



the **Bridge**

A community magazine for Bridport
supported by churches in the town

April 2025

THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT

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Surprised by joy at the Resurrection of Jesus

April is a month of surprises. It greets us with April Fools' Day, famously changeable weather, carpets of vibrant spring flowers, new life in chicks, lambs and bunnies, and its biggest surprise: Resurrection!

The Easter dawn service has always been very special to me – and our 6am gathering on the pier at West Bay must surely be one of the most beautiful and spectacular. It is joyful to witness and share the transformation from darkness to light. However familiar we are with the rhythm of day following night, there is always the wonder of surprise in it.

The Resurrection of Jesus and his triumph over death and sin was foretold in scripture and by Jesus himself. Yet when he died the darkness was so real and overwhelming that his disciples were lost in despair. Their hope had already perished at that glorious moment when the women discovered the empty tomb and first encountered the resurrected Jesus.

As Christians, we are called to share this good news with everyone – we should be bursting with it, just like those astonished disciples, rushing to tell one another about their world-changing discovery. Yet we are not very good at it. Recently I heard of some young drama students tasked with creating an Easter show. “The

problem with Easter as a theme,” one remarked, “is that it lacks a main character.” Clearly the eggs, chicks and bunnies were not providing the full Easter story!

Public walks of witness on Good Friday are meaningful traditions, when Christians

recall the sacrifice that Jesus made for us all on the cross. Yet in my view they cannot convey the full joy of the Resurrection. How could they? They take place on the most sorrowful day in the Christian calendar.

This year, alongside the dawn service and the various celebrations in the churches around town on Easter Sunday, we're offering something new in response to the

challenge of sharing the Easter story. The day between Good Friday (when we commemorate Jesus' death) and Easter Sunday (when we celebrate his Resurrection) is Holy Saturday – traditionally a day of waiting, stuck in the pre-dawn darkness.

A few of us, eager to share the Easter story with those who may never have heard it, will be hosting an Easter experience for visitors and families in St John's Church in West Bay from 10.30am to 12.30pm [see page 8 for more details]. Through a story trail, crafts and play, we will explore both the Cross and the Resurrection – and in it I am certain there will be surprises for us all.

The Revd Cally Burch, Pioneer Team Vicar



The Revd Cally Burch

It is joyful to witness and share the transformation from darkness to light at our Easter dawn service

A meaningful Easter to all

Happy Easter to our readers, whether you'll be marking the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus in one of our churches, just tucking into chocolate eggs at home, or both.



Olivia Daly
Editor

One of the joys of our complex culture is that Christian and pagan symbols are all mixed up together, and most of us find some meaning in the big festivals, whether we have a faith or not. Often that 'meaning' comes as a whisper rather than a dramatic revelation – through having time for a meal with family and friends, or alone in nature, or by enjoying music or a book. I hope you all find a meaningful moment this Easter, no matter where it lies.

Bells will be silent for a while

Restoration work to the bells of St Mary's Bridport will start in mid-April and will take three to four weeks to complete.

The bells will be out of action during this time but will be ringing again in time for the Bishop of Sherborne's visit on Sunday 25 May.

Our stunning, colourful cover image showing the Town Hall cupola and Colmer's Hill is by local artist Josie Holliday. You can read our interview with her on page 13.

CHURCH SERVICES

APRIL 2025						
Date	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
Tues 1				2.30pm HC		
Wed 2	2.30pm HC					
Thurs 3		10m Eucharist			10am MP	
Sun 6 <i>5th Sun of Lent</i>	8am BCP HC 10am Parish service of HC	4pm CC (hall)				
Mon 7						10am MPR
Thurs 10		10am Eucharist 3pm Wild & Messy Church (see page 8)				
Sun 13 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am MP	9.30am MP	11am HC	11am HC
Mon 14						10am MPR
Thurs 17 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>		7.30pm Eucharistic Vigil		7pm HC		
Fri 18 <i>Good Friday</i>	2pm Meditation	2pm Liturgy	12 noon Prayers	12 noon to 3pm Vigil		
Sat 19 <i>Easter Eve</i>	8pm Easter Eve service					10.30am Come & Sea Family event (see page 8)
Sun 20 <i>Easter Day</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am HC	11am HC	6am CTiBD dawn service at East Pier (see page 9) 11am HC
Mon 21						10am MPR
Thurs 24		10am Eucharist			10am MP	
Sat 26						4pm Service of Wholeness & Healing
Sun 27 <i>2nd Sun of Easter</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am MP		11am MP
Mon 28						10am MPR
Thurs 31		10am Eucharist				

HC = Holy Communion / BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CC = Contemplative Church / MP = Morning Praise / MPR = Morning Prayer

Fascinating Colfoxes help raise money for the bells of St Mary's



In late February – just missing our March issue – Eddie and Connie Colfox boosted the fundraising campaign around the St Mary's bells' centenary celebrations by coming to the church to speak to the public about their respective careers.

Eddie covered his wide experience in paragliding in some of the highest mountains in the world, and his sister Connie talked in detail about how she trains horses, focusing particularly on gaining their trust.

Eddie also offered a free tandem paragliding flight as a prize for one lucky winner; that person was Jane Stevens, who is now looking forward to her adventure with great enthusiasm.

The bellringers were really delighted with the great reception that Eddie and Connie received. "The enjoyable talks made a very valuable contribution to the bell campaign, raising over £700 towards the upkeep of the eight majestic bells at St Mary's," says Bob Hardwick, Tower Captain. "The bell upgrade will also ensure that the Colfox family inscription on number 5 bell is preserved, and the bells continue to ring out



Pictured: Eddie and Connie Colfox; Jane Stevens (right), the lucky winner of a tandem paraglider flight

across the town. Many thanks to Eddie and Connie."



A new initiative and a new CEO at The Harmony Centre

The Harmony Centre in Bridport is to run the latest hub for Access Wellbeing, a mental health and wellbeing initiative offering drop-in access to support from trained coordinators.

The new hub opens at The Harmony Centre this month, with further Access Wellbeing locations in Maiden Newton, Lyme Regis and Beaminster to follow. The service is already operating in Poole, Weymouth and Boscombe. Access Wellbeing is funded by Dorset Healthcare and is a partnership between the NHS, councils, charities and community groups.

The Bridport service will offer free walk-in support and advice each Wednesday. Help will be available in areas such as education, training, benefits and financial matters, employment, bereavement and grief, social connections and support for carers.

