra.co.uk



TICKETS | £12 (under 16 free) available at the door. Tea and cakes will be served after the concert.

HOLIDAY CLUB

Tues 31 March & Wed 1 April • 10am–3.30pm
 Bridport Christian Fellowship, Kings Square DT6 3QE
 In East St Car Park • No costs • For children 5–11

We will have a lively and creative time exploring the theme of 'Why Christmas & Why Easter' – what's that all about?

More info & booking: Elaine Butcher 07762 109368

Ladies' Spring Wreath Making

Come make an Easter wreath for your front door!
 Saturday 21 March, 2.30–4.30pm
 at Bridport Christian Fellowship, Kings Sq DT6 3QE
 £10pp (16+) incl. refreshments, a short message and all materials. If you have attended one of our previous wreath making events and have a willow wreath, please bring it to reuse and indicate when booking. If you can, please bring secateurs & scissors.
 Book by 14 March: alisonj.green@outlook.com / 07742 045686

Saturday @ St Swithun's
GRAND PIANO
Recital 10.30am till noon
 by amateur pianists

Please contact Charles 07814388327 to play



Tea + coffee

14 MARCH

Wanted: Treasurer, St Swithun's Church

St Swithun's Church, Allington, is looking for a treasurer.

The role involves working with the St Swithun's Church sub-committee and also with the overall parish treasurer, as St Swithun's is one of the six churches in the Anglican Parish of Bridport.

The job would suit a person with a bit of spare time, familiarity with numbers and some computer skills. It is not necessary to be a practising Anglican, but some understanding of church life could be helpful.

The role includes a lot of interesting tasks – not only record keeping but also planning skills, as the church is in the middle of a major restoration project. But don't be put off by the challenge! The present treasurer is still around and will provide as much support as you like, including a phased handover and lots of familiarisation work. Or you may prefer to jump straight in! Either way is possible.

If you'd like a chat about this, please ring Philip Sturrock on 07802 895785 for a no-commitment conversation.

www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising

FREE Cello and Piano RECITAL

James Olsen (cello) and Nicholas Brown (piano)

Venue: St Swithun's Church Bridport Allington, Bridport DT6 5DU

All are welcome. Donations to St Swithun's Church funds

3pm Sunday 8th March



We would love to welcome you at any of these 2026 Easter Services

Maudy Thursday 2nd April
Messianic Sedar Service
 An opportunity to take the Passover items & relate them to Jesus' sacrifice
 7pm at Bridport Christian Fellowship
 Kings Square DT6 3QE
 (back of East Street Car park)
 Suitable for adults 18+. Please book by 26th March via Harry 01308 421225

Good Friday Service 3rd April
 10.30am at Bucky Doo Square
 All ages welcome
 Followed by refreshments

Easter Sunday Service 5th April
 10.30am at Bridport Christian Fellowship
 All ages welcome
 Followed by refreshments

CHRIST Risen
 HAPPY EASTER

www.bridportchristianfellowship.org



Celebrations to mark British Legion Hall's 150th anniversary

On Saturday 21 March, the Bridport branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of their hall in Victoria Grove.



There will be a coffee morning at the Legion Hall from 10am until 12 noon, and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy coffee and cake with music. Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard and other invited guests will be there.

There will be displays about George Biles, Bridport's famous signwriter, and photographer JR Potts – who both lived in Victoria Grove – alongside other exhibits about the hall's history.

As well as being the home of the Bridport RBL, the hall has provided a venue for many of the town's organisations and initiatives through the years.

Bridport RBL Women's Section is celebrating a big birthday this year, too – its 100th – so the day of celebration will continue with tea and cake from 2.30 to 4pm. Honorary Townsperson Marjorie Lathey, a long-standing member, will be in attendance, along with representatives from the County Women's Section.

Churches Together in Bridport & District: events

Lent Lunches continue throughout March.

Get together over a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese on the following dates:

Friday 6 March at St Mary's South Street

Friday 13 March at St Mary's Walditch

Friday 20 March at Bridport United Church

Friday 27 March at Beacon Church

There will be a collection for Christian Aid.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 6 March at 10.30am at St Mary's South Street. Service prepared by Christian women from Nigeria.

Bridport Stations of the Cross: Marking the 10th anniversary of these paintings showing the Stations of the Cross in settings in Bridport. St John's Church will be open to view these paintings throughout Holy Week, starting on Monday 30 March. The various churches in Bridport have been asked to supply volunteers for certain days throughout the week. If you are available and would like to help visitors, please email Peter at revptc@btinternet.com.

There will be a **Walk of Witness** from various churches to Holy Trinity Bothenhampton on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, 29 March (see services table on page 4 for timings) followed by an inclusive Choral Eucharist at 4pm. Refreshments will be served for walkers from 3.15pm.

The **monthly prayer group** meets at 6pm on Tuesday 10 March at Bridport United Church.

Locals give generously to Christian Aid's Advent Appeal

The local collection for Christian Aid's Advent Appeal raised a very impressive £1,472.86. The appeal was in aid of people fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"The total far exceeded my expectations" says local organiser Jill Henderson. "Thanks so much to everyone at the town's five Anglican churches and Bridport United Church for their generosity – we received some extremely generous anonymous donations, too."

"Christian Aid is so grateful for this money, which will allow families to buy food, medicine and essentials, bedding, blankets and mosquito nets. These vital supplies bring comfort, shelter, hope and dignity in the darkest of times to people like Chance (pictured) who was forced to flee on foot from armed conflict in DRC."