Rachel Coney, Chair of Trustees at The Harmony Centre, says: "The entire team is excited as we plan the launch of West Dorset Access Wellbeing. Earlier access to support helps prevent problems from escalating and this new drop-in service will empower people to support

their own wellbeing, overcoming barriers that can prevent them from accessing available services. We look forward to offering this new service in Bridport from April before widening our reach to other locations."

A new CEO for The Harmony Centre

Meanwhile, Tracey Bovingdon (pictured) is taking over from current CEO Caroline Gamble, who is retiring. Tracey, known as T, has been working with Harmony for a year and has an extensive background in the charity sector. She has held senior roles in supported housing, homelessness and youth support.



Rachel Coney says: "Caroline's retirement leaves big shoes to fill so we are delighted to appoint T to the role of CEO. We are excited to have someone with so much experience and who already knows us and our visitors so well. We look forward to working with her to lead the next chapter of Harmony's development."

Together we can beat extreme poverty

7 Days to make a difference – together we can beat extreme poverty.

This is the main theme of this year's Christian Aid Week (CAW), which runs from 11 to 17 May. CAW – now in its 80th year – is the annual moment for Christians in the UK to get involved in prayer, action and fundraising to tackle extreme poverty.

This year the campaign will focus on the Latin American country of Guatemala. Initially I had to look it up on a map, to my



Amelia lives in Guatemala, the focus of this year's Christian Aid Week

Amy Sheppes

shame, but after the Christian Aid 'Changemakers' online conference, I'm much wiser about this fascinating country.

There will be more in next month's Bridge about Amelia (*pictured*) and other people in Guatemala and some of the surprising challenges they are facing. *Jill Henderson, Christian Aid Organiser, CTiBD*

Forthcoming services & events from Churches Together

Pray Bridport: a monthly informal prayer session
 Tuesday 8 April, 6.30pm at Beacon Church
 Tuesday 13 May, 6.30pm at the Christian Fellowship

Tea & Chat: for anyone who enjoys food & company!
 Sunday 11 May – St Mary and St Catherine's RC Church
 Sunday 14 September – St Swithun's or St Mary's (tba)

Vigil for Peace
 At the Chapel in the Garden on the first Saturday in the month, outside Bridport United Church on the third Saturday and outside St Mary's on the fourth Saturday, all 12–12.15pm. Just pop in and out as you like.

Easter Morning dawn service
 Sunday 20 April, 6am at East Pier, West Bay
[Apologies for giving the wrong date in the last issue. Ed]

What is Churches Together?
 Churches Together in Bridport & District (CTiBD) comprises all the churches in the town that operate in accord with the principles of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and those that are members of the Evangelical Alliance. CTiBD organises a range of services and other events.

You can visit www.ctibd.org.uk for more information or email the secretary, Heather Purse, at heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk.

St Swithun's Church Hall, Allington

FUN QUIZ

Friday 11 April at 7pm
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Bridport Cemetery is a peaceful resting place and a sanctuary for the bereaved

Bridport Cemetery has been a place of rest and reflection since 1856, when the churchyard at St Mary's in South Street closed to new burials.

Today it is managed by Bridport Town Council and offers both traditional burial plots and a woodland burial area providing a natural resting place surrounded by trees and grassland.

The cemetery is non-denominational, welcoming people of all faiths and beliefs. It also has a chapel, seating up to 34 people, for services and ceremonies.

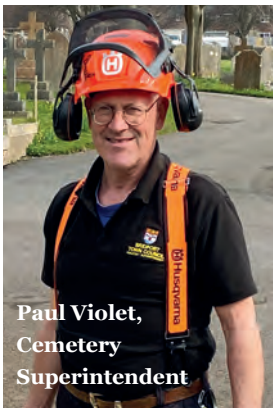
Bridport Cemetery hosts 40 to 50 burials per year, with plots leased to families for 99 years, renewable when the lease ends. Unlike in many urban areas, the cemetery is not yet facing a shortage of space. Most plots are double or triple depth, allowing family members to be buried together. Precise records ensure each plot is accurately documented.

The woodland burial area is a peaceful sanctuary for wildlife, including birds, butterflies and wildflowers. To maintain its natural beauty, only biodegradable coffins and caskets are allowed, and after a burial the turf is carefully replaced to restore the grassy landscape.

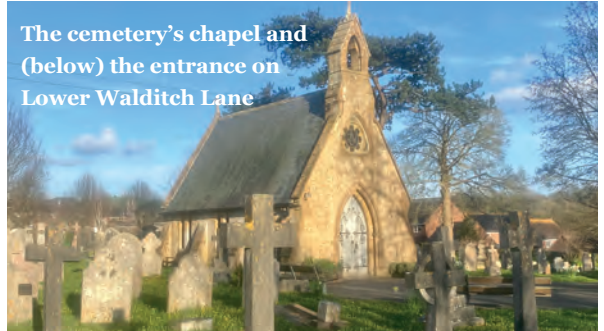
Kindness, compassion and the peace of nature

Paul Violet (*pictured below*) has been the superintendent of Bridport Cemetery for 15 years, combining his extensive mechanical experience in the motor trade with his passion for outdoor work, tree surgery and memorial management. The qualifications that adorn his office wall include a rare English Nature licence allowing him to humanely prevent badger setts from being established among the graves.

Paul explains that burial plots are usually dug the day before the funeral, using a mini digger or, in the case of the burial of ashes, by hand. On the day of the funeral, he makes sure the graveside is respectfully prepared, covering it with green mats. During the ceremony, he keeps a dignified distance, ensuring there is no noise or disruption. After the family leaves, he carefully fills and marks out the grave.



The cemetery's chapel and (below) the entrance on Lower Walditch Lane



Memorials are placed at least 18 months after burial to allow the ground to settle, with headstones secured using large steel rods. During our visit we saw a team from Country Memorials restoring a family grave, which gave us an insight into the skill and effort involved in cemetery maintenance.

Beyond his responsibilities, Paul values the human connection his job provides. Many visitors arrive feeling very emotional, and he takes pride in offering kindness and compassion. Spending his days in such a peaceful setting, he takes particular joy in the flowers and bulbs he has planted.

"If I can make a difference to a funeral or how the cemetery is viewed, it makes my day," Paul says. "I am motivated by people saying how lovely it looks. I'm Bridport through and through and I love putting back into the community."

Visiting and further information

The cemetery is open daily from 9am until sunset with access from Lower Walditch Lane.

For information on burials, cremations, bereavement services and arranging funerals, visit the dedicated page at www.bridport-tc.gov.uk. To arrange a burial, please contact Claire in our office at 01308 456722. *Caroline Pearce, Project Manager, BTC*

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Preschool spreads ‘Seeds of Sunshine’ this summer

Staff and pupils at St Catherine’s Preschool are hoping to spread some ‘Seeds of Sunshine’ around Bridport this summer with their sunflower growing competition.

The preschool is selling kits for £5 each (three for £12.50) containing everything needed for growing a sunflower. There are categories for the tallest flower and the largest flowerhead, with three age categories: preschoolers, children aged 5 to 17, and adults. Judging will take place in August and there are prizes for the category winners.

Preschool manager Emma Burt says: “The children love gardening and helping in the preschool’s vegetable patch, so we thought they would all enjoy taking part in this fundraising idea.”

Preschool committee chair Laura Smith



adds: “We hope this is something the whole community can get involved with; come the summer, we’ll see sunflowers all over town.”

Kits are available to order online at www.preschool.sumupstore.com/product/seeds-of-sunshine and you can follow the competition on the preschool’s Facebook page.



The spring hare: nature’s power to heal and refresh

March is already turning into April after the winter storms of both weather and world affairs. Turning our attention to the awakening of Nature around us can be a blessing.

The poet William Wordsworth knew this when he greeted 1 March 1798 with:

*It is the first mild day of March:
Each minute sweeter than before,
The red-breast sings from the tall larch
That stands beside our door.*

And a few years later he greeted the calm after a spring storm with:

*All things that love the sun are out of doors;
The sky rejoices in the morning’s birth;
The grass is bright with rain-drops;
The hare is running races in her mirth;
And with her feet she from the plashy earth
Raises a mist, that, glittering in the sun,
Runs with her all the way, wherever she doth run.*

What a marvellous picture – the joy of life, careless to human problems! A friend saw two hares racing around on the Bridport hills recently, so you might be lucky too.

Wordsworth’s observations of Nature went far beyond simple ‘prettiness’. He knew that we tend to live life preoccupied with worry and care, forgetting Nature’s power to heal and refresh. His March poem celebrating being out of doors goes on:

*One moment now may give us more
Than fifty years of reason.*

For a few weeks now, Rambler’s local song thrushes have been practising their song – a few rather undignified squawks becoming gradually more melodious. Have they forgotten over the winter how to sing? Perhaps these are new recruits learning their craft. Now they are in full flow, but the jubilant song won’t last forever, so just enjoy it while you can.

If you can, get outside and watch the countryside’s browns and greys turning to green, and look and listen for the sights and sounds of Nature waking up. Bluebells and red campion in the woods, the raucous arguing of rooks in the trees along Pymore Lane, that spring green of unfurling hawthorn leaves, the ‘craak’ of the ravens wheeling above their nest. And our local world is swelled not just by human visitors in West Bay but also by the birds that have travelled many miles to summer here – chiffchaff, blackcap with his melodious song, and later the martins, swallows and swifts. Among the reeds beside our local rivers, listen for the ‘churr churr’ of the



Hanna Knutsson

reed warbler or watch for the black head of the reed bunting darting among the reeds.

We may not all be constant rambles like Wordsworth but we can enjoy and be refreshed by the small things of Nature that are all around us.

Happy rambling!

RAMBLER

The Harmony Centre needs two new trustees

The Harmony Centre is actively seeking two new trustees. For an informal chat about joining our team of trustees, and to find out why we need new skills at this exciting point in our development, please contact Rachel Coney, Chair, by emailing rachel.c@theharmonycentre.org.uk including your name and phone number.



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Thu 3 rd	I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING (1945)	11am
Thu 3 rd	A CRACK IN THE MOUNTAIN (2022)	7:30pm
Fri 4 th	THE ALICE PROJECT	7:30pm
Sat 5 th	ED PATRICK CATCH YOUR BREATH THE SECRET LIFE OF A SLEEPLESS ANAESTHETIST	8pm
Thu 10 th	FIRST BLOOD - screening as part of the From Page To Screen film festival	7:30pm
Fri 11 th	CONCERTS IN THE WEST MIKELEIZ-ZUCCI DUO	11:30am
Thu 17 th	BRIDPORT'S CULTURE CAFE	7pm
Fri 18 th	SAMANTICS	8pm
Sat 19 th	STORIES IN THE DUST	2pm

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Some thoughts on philosophy and faith

Philosophy offers pathways through which we can explore the nature of faith, reality and our being. Open-ended enquiry is essential and through refinement in thinking can result in a mind that is free of judgement, free of the ‘mote in the eye’ that St Paul speaks of.

We begin, then, by seeing the unity of life. Even though the great force of life manifests itself in millions of forms, and that diversity of manifestation is glorious, beyond these manifestations we seek to realise that life is one. The moment we recognise this unity – that life is totally interconnected and interdependent – our burden is lifted. We see the world not in fragments but as an integrated whole.

Fragmentation and separation lead to materialism. The moment we say this is ‘my country’, separated from yours, it is ‘my religion’, separate from another, this is ‘my body’, separate from yours, we begin to focus on superficial appearances; we become possessive and exclusive. This leads to division and conflict. Philosophy helps us to see that our planet is part of a sacred Universe and we are all part of a sacred unity, a oneness.

The power of self-consciousness or self-reflection is natural to the human being. A human is the being who reflects on being; the being who experiences the cosmos and who wonders at the truth of things. This is the very nature of the human mind, as distinct from any other species. This consciousness of the whole and self-consciousness belong together. Only the self-reflective being can reflect on the whole, and in a sense it is the ‘whole’ that makes us conscious of ourselves.

Since, for the human, the Creation reveals truth,



it is ‘real’. So also is the intelligence that sees it. The concern is how to discern what is true, how to understand what is real. Within this context we can reflect and enquire into the true or the good.

The root of religion is concerned with man’s response to all this. What is my responsibility in all this? How should I live rightly? It soon becomes clear that there is this immediate world to respond to and Eternity beyond the world. We stand before both. That is the human situation and what defines us as human.

It is a religious situation and we are ethical beings.
David Brazier

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Life in colour: artist Josie Holliday

In the Pod this month is artist Josie Holliday, who delights everyone around her with her love of colour and joyful, uplifting themes. We met her to discover more about her work and her fascinating life...

The Bridge: Josie, it's so good to meet you – and we love your art! Tell us a bit about your early years.

Josie Holliday: I was born between Bath and Bristol. My dad is from the Lake District and my mum from Lyme Regis – she came from a big local Quaker family, the Waterfalls, and most of them lived in Bridport. My parents divorced when I was about 10 and my mum Jacqui, my sister and I came to live in Bridport. I went to Beaminster School, then to Yeovil College to study art, and then to SCAT (Somerset College of Arts & Technology) in Taunton, also studying art. I've always loved creativity and making things, particularly painting.