Chance fled with her baby amid conflict and bombing in DRC

CANTAMUS *Directed by Peter Nardone*
cantamus-dorset.org

This is my delight

Beautiful choral music for spring, including new pieces by Dorset composer Matthew Coleridge

Saturday 28th March at 7pm
Holy Trinity Church
Bothenhampton, Bridport

Tickets £12 on the door
Refreshments available



THIS MY THEATRE

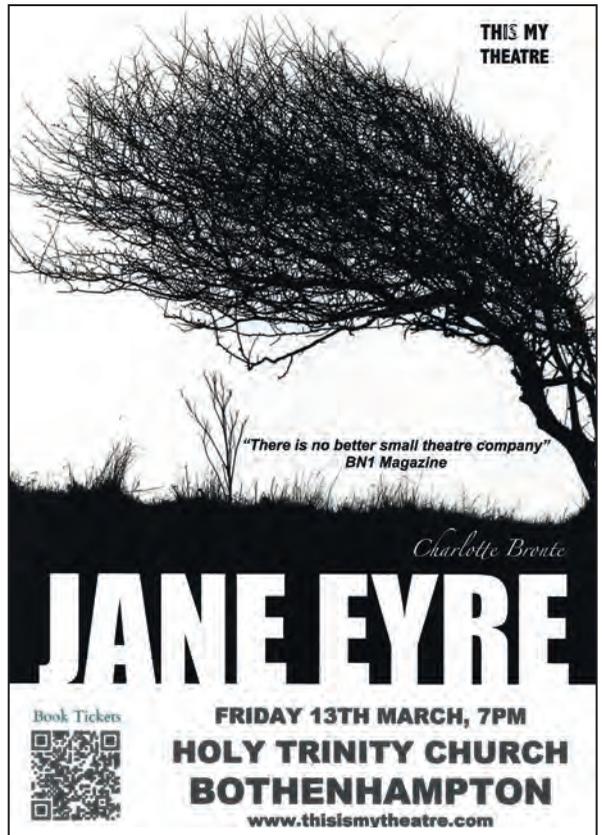
"There is no better small theatre company"
BN1 Magazine

Charlotte Bronte

JANE EYRE

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH, 7PM
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
BOTHENHAMPTON
www.thisismytheatre.com

Book Tickets



PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING THE MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING OF YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW TRUSTEES



The Harmony Centre is an award-winning charity providing free mental health support to anyone aged 18+ in Bridport & surrounding areas. From a friendly chat to full crisis support.

Trustees play a vital role in supporting our staff and volunteers as we grow, allowing us to continue helping hundreds of local people manage & improve their mental health.

We are looking for people who can bring a range of knowledge and skills from business, charity, creative, or health and social care backgrounds.

The Trustee role is voluntary and part time. At its most basic it involves attending a few meetings each year. However, most Trustees find it hugely rewarding, and there is plenty of scope to evolve the role. No previous Trustee experience is required - just enthusiasm and a passion to help others. Open to all, we particularly welcome applications from people who have some personal experience of mental health problems.

For more information please email rachel.c@theharmonycentre.org.uk



Scan for info





Works manager Ed tackles hands-on tasks and much more

Ed Wootton has been Bridport Town Council's works manager since April 2025, bringing with him a varied and colourful career path and strong local connections.

Ed came to Bridport with his mum, Joyce Irving Bell, when her work with the BBC took her to Rampisham. Many readers will remember Joyce and her husband as local business owners, whose ventures included a hot-air balloon company on Downes Street and the conversion of the old West End Dairy into Hardy's Cafe and Bar (now Costa).

After his A-levels, Ed began working at the Anchor Inn in Seatown before going on to study travel and tourism in Bournemouth. On graduation he worked in a hotel before running a pub and later selling golf equipment. In 2010, he took a completely different turn and became a milkman for Hangers Dairy, a role he loved – particularly the quiet joy of watching villages wake up as he made his rounds through the countryside.

In 2015, Ed's girlfriend spotted an advert for a job as a lengthsman. Like many, Ed wasn't quite sure what the role involved. Historically, a lengthsman was responsible for keeping a length of road neat, tidy and passable, often between parishes. Today, the role covers small highway maintenance works and other practical tasks on behalf of a parish or town council. Ed went on to carry out the role for 10 years, becoming a familiar sight around Bridport in his little white van, before being appointed works manager.

Pictured below: Ed talking through plans at Asker Meadows with Dana Assinder of the Brit Valley Project



In his current role, Ed oversees a team of seven who undertake a wide range of work including verge maintenance, ditch clearing, hedge cutting, emptying bins, conservation projects and providing logistical support for events – whatever the priority happens to be. While Ed enjoys leading by example with hands-on work, the role also involves organising workloads, arranging repairs, maintaining equipment, managing the workshop, liaising with local suppliers and dealing with the necessary paperwork. He describes his team as highly efficient and takes great pride in what they do.

Ed says he loves the job, adding: "Because Bridport is small, people recognise you and appreciate what you do. The other day we were clearing a stream in Walditch to prevent properties flooding and a lady came out and gave us a cup of tea and a sausage roll. I get a real sense of satisfaction from putting something back into the place I live."

Outside of work, Ed enjoys spending time with his family, walking the dog, playing golf, watching rugby and, when the weather allows, tackling the local hills on his bike.

Caroline Pearce, Project Manager, BTC

Wanted: Parish of Bridport Church Council Secretary

A pivotal, voluntary 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 the church's effective, efficient operation to meet its legal requirements. You need not be a member of the PCC.

Please contact the Revd Cally Burch (*cally@parishofbridport.org*) for more information and an application form.

A new venue for Bridport Stage Co's next performance

The Bridport Stage Company is relocating to the Town Hall for its next performance amid ongoing renovations at The Bull.

'Juliet – and her Romeo' – an all-new edit with songs – will be performed on 28 and 29 May at 7pm. Tickets will be £10, with all profits going to Samaritans.

"We're now in rehearsal with our usual range of wonderful people of all ages, most in their late 20s but some much older and some much younger – our youngest is nine-year-old Leo," says director Valerie Goodwin. "Most of our cast have challenges they've been working with or are overcoming, from ASD and ADHD to anxiety, depression and physical problems of various kinds. Some have phoned Samaritans themselves."



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The yellow-legged hornet threatens our native bees

In late November a resident of Swyre noticed a strange-looking nest high up in a tree.

The nest had the same look as a wasp nest but was much bigger and in a more exposed position than a wasp nest would usually be found. The resident reported the nest to the National Bee Unit (part of Defra) and it was taken down for analysis.

The nest was made by the yellow-legged Asian hornet, an invasive species that's a voracious, highly efficient predator. It was first found in France in 2004, having probably arrived in a consignment of pots from China. Since then it has spread into much of Northern Europe and, since 2016, England and more recently Ireland. Last year 161 nests were found in England, with 544 individual sightings, more than the previous six years combined.

The yellow-legged hornet (YLH) has no natural predators in the UK and poses a significant threat to honeybees and all native insects. An average nest can consume over 11kg of insects per year. While the YLH mainly eats bees and wasps, it will also take many other insects. This has an impact on the ecology of the local area; it has already altered

the biodiversity in France.

A single hornet is unlikely to cause injury if left alone, but they can become very aggressive if their nest is disturbed – so stay a distance of at least 10 metres away.

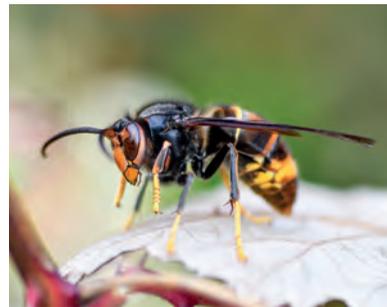
This hornet is not just a problem for beekeepers, so we need eyes on the ground everywhere – towns and cities, parks and woodland areas, ports, marinas, garden centres, orchards, vineyards, parks, timber yards, fruit and veg wholesalers, transport hubs and gardens.

Primary nests are about 5–10cm in diameter and are found in sheds, garages, porches, bird boxes, hedgerows and brambles.

Secondary nests will be built close to primary nests, usually within 100m. These are usually found in the tops of trees, but those built lower down – in hedges, bramble patches, utility boxes, etc. – are a danger to anyone who might accidentally disturb them. They can be very difficult to spot when concealed by vegetation.

One nest can produce 350+ queens, some of which will begin new colonies the following year.

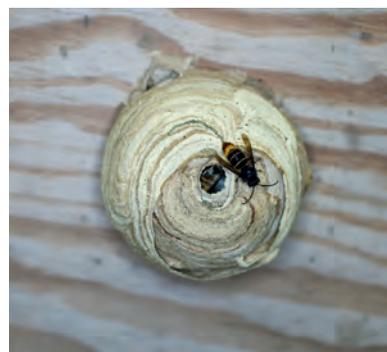
The YLH presents one of the biggest threats to UK honeybees



and other pollinators in a generation. Sightings should be reported, complete with an image if possible, via the Asian Hornet Watch app (available for Android and iPhone wherever you get your apps). Locally, contact your local Asian hornet team at asianhornet@westdorsetbees.org.uk for advice and confirmation of a sighting. The National Bee Unit will then follow up reports and destroy YLH nests.

Article by Peter Crabbe, Chairman, West Dorset Beekeepers' Assn

Pictured, from top: a yellow-legged hornet; a primary YLH nest; the nest found in Swyre



Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport

ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick

07977 989263

Through all the changing scenes of life...

At St Mary's we have been challenged to think of how we can best include all ages and stages of life as we gather together for worship. The example of Jesus' welcome to all, irrespective of age, class, nationality or belief is a hard act to follow and has prompted us to question some of what we do.

We have decided to set up a team of 'welcomers' whose main role will be to ensure that all who come through the door are greeted with a smile and helped to feel welcome.

The familiarity of the words and actions in our services can be an encouragement to some but confusing to others who are new to faith. Over the past two years we have introduced a monthly Celtic-style Morning Worship service, in which the language and challenges present new ways of understanding our faith.

But what about children and young people? How is their understanding and growth in the faith encouraged and nurtured through our services? Their understanding is helped to grow through Sunday School. Every Sunday they start off in church with their family, and usually, after the first hymn, they will come to the front, their candle will be lit, they will be prayed for, and they will take the lighted candle to the meeting room at the back of the church. Here, with a mix of games, puzzles, craft and teaching, based on the same passages of scripture the adults have been hearing about in the sermon, they will work together and then rejoin their family for communion. At the end of the service, they will be invited to share what they have made and learned with the rest of the congregation. In this way the children are valued and included in our worshipping community.

Over the past year, every other month, we have had an all-age service. While every service welcomes all ages, these particular services are different in that the children and young people and their parents take a lead in planning and participating in the services. Sometimes these are Holy Communion services, and sometimes Morning Worship, but in both cases the language is simpler and we take time to explain the purpose of what we are doing together.

What about the elderly for whom the challenge



of getting to church by 11 o'clock on a Sunday is too great? Once a month we hold a midweek afternoon communion service followed by tea and cake, arranging transport when needed. This has proved to be a welcome lifeline and an opportunity to meet old friends.

And what about the other end of the spectrum of human life – new babies, and the challenge that gives families in facing a new way of life? Every Thursday morning during school term, Tots Time meets in Church House Hall. We welcome children from 0 to 4 and their parents or carers. We provide a safe, welcoming, inclusive place where children can learn to socialise and where all aspects of their development are encouraged. We offer a wide variety of activities (which change each week) including crafts and, in the summer, outdoor sand and water play.

We also create a supportive space for parents and carers to make friends and help each other. Organisers also offer extra support if the need arises.