TB: What influences your art?

JH: I love colour and I've always been quite loud – when I was young, people would tell me to be quieter, that I shouldn't be so loud; now it's my loud, bold expression



that translates into my art! I love the sea, too – when I was at college I used to go surfing at Croyde in North Devon. It's so beautiful there. My travels have been a huge influence too, of course.

TB: Have you travelled a lot?

JH: When I finished college I lived in Sidmouth and Exeter for a while, then moved to London. I was doing my art, creative stuff, working in bars and cafes and doing their marketing. I visited Hong Kong and travelled a bit round Europe. Then I met a group of people in London and went to Pretoria, South Africa, with them. Eventually I ended up in Australia, and I was planning to go on to New Zealand, but I ended up staying in Oz for 13 years.

TB: What did you do there?

JH: I was travelling around and working. I worked as an executive assistant, and I was doing my art on the side. I had lots of commissions and exhibited in galleries. I started in Sydney, then went to Brisbane, lived up the east coast, and spent time in Canberra,

Melbourne and Tasmania. And I got baptised there, too.

TB: What made you decide to get baptised?

JH: I was brought up in the Quaker tradition, and I've always felt chased by God. I had a few intense experiences in Australia and I also met an amazing female preacher – I'd say that confirmed my faith. I'm not an active Christian now but I have my faith, which is important to me.

TB: But you came back to England?

JH: I felt drawn back to the 'mother ship', a nickname I have for my mum. Really I came back to be close to my family and mum; she was my best mate and we were always talking to each other, even when I was on the other side of the world. And I missed England and my friends.

TB: What did you do when you were back in England?

JH: Well among other things I got married and had two children. We lived in Bournemouth; that didn't work for me and I've been a single mum since 2016. We moved back to Bridport. My daughter, Ella, is 16 now – she's doing GCSEs at Beaminster School – and my son Barny is 13 and at Colfox.

TB: Tell us more about your mum, Jacqui Waterfall.

JH: She was amazing, a crazy quirky lady who'd do anything for anyone. She worked at Malabar and volunteered at Harbour House, keeping the Quaker aspect going. →



Josie was talking to Olivia Daly

Life in colour: artist Josie Holliday continued



She rode around on her ebike and we used to swim in the sea together off East Beach most mornings. She was very creative – she was always attending an art class – and you’d see her in the town wearing her colourful hats and at Christmas she’d hand out well-wishing flyers we’d designed together, sometimes with bells on! She felt strongly about justice, too, and she’d always stick up for the underdog.

In March last year I unexpectedly found her in her chair, forever asleep. She was 74. Her ashes are buried in the Peace Garden behind the Quaker Meeting House. I miss her every day.

TB: Family is obviously at the centre of your world. How do you fit your work into your busy life?

JH: My son, Barny, has ADHD and ASC (autism spectrum condition) and when he was younger this was all-consuming. I couldn’t work because he wouldn’t attend school and I couldn’t leave him. Before Covid I did a course that the school recommended, and that helped

massively as it gave me the tools for handling him. Now he can self-regulate and calm himself. He’s very clever, a computer whiz – he loves vintage gaming consoles and has a good group of friends.

Ella was amazing during the difficult early years with Barny. She’s wonderful, and we have a relationship that’s similar to what I had with my mum. She loves football and she’s creative too – she’s into photography and painting.

After my mum died I used some of our inheritance to take them on an amazing seven-week trip around Japan, Australia, Hawaii and California. It was very child-led, and helped Barny to realise he can do anything he sets his mind to. And I wanted Ella to see that there’s a big world out there and she needn’t ‘settle’... I think the trip achieved that. When we came home, Barny was so self-aware and capable, Ella got a confidence boost, and I was so inspired. It was an important catalyst for all of us, and afterwards I felt we were all moving into our next phase. I started working at Rise Bakery, reconnected with

lots of people, and continued to build my art.

TB: What do you get from your art?

JH: My art has always carried me. I have always felt restricted in life, but art is my own world, there are no rules in it. I love playing with colours – at the moment I’m into yellow and oranges, bright sunset colours over the sea.

I’ve always used paints but more recently I’ve started doing digital art using Adobe Illustrator. I’ve been asked to do logos and other digital work, so it was a good move. It works in a similar way to painting, by building up layers, and there’s no clearing up! I can just leave it and go back to it. That fits so well into our busy family life with all its challenges!

On 16 April Josie will be opening a shop/working studio in Abbotsbury. See ad below for details. Greetings cards of Josie’s work are for sale at Rise Bakery on East Road. www.josieholliday.com Instagram @josiehollidayart




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ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

The newness of spring

March at St Mary's was a time for new ventures. The flourishing of spring growth, warmer days and occasional reinvigorating periods of bright spring sunshine have all contributed to a sense of revival and encouragement. As you can see in the photos on this page, the ancient yews planted in the 19th century have been trimmed and the work of the faithful St Mary's gardening group is ongoing, allowing all who walk the churchyard paths to enjoy creation at its best.

Inside St Mary's we marked the start of Lent with an afternoon Holy Communion service – particularly for those who find it difficult to attend worship at 11 o'clock



on a Sunday – followed by tea and fresh fruit. There was another service in the evening; both services included the Imposition of Ashes.

Later in the month we held our first all-age Holy Communion service. The parents and children of the St Mary's Sunday School, along with the Sunday School teachers and the Revd John Rees, met over lunch after an 11am service to plan for this service. Ideas and offers of help came flooding in. By the end of lunch, we had a



Pictured: creation at its best in St Mary's churchyard



The yews in the churchyard have been trimmed ready for spring



list of adults and children eager to help with readings, prayers, giving out books, helping with refreshments and even playing the trumpet! The aim was not to do something completely new, but to involve more children and adults in the communion service and use language that would be more easily understood by all.

At the end of March we celebrated Mothering Sunday with a special service of Morning Prayer, again involving the Sunday School children and parents.

In April, Lent draws to a close as we meet on Good Friday at 2pm for an illustrated meditation. Then on Easter Saturday, the parish joins us for fish and chips in the churchyard followed by the Service of Light when we look forward in excitement to the coming Easter morning. Leaving the fire pit and the fish and chips behind, we make our way from the churchyard into the dark, unlit church, each holding an unlit candle – symbolising the darkness of the Good Friday tomb – then one candle is lit and that light is passed from one to another as we celebrate the light of Christ in our lives. The early risers among us will celebrate the Easter Sunday dawn on the East Pier at West Bay, while others will gather at St Mary's for the 11am Easter communion – ending, weather permitting, by singing the last hymn out in the churchyard.