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

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

Discover more than the market in Bridport

Bridport is known as a market town – but it’s so much more. It boasts a plethora of small, quirky, independent shops selling unique clothing, tasty treats, hand-crafted items, one-of-a kind gifts, books, art and craft supplies, tools and more. And if you love ‘green living’, you can visit the second-hand stores, wholefood outlets and zero-waste shop.

Don’t forget to stock up on your meat from the various independent butchers, delicious pastries from the bakeries, treats at the deli or flowers from the amazing florists we have. Fancy dress? Bridport has that covered too!

These shops are found in all the main streets, while nestled between them you’ll find cosy cafes, eateries and artisan food places to rest and enjoy a break before you resume your shopping.

The diverse range of independent shops and eating places makes Bridport a lovely place for some retail therapy. If that’s not for you, however, there are also a number of independent hairdressers, barbers and beauty salons where you can be pampered and rejuvenated!



Bridport is also fortunate enough to have its own Antiques Quarter. You can head to St Michael’s Trading Estate for historic art and antiques alongside artist studios, galleries, retro shops and more. The many outlets brim with collectibles, keepsakes and art pieces – perfect for treasure hunters. The estate also has some fabulous eateries to keep you recharged!

For information about Bridport Central Ward please check out the ward page on the town council’s website (www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bridport-central-ward). This will keep you up to date with planning applications in this area as well as giving you information on the councillors who represent the ward.
Amy Stephenson

**HOLY TRINITY
Bothenhampton**

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



From the parish editor

March is the beginning of spring, and no doubt most people will be hoping for drier weather after the very wet winter so they can be out and about a little more.

The next coffee morning in Holy Trinity Church is on Saturday 7 March. There will be delicious homemade cakes for sale, books, jigsaw puzzles and a raffle, as well as hot drinks and good company. 10am till 12 noon.

Services at Holy Trinity during March include a parish service on Sunday 1 March at 10am. At the end

of the month on 29 March, which is Palm Sunday, there will be a parish choral Holy Communion service at 4pm. Each church will have a walk of witness to Holy Trinity Bothenhampton, where refreshments will be served from 3.15pm before the service. Holy Trinity congregation are invited to walk from the Old Church, leaving there at 3pm, which will allow time for refreshments. The following Sunday (5 April) is Easter Day. A baptism will be included in the 11am service, making it a truly joyous occasion. Everyone is welcome.



The church is an ideal venue for arts events, and we have two this month. On Friday 13 March, This Is My Theatre will be returning with their adaptation of Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë. Judging by their past performances at Holy Trinity, this young group of four or five excellent actors are likely to give us a wonderful evening. The performance starts at 7pm and tickets are available at www.thisismytheatre.com (or use the QR code in the advert on page 8). There will also be some tickets on the door, but these cannot be guaranteed if there is a heavy demand in advance.

The second event is for music lovers: a choral concert by Cantamus on Saturday 28 March at 7pm. The mostly West Dorset-based choir will be singing a mix of beautiful sacred and secular pieces under the direction

of Peter Nardone. See advert on page 8 for more info.

Advance notice: the Old Churchyard needs a good tidy-up after all the wind and rain. Volunteers are needed on Saturday 18 April please, 2–4pm.

Lastly, don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour on Sunday 29 March.

Barbara Ffooks

FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 28 March

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5

Refreshments available

For film details and to be added to the mailing list, please email Nick Child: 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

Eco Church success

St Mary's Walditch has recently been awarded a Bronze Eco Church Award.

The awarding body is A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme, which equips churches of all Christian denominations to care for God's Creation. This Christian charity works to protect the natural world.

The award covers five areas of climate concern: worship and teaching with eco-friendly themes; buildings and their reduced carbon footprint through improved energy use; land and nature by encouraging biodiversity; community and global engagement through outreach programmes and supporting environmental concerns; and gradual lifestyle changes, such as cutting back on single-use plastic and recycling more frequently.

As of 31 August 2025 there were 109 churches engaged with Eco Church, of which 73 churches were registered without an award (yet), 25 churches had a bronze award, 11 had silver and none had gold.

Big thanks to all who contributed to the achievement of this award. A plaque will be displayed in the church when available.

James Craddock

Walditch Garden Group

We meet informally on the last Thursday in the month at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Meetings start with a short prepared item and then range over whatever members regard as topical. There is no formal membership, just £1 to cover costs. All are welcome. In the meantime here's an alpine suggestion...

One way to care for alpinines is in a trough. Stone troughs are aesthetically the best but are heavy and expensive. A useful alternative is a manufactured trough, available at garden centres. It is essential that the trough has drainage holes.

Place crocks over the holes, add a layer of horticultural gravel, then fill with coarse sand. Add the alpinines in their pots, ideally made of porous terracotta. To maintain interest, alpinines can be rotated in and out during the year.

Most garden centres stock alpinines, although a wider selection will be found at plant fairs and even more at specialist nurseries. Here are a few easy examples to get you started: *Delosperma*, *Armeria*, *Erodium*, *Erinus*, *Draba*, *Sisyrinchium*, *Cyclamen coum* and *hederifolium*, *Saponaria*, *Sempervivum*, *Saxifraga*, dwarf bearded iris and *Potentilla neumanniana* 'Nana'. Some have cultivars in a range of flower colours.

Robin Stapleton



Troughs planted with spring alpinines

Bridport Town Council BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

It was fantastic to see the Hollow Way high pavement reopen at the beginning of February after five weeks of engineering works to reinforce and stabilise the structure. The pavement had been closed for more than a year after a partial collapse in November 2024, causing significant disruption for residents.

Despite extremely poor weather conditions throughout the works, the Dorset Council workforce persevered and delivered the project against the odds, completing the repairs just five days over the original schedule. Their efforts have restored a vital pedestrian route, allowing Bothenhampton residents once again to walk safely to and from the town.

The reopening marks a significant improvement to local connectivity and day-to-day accessibility, particularly for those who rely on walking routes rather than vehicles.

In related transport news, at the end of January National Highways announced a series of reduced

Pictured: The Hollow Way pavement reopened at the beginning of February after five weeks of engineering works



speed limits along the A35 that are expected to be implemented by the end of March. In the immediate local area, these changes include a new 40mph speed limit (reduced from the current 60mph) between the Howard Road junction and Firch Lane on the approach to Bridport. Additionally, a new 30mph speed limit will be introduced (reduced from 40mph) between the Hollow Way junction and Howard Road junction on Sea Road South in Bridport.

Together, these improvements represent a positive step forward for road safety across the area.

Keep up to date with all the latest ward news on our Facebook page: Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership. To get in touch about any concerns in the ward, please email me at the address in the box above.
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)

Village Lunch Club

The club will be having lunch at Long's Fish Restaurant in King Street on Tuesday 24 March at 12.30pm (this is later in the month than usual). Numbers may be restricted so please contact Thelma Pulman (458533) for details if you have not already booked. All welcome.

Thelma is retiring from her role as lunch organiser, so many thanks are due to her on behalf of the village.

Coffee morning

Thursday 19 March, 10am to 12 noon

Bradpole Church

Coffee and cake

Bring-and-buy

Book tables and raffle

All welcome



Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Tuesday 17 March. The Knitting Group will meet on Thursdays 5 and 19 March. Contact Daphne King (427552) for more information.

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 →

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

play with and lots of space. 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, where you'll also find more information and photos of the facilities.

Bradpole Buzz Group

The group will meet on Wednesdays 4 and 25 and Saturday 14 March.

We'd love practical help with planting as well as offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden, suggestions and general support. For info, contact Rose Van den Akker 425756 / bradpolebuzz@gmail.com.



Holy Trinity Bradpole
Spring quiz
 with fish and chip supper

Friday 17 April at 7pm

Tickets £15 to include supper

Drinks by donation • Raffle

Bring a team of four or join a team on the night

Numbers are limited so please book in advance

thefriendshtb@gmail.com / 01308 420716



Bridport Town Council
BRADPOLE WARD

Ward clerk – Sandy Goldsmith
07944 523084
bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

The snowdrops and daffodils planted by the Buzz Group volunteers are coming into bloom, so hopefully spring is just around the corner,

I'm sure you are all looking forward to a spell of drier weather and less worry about flooding on local roads. Fortunately I haven't heard of any properties in our ward having been flooded, although all the water on the roads has made many existing potholes worse.

Residents report potholes to me quite often, and although I am quite happy to report them online to Dorset Council, I would urge residents to report them directly using this link: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement. Alternatively you can use the Fix My Street website (www.fixmystreet.com) to report various issues, which the site will then direct to the appropriate authority.

Our grounds team have been busy working in The Gore wildlife corridor, clearing back vegetation and re-laying hedges. They have been battling the weather, and the work has taken a little longer than usual, but will benefit residents and wildlife once it's finished.



Pictured: laid hedges in The Gore (above); spring bulbs are coming into bloom



Your ward councillors are currently involved in discussions with Dorset Council Highways about the possible installation of a more robust barrier along St Andrews Road backing onto Fishweir Fields. The discussions are taking place because of an incident that involved a small van veering off the road, breaking through the wooden fence and colliding with a property. Luckily no one was seriously injured, but the property suffered substantial damage.

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

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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

Distribution – Kevin Payne

07976 534517

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07969 826430

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Hello and farewell to some important figures

February is over, and the busyness of Christmas and New Year is just a memory; Candlemas has passed and the Nativity figures have been carefully packed away.

We now enter Lent and begin to look ahead to Easter. As we plan for the weeks ahead, it is also worth pausing to stop, think and look around: is there a corner of the churchyard you could tidy, or some brass you could polish? Many churches, including St Swithun's, will be undertaking spring cleaning, and any help would be greatly appreciated. Together, let's ensure our churches are ready to welcome Easter, along with longer days and brighter skies.

We were grateful to Peter Wright of St Mary's for lending us some Nativity figures, as ours were beyond repair. The knitted set drew admiration from all who visited St Swithun's during Christmas. The photo (*above right*) shows two children admiring the display before the kings and baby Jesus arrived. We have now received a new set of figures (*also pictured*), generously donated by Kevin Payne, who found them in a Dawlish antique emporium. Thank you, Kevin!

The new year began with the departure of three key individuals who were essential to the smooth and efficient operation of St Swithun's in recent years. Barry and Yvonne Welch moved into Bridport from Whitchurch Canonorum in 2015 and at first returned regularly to St Candida and Holy Cross in that village. But increasingly they felt they should be worshipping in the parish where they lived, and St Swithun's was their local church. The welcome they received when they first turned up was enough to persuade them that this would be a good place to be. And it was! They gradually became part of the team that organised services and also began getting involved in fundraising and social events. They very much valued being part of the vibrant and caring community that is St Swithun's and were sad to say goodbye to that and to the wider parish.

Then the doyen of the church hall refreshment team, Elwyn Walker, retired from being in charge of



Pictured, from top: two young visitors inspect the knitted crib figures that were lent to St Swithun's for the season; the church's new Nativity figures, which Kevin Payne has generously donated; Barry and Yvonne Welch; Elwyn Walker

catering on Thursdays and Sundays along with making countless bacon butties for the community coffee mornings and delicious cakes for our fundraising activities. Elwyn was also part of our intercessory team and a regular worshipper at St Swithun's.

We miss all three of you!

Rose Harvey & Jo George

Bridport Town Council WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

Allington Hillbillies, who look after Allington Hill, would like to remind everyone to please let them know if you come across any paths that are blocked by fallen branches or trees while you're walking around the hill. Please take a photo and use What3Words (or give a very good description of where it is) then report it either via the Facebook page 'Allington Hillbillies' or by email to *allingtonhill@gmail.com*. If you have a problem doing this, feel free to report it to me and I will pass the information on to the Hillbillies. Sometimes people assume that issues like this have already been reported when they haven't, which can mean the situation doesn't get resolved for some time.