Saturday 26 April sees the welcome return of our monthly Coffee & Cake from 10.30am to 12.30pm, when we welcome all comers – especially those weary from shopping in the market!

Peter Wright

Covid-19 made an impact in many ways, and many 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

Ward clerk – Will Austin 456722
enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

I'm pleased to report that the surfacing works on the eastern side of Bridport FC Car Park have been completed, and the car park is back in full operation. At the time of writing there is still some landscaping work to do, and this will follow. The cost of the works was met in part from central government funding and in part from an increase in parking fees a couple of years ago – councillors promised that this money would be used to upgrade the car park, which is still the cheapest in town! When funding is available we'll be looking to improve the western side of the car park.

Our much-loved Stalking Dog sculpture, which has graced the weir at Palmers Brewery for the past three years, is set to return to its creator, Greta Berlin, in April. Local art curator Cleo Evans has offered to launch a crowdfunding campaign to raise £6,000 to fund the recasting of the dog in resin and make it a permanent fixture in Bridport. If you'd like to support the fundraising effort, email enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk; we'll provide the link as soon as it's available.

On a less encouraging note, National Highways have indicated that approval of funding for a proposed



A crowdfunding campaign will support the recasting in resin of Greta Berlin's Stalking Dog sculpture

programme of improvements on Sea Road South – including a pedestrian crossing from Asker Meadows to Pasture Way – will not be taken forward in the coming year, as it doesn't meet their criteria for priority funding. There does however appear to be a commitment to a speed limit reduction from 40mph to 30mph. Councillors will continue to press for action to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Councillors continue to provide opportunities for anyone to come and discuss any topic relating to Central Ward. Attendance is much better in other wards, and your input can make a real difference, so please do come along – the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 19 May at 3pm at Bridport WI Hall.
Will Austin

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

From the parish editor

The second half of April is Holy Week and Eastertide and there will be services throughout the parish. At Bothenhampton we will have a Morning Praise at 11am on Palm Sunday, 13 April, and prayers at 12 noon on Good Friday, 18 April. On Easter Day a service of Holy Communion will be held at 11am. Everyone is welcome to these services.

Our monthly coffee mornings at Holy Trinity often raise around £300, which reflects the generosity and

Garden working party

Saturday 5 April at 2pm
The Old Churchyard

Please help tidy up these lovely grounds. Bring your own gardening gloves and tools to edge memorial stones, weed and trim uncut and overgrown areas, and cut dead wood. Work areas will be allocated on arrival according to ability and tools brought.



support of Bothenhampton residents. This money goes towards the upkeep of the building, so thank you to everyone who contributes, helping to look after our church. The next coffee morning will be on →

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

Saturday 5 April, 10am till 12 noon, with cakes, books and jigsaws for sale, and a raffle.

Also on 5 April there will be a spring tidy-up in the Old Churchyard from 2pm. If you can come and help, please bring gloves and tools if you have them. This is a very tranquil space and much appreciated by families whose loved ones are buried there.

The next Luncheon Club is on Thursday 10 April in the village hall, 12 noon for 12.30pm. This is an opportunity to have lunch cooked for you and served at the table to enjoy in the company of others. Please see the panel on the right for details.

During the bank holiday weekend of 3 to 5 May there will be a social event in the village hall to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. At the time of writing there are no firm plans, but ideas are being discussed. Keep your eyes open for more details!

Holy Trinity welcomes the return of the chamber choir Cantamus on Saturday 12 April. Cantamus will sing a programme of sacred and secular choral pieces for springtime, directed by Peter Nardone. The concert starts at 7pm and tickets are £12 on the door.

Shakespeare's The Tempest is to be performed in Holy Trinity on Friday 2 May. This Is My Theatre is a travelling company who came to Bothenhampton last November with their excellent production of A

Luncheon Club

**at Bothenhampton Village Hall
Thursday 10 April
From 12 noon; lunch served at 12.30pm**

Come and enjoy a two-course hot lunch with others

- Chicken, ham and leek pie
or potato, leek and cheese pie
- Trifle

Price £7 per head

Please book so we have numbers for catering: Heather Purse 423220
heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk



Christmas Carol, which was a sellout here. If you have not yet bought your tickets you can do so online. Please see the advert on page 10 for details.

Barbara Ffooks

FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 26 April – title to be announced

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5 • Refreshments available

Please book by emailing lnc2413@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

A poem for Easter

The Resurrection is a poem by Michelle Lowndes, a Christian poet and songwriter from New Zealand whose work is inspired by her deep faith. The poem has a direct simplicity and touches the heart of any reader.



*We hold so close to our hearts
The cross where Jesus died,
But so much more than the blood-stained cross
Is that Jesus came back to life*

*The stone's been rolled away;
The tomb lay open and bare –
They looked for Him, and then the angel said
That He is no longer here*

*Oh what joy they must have felt
To see Him just once more,
To eat with Him, to drink with Him,
To receive Him back as Lord*

*So much did He accomplish
Through His death upon the cross
And in His rising from the dead,
He reconciled us back to God
Nothing else could bridge the gap
That sin had wrenched apart –
Now we can freely go to God
And receive Christ in our hearts.*

Walditch Garden Group

All comers are welcome to join us for our regular monthly garden group meeting on Thursday 24 April at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Seasonal topics, featured plant of the month and garden discussion throughout the year. Come along with your garden questions or just for a cup of tea, coffee and a chat. We look forward to welcoming you.

Jane Mowatt (07810 110461)

**Bridport Town Council
BOTHENHAMPTON &
WALDITCH WARD**

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

The ward clerk writes...

Our next community engagement meeting is on Tuesday 29 April, 11am–12pm at Bothenhampton Village Hall. These are very informal, friendly drop-in meetings for residents of Bothenhampton and Walditch (including the roads in between the two villages) when you can come along and chat to your ward

councillors about anything of interest or concern to help improve the community where you live.

Following our last meeting in February, we have some updates on issues that were raised. First, the dog waste bin at the entrance to Jellyfields nature reserve has been moved away from the bench to the other side of the entrance.



Thelma’s hymn notes

This Joyful Eastertide

This Easter hymn uses a 17th-century Dutch tune, arranged in 1894 by Charles Wood (1866–1926). The words were written by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848–1934), an Anglican priest who wrote mostly religious verse, both original and translated from ancient authors. Besides being a talented musician, the Revd Woodward was also a keen bellringer as well as an editor of many books about carols, both in English and other languages.