Don't forget, there is still time to get involved with helping with the Hillbillies' celebration event on 1 and 2 May. There will be lots going on for many to enjoy but volunteers and helpers are always needed during preparation and the event itself. To volunteer, email *allingtonhill@gmail.com*.

A reminder to you all about the fabulous Bridport Clothes Bank. They have sessions in Bridport every Thursday from 9.30 to 10.30am at St Swithun's Church Hall. Here you can pick up free clothing that you might need. You can also pop along to speak to them about becoming a volunteer (even if you only have a couple of hours spare) to help with collecting, sorting and/or distributing clothes around Bridport and Beaminster.



Allington Hillbillies

Pictured: Allington Hillbillies working on the hill

You can also contact them through their Facebook page, 'Bridport ClothesBank', email *BridportCB@outlook.com* or phone 07596 077385.

Also available at the church hall on Thursdays 9.30–10.30am is the Bridport Community Food Stall. This is an initiative to help combat food waste and is open to all.

Our next public engagement session will be in April (date, time and venue to be confirmed). Please keep an eye on our Facebook page, 'Bridport West & Allington Ward Matters', or our page on the town council website, *www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bridport-west-allington-ward*. There are also noticeboards dotted around the ward where we display relevant information as well as meeting dates and past minutes.
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,

which currently starts at the winter time of 4pm.

As you all no doubt realise, a lot of work needs to be done at St John's to make it a warm, welcoming and dry place of worship, preferably with a clock that works, too! All members of the parish were invited to a meeting at Haddon House to discuss a vision for the church and how we would like it to be seen in five or ten years. The session was run by Toni Bush, Church Buildings Community Engagement Enabler for the Dioceses of Salisbury and Bristol. There was a good turnout and discussions took place about how the community sees the church and what other uses the church could be put to. There will need to be some serious fundraising to achieve the works, so a donation

page has now been set up on the parish website (www.parishofbridport.org) to collect funds to address the three main issues: the heating, vestry roof, and clock.

West Bay WI

The regular Knit & Natter session is on Wednesday 4 March, 10am–12 noon. At the meeting on Wednesday 11 March, 2.30–4.30pm, member Joannie Dyson will lead an Easter craft session.

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

Round and about the Bay

Well the weather did its worst in January and early February, with relentless storms and heavy rain. Fortunately the storms did not cause much damage but the rain led to flooding in the fields and on the West Bay Road. You may have seen pictures of Rise surrounded by water where the river had burst its banks. The entry to Meadowlands was flooded by water coming off the fields – and drivers going too fast down the road, forcing water up into the estate, made things worse. Any brave souls walking their dogs along the road got absolutely soaked by the spray! It was, however, good to see that the Christmas tree survived the worst the weather could throw at it, and it has now been put away for another year.

Another result of the weather, including persistent southeasterly gales, was a sand bank that formed at the entrance to West Bay harbour (*pictured*), meaning that boats over a certain draught could not enter or leave the harbour. It looked like a new beach had been created and a large crane was brought in to start moving the sand to the East Beach. The Environment Agency will use this sand when they do the beach enhancement programme.

At least the days are getting longer – when it's not raining and the sun comes out, it feels like spring is on the way. However, spare a thought for the good people of Utqiagvik (formerly known as Barrow) in Alaska, who say goodbye to daylight around 19 November and don't see it again until 22 January! Of course this is offset by 'midnight sun' from mid-May to early August. We lived in Alaska, but fortunately in Anchorage, which at least saw some daylight in the winter.

The Discovery Centre opened over the February bank holiday, when there were a number of activities with a St Valentine's theme. The centre is now opening only at weekends until it returns to six-day opening on 17 March with the launch of the Changing Landscapes exhibition. This marks the 25th anniversary of the



Pictured: a large crane was used to clear a sand bank in the harbour last month; cliff falls continue to shape the Jurassic Coast, the subject of the Discovery Centre's Changing Landscapes exhibition



Jurassic Coast's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The exhibition will explore how this unique coastline was formed, how various fossils have been found and how geological processes continue to shape the landscape.

The ever popular Cornish Bakery, opposite St John's, had a makeover in January and is now a very light and bright cafe. The new look shows off the lovely pastries and pasties that the bakery is well known for. The Tea Rooms, at the pedestrian exit from the West Bay car park, have also been redecorated following the arrival of new owners. We wish them success in their venture.
Sue Pollock

Bridport Town Council WEST BAY WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

While the West Bay coastline is a beautiful one, it can also be dangerous, as many of us know. It is an ever-changing, dynamic environment. The Jurassic Coast is a UNESCO World Heritage Site recognised for its fossils, rocks and landforms. It looks the way it does because of erosion from weather and sea. Rockfalls and landslips are a natural part of this environment and are part of what makes up the unique nature of our coastline. Unfortunately, these can happen at any time, which is why it is extremely important that you stay away from the edge and base of cliffs as well as keeping well clear of cliff falls, as the surrounding cliffs may remain unstable. As always, if you find yourself in difficulty or you see anything that causes you concern, do not hesitate to call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. Too many people continue to take unnecessary risks.

Here's a reminder from Dorset Council's Bridport Harbour newsletter: "At Bridport Harbour, safety is the top priority. If you experience or witness an incident or accident, please report it promptly so appropriate action can be taken to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

"If the situation is an emergency or involves immediate danger to life, always call 999 first before submitting a report. You can report incidents at www.bridportharbour.co.uk/incidentaccidents.