Irish teacher and composer Wood was Woodward’s frequent collaborator. He is mostly remembered as a composer of Anglican church music, having written over 250 works. He lectured at Cambridge University, where he became a professor of music and where Ralph Vaughan Williams was one of his many students.

Slightly different versions exist, but the refrain we use is:

Come, share our Easter Joy
That Death could not imprison,
Nor any power destroy,
Our Christ, who is risen.

Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary’s Walditch



The Platinum Jubilee tree on Valley View has received some much-needed TLC with removal of the grass around its base and the addition of fertiliser, mulch and an improved tree stake, which will hopefully help the tree to flourish this year.

No action will be taken on the request by Walditch allotment tenants for the trees at the John Gundry play area to be removed. The town surveyor has told us that a survey of the trees confirmed that they are healthy and did not recommend any action.

We sent concerns about subsidence in Main Street, Bothenhampton, to Dorset Council Highways for investigation.

Remember, residents can report problems to Dorset Council at any time using their online portal – simply Google “Dorset Council report a problem”. Issues that you can report include: →

Pictured: The Platinum Jubilee tree on Valley View has received some vital care (above left); a dog waste bin at Jellyfields has been moved away from the bench

**BTC Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward
continued...**

- Drainage, flooding and gully clearing
- Potholes
- Hedges, trees and verges
- Roadworks and road closures
- Abandoned vehicles
- Dead animal in the road
- Traffic lights
- Street lighting
- Fly tipping and graffiti


- Footpath or bridleway issues
- Weeds or moss
- Other road or pavement problems

Alternatively, you can use FixMyStreet to report problems (www.fixmystreet.com) if you don't know which authority it should go to. FixMyStreet will send your report (and photos, which are always helpful) directly to Dorset Council or whichever authority is responsible for dealing with a problem.

Please email me at bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk if you want to get in touch about anything in the ward.
Jo Hughes

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

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

 The Friends of Holy Trinity Church Bradpole present

**BRIDPORT
BIG BAND**

Friday 16 May at 7pm
Holy Trinity Church, Bradpole

Tickets £15 to include ploughman's
Drinks by donation ♦ Raffle
Bookings: thefriendshbt@gmail.com / 420716

Soup & Pud Lunch

A heartwarming buzz of conversation and the joy of sharing a simple meal set the scene for a lovely community get-together last month (*pictured below*). Thanks go especially to Lesley, Chrissie and Elizabeth for producing such wonderful food – four varieties of delicious homemade soup and a choice of homemade puddings. People were generous with their time and contributions towards the food and in practical help setting up and clearing away. The event had a very happy atmosphere and made an amazing profit of £310 for the Friends of Holy Trinity on behalf of the church to go towards future repairs and maintenance.



Church re-decorating

The church's new lighting system, installed last year, has shown up the poor state of decoration on the walls where the paintwork has deteriorated over the years. Since the Church of England carefully controls work to church buildings, and as Holy Trinity is Grade II* listed, an application has been made to the diocesan archdeacon, the Venerable Penny Sayer, to repaint the nave, vestry, chancel and kitchen areas using a specified type of eco-friendly clay paint. There will be some disruption to weekday activities while the work is being done. A start date has yet to be agreed.

Quiz evening

Do come to the quiz evening on Friday 4 April at 7pm in the church, organised by The Friends of Holy Trinity. The cost is £12 per person, which includes a fish and chip supper although there are menu options. Drinks are by donation and there is a raffle. Places fill up fast so please book with the secretary, Wendy Carnell (thefriendshbt@gmail.com / 01308 420716) as soon as possible. Invite your friends, family and neighbours



and come as a team of four, or join a team on the night. Any queries please contact Wendy.

Village lunch club

The club will be lunching on Tuesday 8 April and this time the venue is The Half Moon at Melplash. Numbers are restricted so please contact Thelma Pulman (458533) if you haven't already booked. All welcome.

Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Tuesday 15 April. The Crafty Group will meet on Thursdays 3 and 17 April. Contact Daphne King (427552) for details.

Tots@Ten

Pre-school children are welcome to join others, with parents and carers, normally every Wednesday during term time at 10am in the church where there are toys to play with and lots of space. Refreshments are served. There is no charge. The spring term starts on 23 April.

Bradpole Forster Village Hall

Organisers hope to hold another tabletop sale in either May or June, so look out for the date if you'd like to reserve a table.

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



There is also some information on the Bradpole website: www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall.

Bradpole Buzz Group

The group would love some support with the following:

- Practical help with planting
- Offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden
- Suggestions and general support



During April we will be meeting on Wednesdays 2 and 23, and Saturday 12. For more information phone Rose Van den Akker on 01308 425756 or email bradpolebuzz@gmail.com.

Bridport Town Council
BRADPOLE WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

It has now been 12 months since the new Bradpole Ward of Bridport Town Council came into existence.

As we expected, it has been a year of everyone having to learn a new way of working while still giving a satisfactory level of service to the community. The feedback that we have received at engagement events and meetings has been mainly positive.

We held another community engagement event at the Co-op on Saturday 8 March. Several of the people who came along to speak to the councillors said it was easier to do so at this kind of event than at a meeting, because it was less formal.

Various matters were discussed, including the results of the 20mph survey and the possibility of the whole of Bradpole village being included. To learn more about



this, residents are invited to come along to the May ward meeting.

Relevant information about meetings and other matters is posted on the ward noticeboards, Facebook page and the website. Some residents have said they don't know where the noticeboards are, so here are →

BTC Bradpole Ward continued...

the locations: Jessopp Avenue; Railway Crossing Gardens – Caley Way (*pictured on previous page*); Pageants Play area – Gore Cross Way; Gore Cross Green Recreation Ground – Hemlet’s Close; Kings Head – near to bus shelter; and Thread Mill Lane and Morbae Grove in Pymore. I encourage residents to visit the boards regularly to find out what is happening in the ward, especially if they do not use social media.

I recently walked around Bradpole village and it was

lovely to see the spring flowers in bloom. Thanks to the Buzz Group volunteers for all they do.

Your ward councillors are always ready to listen to any concerns you have about Bradpole Ward. The next public meeting is on Monday 19 May at 7pm in Bradpole Village Hall. Full details of the meeting will be published beforehand.

Meanwhile, if you want to raise any items of concern or interest, please email me at *bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk* or phone 07944 523084.
Sandy Goldsmith

ST SWITHUN’S Allington

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graham_williams11@sky.com

MP visits St Swithun’s to see project progress

On 1 March, Edward Morello, the MP for West Dorset, and representatives of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) visited St Swithun’s Church, where the major Repair & Renewal programme is underway.