Pictured: many people take unnecessary risks by walking and sitting too close to the unstable cliffs at West Bay



"Your cooperation helps to keep Bridport harbour safe for all visitors and staff."

After crew members from Bridport Fire Station were called out to what was found to be a controlled open burn in West Bay at the start of the year, they would like to remind everyone about the procedures for this. If you are going to have a bonfire, or another type of controlled burning that will be visible to passersby, you can let Fire Control know by completing an online notification on the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service website (www.dwfire.org.uk – search 'controlled burn'). You can also contact the control room on 0306 799 0019.

Don't forget that West Bay Discovery Centre will be open from Tuesdays to Sundays (11am–4pm) every week from 17 March until 1 November. There are always some great exhibitions to see here as well as free activities for children plus talks and workshops. You can follow the centre on Facebook or have a look at their website: www.westbaydiscoverycentre.co.uk.

The next ward meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 March at 6.30pm in The Salt House. All welcome.
Amy Stephenson

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159
Church secretary – Jane Clinton
bucchurchsec@gmail.com
Church bookings – Sue Herman
422598 / bucoffice1@gmail.com

Christ brings light when all seems grey

It seems that recently, any time we are out and about in Bridport, the only topic of conversation when we stop to chat is the weather or how long this winter seems to be! As I write, we are 'enjoying' another day of

rain and wind, and many of us have stories to tell of recent flooding and high tides.

However, we are reassured that despite the darkness and dreariness outside, there is a deeper light that shines in our hearts and communities.

At Bridport United Church, some of our recent services have included thinking about Jesus, the Light of the World. At our Messy Church session in January, the youngsters made their own Christingles.

The Christingle (*pictured above*) is a symbolic object used in Advent and Christmas celebrations, particularly by children. It consists of an orange, representing the



world; a red ribbon symbolising the love and blood of Christ; dried fruits or sweets attached on cocktail sticks to represent the fruits of the earth and the four seasons; and a lit candle inserted in the centre, denoting Jesus as the Light of the World. This tradition serves as a meaningful way to share the story of Christ’s love and light with all generations.

Later in January, our Explore Together service looked deeper into Psalm 119: “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” (v105)

The message of Jesus as the Light of the World feels especially poignant at this time of year. Amid winter’s gloom we are reminded that Christ brings hope, guidance, and warmth – illuminating our path when all else seems grey. This light is not just for our own comfort, but also a beacon to share with others, offering kindness and encouragement in challenging times.

In February, our Soul Space (a monthly, informal afternoon cafe-style worship) celebrated Candlemas, which marks the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, 40 days after his birth. Historically it is the day when candles are blessed in churches, symbolising Christ

as “the light to lighten the Gentiles”. Candlemas is often seen as the conclusion of the Christmas season, reminding us of hope and renewal as we move towards spring.



We are all looking forward to the new season, and there is a real sense of anticipation in the air. The lengthening days and the promise of new life in the garden remind us of God’s faithfulness and the hope that comes with each new season. For Christians, spring is a time to reflect on renewal and growth, both in nature and in our own spiritual journeys, trusting that brighter days truly are ahead.

Jane Clinton, BUC member

March services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 1	10.30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	4.30pm	The Revd Jane Wilson Soul Space
Sunday 8	10.30am	Morning Worship R Lownsbrough
Sunday 15	10.30am	Morning Worship The Revd Jane Wilson
Sunday 22	10.30am	Morning Worship P Jenner
	4.30pm	Healing service with Holy Communion
Sunday 29	10.30am	The Revd Jane Wilson Palm Sunday Morning Worship with the Revd R Lownsbrough

Monday 30 March to Thursday 3 April: Holy Week prayers at 8am and 12 noon

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 or our Facebook page.

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

**St MARY & St CATHERINE
Roman Catholic Church**

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

Actions speak louder than words

On 19 March each year we celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph, spouse of the blessed Virgin Mary and patron of the Church as well as of Canada, carpenters and manual workers.

We are probably all familiar with St Joseph. His role in the life of Jesus is central. Called by God to be the earthly guardian for the child Jesus, and protector of Mary, providing for them as a carpenter in Nazareth, teaching Jesus his trade, and guiding them during events like the flight to Egypt, we can only imagine →

ROMAN CATHOLIC Church continued...

the influence he had on Jesus as He grew from a child into a young adult.

It might then come as a surprise to discover that despite his appearances in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Joseph does not speak at any point in the New Testament. Instead, this dutiful, humble and just man remains in the background and then entirely disappears from the gospel narratives.

Joseph is a gentle reminder to us all that actions can be far more important than words. He also shows us that listening to God, and acting on what He calls us to do, is far more important than worrying about what we should say. We might particularly like to remember this in our prayer life. Spending time quietly listening and responding to God, rather than trying to constantly find words to say, helps us develop a stronger and more

personal relationship with our creator.

May we all learn to be a little more like St Joseph!
Deacon Mark Brown



Josh Applegate

St Joseph with a young Jesus

Sunday Mass is at 10am at the Roman Catholic church in Victoria Grove and is streamed online at www.bridportcatholics.org.uk and the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page.

For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, as well as special services during Holy Week and Easter, 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
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. We're in Priory Lane DT6 3RW.

—  —

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King's Lane (in East St car park)

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



BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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.

Please see our adverts on page 6 for details of our events and services during March and April. In Holy Week we have a Messianic Seder service on Maundy Thursday (2 April) at 7pm, and a Good Friday service in Bucky Doo Square at 10.30am. Our Easter Sunday service is at 10.30am.