Welcoming them, churchwarden Mandi Sturrock said the visit was “an opportunity to learn more about [the project’s] ambitions, for this is not just a bricks and mortar project: it is to put a restored Georgian heritage building at the service of its local community.”

Philip Sturrock, the project’s chair, said the total cost of the works – which include external renovation and internal repairs and redecoration – would be about £1 million, to be financed from church reserves and major fundraising. The fundraising group had already raised almost £300,000 including a grant from the DHCT of £12,000, which the DHCT chair, David Grant, presented in the form of a large cheque to the Revd Cally Burch, Pioneer Team Vicar.

Cally thanked the DHCT for its significant contribution to this project, and David said in response that the trust was delighted to support the restoration work on the church.

The DHCT is a secular grant-making organisation that supports the preservation of churches considered to be of historic, architectural or decorative interest. Its website says of St Swithun’s: “The brilliant white rendered building is by any standard magnificent, with an impressive portico supported on four Tuscan columns with a circular cupola,” while Nikolaus Pevsner described the church as a Georgian gem.

West Dorset MP Edward Morello (4th from left), DHCT Chair David Grant (6th from right), the Revd Cally Burch (holding cheque) and others at the presentation of a DHCT donation to the St Swithun’s Repair & Renewal project



Barry Welch

Future of VAT reclaim scheme is in doubt

During his visit to St Swithun’s, Ed Morello was thanked for his parliamentary support over the renewal of the government’s scheme to allow listed places of worship to reclaim VAT on building works.

He said: “It is incredibly important that we preserve our nation’s treasured religious buildings. The Liberal Democrats will continue to pressure the government to ensure funding is available and accessibility to grants improved so that our national heritage is protected for future generations.”

Restorative work on listed buildings previously benefited for many years from a zero rate of VAT, although this relief was abolished in 2012 as it was

primarily used to carry out extension work rather than to preserve buildings with a valuable heritage. Since the change, churches and other sacred buildings across the country have reclaimed more than £350 million through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport is assessing the future of this grant scheme as it finalises its financial allocation for 2025/26. Heritage Minister Chris Bryant has announced that the scheme will definitely be extended into the next financial year, although its budget will be £23 million for 2025/26 compared with £42 million for 2024/25. A cap of £25,000 per building per year is also being introduced. The scheme’s future beyond March 2026 is unknown.

Bridport Town Council
WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

Back in February we were sad to see that a part of the nest swing at Flaxhayes Play Area (North Mills) had been damaged by fire (*pictured right*). The police were told and the town council removed it immediately. A new swing has been ordered and if it is not in place already, then it will be shortly. We ask that residents tell the police if they witness any antisocial behaviour.



Ken Hussey

We were pleased to hear that a property at Skilling was the subject of a compulsory purchase order after about five years of communications and negotiations between the legal owner and Dorset Council. The house had been left empty for several years. Dorset Council will now be working with groups in Bridport to work out the best options for the property.

Volunteers helped the Bridport Tree Planting Group to plant over 100 trees in the field behind Bridport Medical Centre. The group chose species on the basis that the field does flood occasionally.

The elderly multi-stemmed ash tree that has overlooked Coopers Field at Allington Hill for decades is sadly in such poor health that it has had to be made safe. The trunk at the bottom had rotted out and it was also suffering from ash dieback. At the request of the



Cathy Harvey

Above: This elderly ash tree has had to be made safe although the main trunk is being left for wildlife

Allington Hillbillies, who voluntarily maintain the site on behalf of Bridport Town Council, the contractors have left the main trunk as a wildlife haven rather than felling it to the ground. This ensures that it will remain a wonderful habitat for wildlife for a few more years.

Our next ward engagement session is on Monday 14 April at 11am at Flaxhayes Common Room (off Parsonage Road, North Allington). Please feel free to come along and have an informal chat with your ward councillors about any issues of concern to you in your ward. You can also contact your ward councillors and/or me using the email address shown above. Engagement sessions will now take place every three months around the ward.

Amy Stephenson

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

News from St John's

We are still holding regular Sunday services safely despite the collapse of the ceiling, but the church has to remain shut for the rest of the time for health and safety reasons. There's still no word on when the clock will return. We have Morning Prayer on Mondays at 10am and the monthly Service of Wholeness and Healing on the fourth Saturday of the month at 6pm.

On Saturday 19 April, under the 'Come & Sea' banner, we have a morning event – a child-focused Easter experience – so we hope for some dry weather. See the advert on page 8 or check out the parish website at www.parishofbridport.org for details.

West Bay WI

The regular Knit & Natter session will take place on Wednesday 2 April from 10am to 12 noon. Then, at the meeting on Wednesday 9 April (2.30–4.30pm), speaker Dena Selby will be demonstrating some Easter crafts.

The start of the WI's centenary celebrations went well and the group enjoyed seeing entertainer and magician Jude Coram (*pictured here*) perform some amazing tricks. I'm glad to say that nothing untoward happened to any of the members!

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



Entertainer and magician Jude Coram

Round and about the Bay

After all the rain, it was lovely to see the sun appear towards the end of February, allowing work to go on around the harbour in preparation for the upcoming tourist season. Parkdean Holiday Park opened in March



with lots on offer for everyone, so let's hope good weather brings the tourists in.

It's good to hear that the town council has agreed to fund eight more of the large wooden litter bins around the harbour. These were trialled last season and definitely helped with the problem of seagulls scattering the food containers.

I happened to be walking round the harbour on a lovely sunny morning and spotted the water gushing through the sluice gates (*pictured above*) from the river into the harbour – the power of water both amazes and frightens me. It was also a very low tide and I could see the rocks exposed at the far end of the promenade and so much beach that there is now. This year a trial is taking place using water injection technology instead of the annual dredging, which involves a lot of equipment plus the dredger in the harbour. The new technology offers a safer option, does not affect the ecology of the harbour, and has the added bonus of being cheaper!

Another regular feature is the West Bay Car Boot Sale held every Sunday from 13 April to the end of October.

The HQ for Stampede by the Sea is the Salt House, where you will be able to get all the information about the elephant trail in Bridport, West Bay and Lyme. This is a great way to explore the area while looking out for the elephants. This event is being run to raise awareness and funds for Weldmar Hospice.

Do you know the history of the Salt House? It was built in the early 18th century when salt was stored here for the Newfoundland fishing trade. Ships laden with Bridport nets, line, rope and salt would sail to Newfoundland – a dangerous journey – and trade with the fishing fleet there. The much-prized salted Newfoundland cod was then transported to Spain and Portugal and exchanged for sweet wine, exotic fruit and fragrant spices.