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

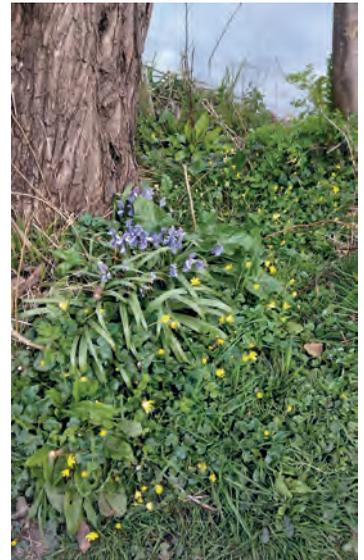
Correspondent – Jeni Edwards
 538105 / jeni.edwards69@gmail.com

Disowning discouragement

I missed the deadline for this article – that’s a mortal sin for a writer – and was only shocked into realisation by the editor’s kindly reminder. I had been overcome by the February greys – grey days, grey weather, broken computer, grey mood... all’s wrong with the world?

Quaker Advice and Query 11 suggests: “Be honest with yourself. What unpalatable truths might you be evading? When you recognise your shortcomings, do not let that discourage you. In worship together we can find the assurance of God’s love and the strength to go on with renewed courage.”

So, I took a deep breath, remembered I still have friends, a community, a cosy home, a purring cat. I still have so many blessings. Stop feeling sorry for myself and get on with living...



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

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

Jeni Edwards

Get involved: local clubs, groups & societies

PLEASE NOTE: This is the last time we will be publishing information about all these groups in our print edition.

From next month, the full list will appear only on our website (www.thebridgemagazine.org/get-involved). In each issue of the magazine we will feature one or two organisations in more detail, so please contact the editor (details on page 2) if you would like to appear.

There is no charge for either an entry in our online list or an article in the magazine, although the latter is limited by space available and cannot be guaranteed. Online entries are for non-profit community groups and clubs and their events (not ticketed events such as concerts). It is each group's responsibility to ensure that the information in their entry is up to date.

Unless otherwise stated, all phone numbers are Bridport (01308).

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

Bridport & District Gardening Club will meet at the WI Hall, North Street, on Thursday 19 March at 7.30pm for the club's AGM. For membership details and information visit 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 Community Carnival Committee enables both carnival processions to happen on the third weekend of August each year. Would you like to get involved with planning this sociable event for 2026? Contact joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.bridportcarnival.co.uk

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

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

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

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 / 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, Symondsburry. Limited space available. To enrol or for more details contact Nikki Northover on 07378 387806 or nikkinorthover43@gmail.com www.bridportyouthdance.org.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 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. No experience is needed; all ages are welcome.

Citizens Advice is here to help

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



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

Bridport 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.

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

Bridport Community Front Room offers face-to-face and phone support with mental health practitioners and peer specialists for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Thursday to Sunday 2.15–9.45pm at The Harmony Centre, address above. Phone 07385 290804.

Bridport Access Wellbeing is a new drop-in service for advice on mental health and emotional wellbeing, or practical help on topics such as finances, work, housing or support for carers. No appointment or referral needed. Wednesdays 10am–3pm at The Harmony Centre as above.

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 or visit 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 March, Brian and Jacqueline Sutton present 'Johnny remember me' about the exciting days of the 50s and 60s. Contact Alastair Forbes 07962 099530 / chair@bridportu3a.uk www.bridport.u3asite.uk

The **u3a Singers Group** meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month at the WI Hall in North Street, 10am for a 10.30am start. All welcome (no audition). Contact Heather 425219 / www.bridport.u3asite.uk.

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

West Dorset Flower Club at the WI Hall, North St, 2.30pm on the 2nd Monday each month with speakers and demonstrations. On 9 March, Angie Blackwell will demonstrate 'Springtime'. Phone 456339.

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.

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

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

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

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

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 / info@bridportfoodbank.org](http://www.bridportfoodbank.org/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 / 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

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

Bridport Inner Wheel meets monthly at Haddon House, West Bay, to enjoy friendship and listen to speakers as well as helping the community. Contact Pat Bowditch 07791 176632 / pat_bowditch@hotmail.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

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 989263. Holy Trinity Bradpole (where there is a ground-floor ringing chamber and training simulator): 7.30pm Tuesdays. 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 / www.girlguiding.org.uk

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

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) in support of the National Trust, holds illustrated talks in the United Church Hall, East St. No March meeting but on Mon 27 April at 2.30pm, Richard Wirdnam presents 'Reminiscences of a dancing man'. Non-members £5. Sarah Nicks 459855 / www.goldencapnt.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Colmer WI meets 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, North St. Visitors welcome for a no-obligation evening. sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

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

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 / 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. Fundraising talks, other events throughout the year. 423078 / bridportmillenniumgreen.co.uk/friends

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

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

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

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

bridport.youth@gmail.com / www.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](https://www.tiktok.com/@jurassic.abcon) / email jurassicamateurbboxingclub@gmail.com

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

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
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

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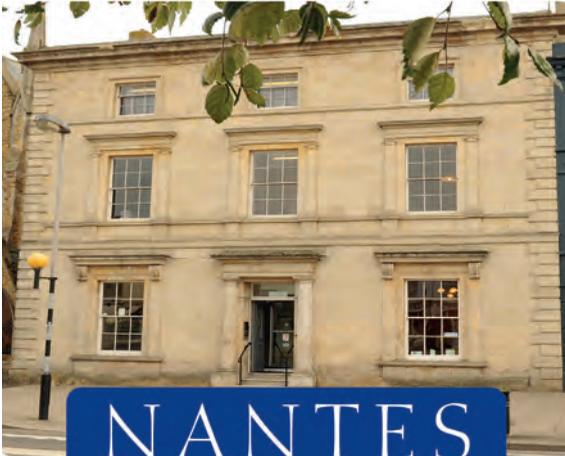
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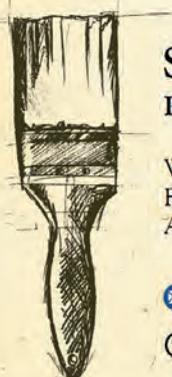
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