Newfoundland was settled by men and women involved in the fishing trade. What started as a remote

and inhospitable outpost eventually became a fully fledged colony, and descendants of Dorset-born sailors and fisherfolk still live there today. The Salt House building has been used as a milking parlour, cycle hire shop and more recently a museum and information centre. It is now a community hall and available to hire for events and meetings through Bridport Town Council.

The Discovery Centre is now back to opening six days a week, 11am to 4pm. The exhibition celebrating 100 years of the WI in West Bay (pictured right) is now on display at the back of the centre. The smugglers exhibition will be on display throughout the season and is proving very popular.

Sue Pollock



Above: this display marks the WI's centenary

Bridport Town Council WEST BAY WARD

Ward clerk – Will Austin 456722
enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The ward clerk writes...

We're pleased to report that we expect to launch the pilot weekend 'shuttle bus' service (see my report in the March issue) in June, running between the town centre and West Bay on Saturdays and Sundays. The idea came from United Diversity Bridport's Josef Davies-Coates, who identified a grant fund for piloting community bus services. At their request the town council has stepped in to oversee the project, working with Dorset Community Transport as operator. The service will run half-hourly and we hope it'll reduce the need for cars while linking the town centre with our wonderful coastal offer. It is just a pilot, though – so 'use it or lose it' is an important message!

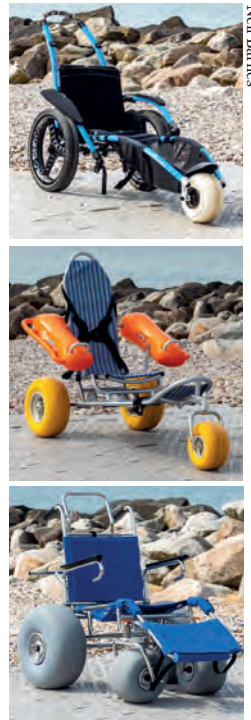
Here's a 'shout out' for the Discovery Centre's wonderful exhibition Myth and Reality: Smuggling in the 18th Century, which will run until 30 June. It looks back to a time in the mid-18th to 19th centuries when

smuggling was widespread along the south coast. It's fascinating – and free! – so don't miss out.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteer Elaine Leader, the fantastic beach wheelchair scheme is looking secure for the future. A local care organisation has agreed in principle to take on much of the running of the scheme. The town council would remain the 'accountable body', handling the finances, insurance, etc., but the scheme will continue to rely on volunteer support, led by Elaine. If you're interested in helping, email us at enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk and we'll put you in touch with her. Three beach wheelchairs of different types are pictured here.

The next ward meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7 May at 6.30pm in St John's Church. Come along and talk about all things West Bay.

Will Austin



Neil Barnes

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159

Church secretary – Jane Clinton
bucchurchsec@gmail.com

Church lettings – Sue Herman 422598

Dipping your toe into something new

I love this time of year, when we can see the signs of spring appearing in nature all around us. It's so good to see the green shoots of new life emerging in verges, hedgerows and trees. For many of us it's a visual, tangible sign of the new life that God promises to all of us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, which Christians across the world will be celebrating in the days running up to Easter Sunday, on 20 April. ➔

Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

These signs of hope lift our spirits and are vital to our wellbeing in the midst of busy lives where we can feel overwhelmed by events happening around us, in our personal and family lives, as well as in the national and global context.

Earlier this year I attended a conference called Ageing Successfully, where we were encouraged to explore what that means. Scientific research suggests that as we get older we tend to believe in fewer things but more intensely, and that trying something new is good for our wellbeing. Exploring our spirituality more deeply – working out what we believe and why – can also help us to ‘age well’.

There are lots of things happening at Bridport United Church in the days before Easter, and we’d love to invite you to come and try some of them. You might get your soles wet (if you want to) but hopefully the experiences will also be good for your soul!

From Monday 14 to Thursday 17 April at 8am and 12 noon, and at 8am on 18 April (Good Friday), you can come and share some quiet space for 15 minutes for Sounds Of The Passion, a Bible reading and meditation about the events leading up to Jesus’ death. You can

dip in and out and don’t need to come to every session or every day.

Between 10am and 12 noon from Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 April we will have a labyrinth laid out in church and you’re invited to come and walk the labyrinth as you reflect on your spiritual journey and prayer life. You may want to ask God to show you whatever he wants to, as you walk gently and slowly into the centre and out again. Stay for as long or as little as you like.

On Maundy Thursday (17 April) at 7.30pm you’re welcome to come and remember Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples, as we share Holy Communion seated around a candlelit table, with foot washing for those who would like it.

On Good Friday (18 April) at 2pm we have a reflective Service of the Senses, where you can experience the events leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion as part of the crowd who were there, using your senses to join in with the shouts of the crowd, see the cross, touch the crown of thorns, feel the nails, and smell and taste the wine vinegar.

And on Easter Sunday (20 April) at 10.30am you are invited to come and share in family worship and Holy Communion in the round, as together we celebrate the joy and wonder of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day that lies at the heart of the Christian faith. We hope to see you there!

The Revd Jane Wilson

EASTER at Bridport United Church

Palm Sunday 13 April at 10.30am
Family Service

Walk the Labyrinth 10am - 12 noon
Monday 14 - Wednesday 16 April

Holy Week Prayers at 8am and 12 noon
Monday 14 - Thursday 17 April

Maundy Thursday 17 April at 7pm
Service of Communion and Footwashing

Good Friday 18 April
Holy Week Prayers at 8am
Service of the Senses at 2pm

Easter Fayre 10am - 12 noon
Saturday 19 April

Easter Sunday 20 April at 10.30am
Family Celebration with Holy Communion

April services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 6	10.30am	Roger Phillips
	4pm	Soul Space
Sunday 13	10.30am	The Revd Jane Wilson
See left for Holy Week and Easter		
Sunday 27	10.30am	The Revd John Yarrien

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 (from April these will be on the 1st Saturday only)

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

St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

Parish priest – Fr Colin Groombridge
colin.groombridge@prcdtr.org.uk
 Presbytery 424754
 Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594
bridport@prcdtr.org.uk



Easter is a time of renewal

Easter approaches: a time of renewal and celebration in all Christian churches. Renewal is evident, too, in the countryside here in rural West Dorset. The cold, dark days of winter have slipped away, and with the going forward of the clocks we welcome lighter evenings and clement weather.

There is something rather lovely about Eastertide, and this time of year is enhanced by nature. With Ash Wednesday and Lent behind us, we look to new beginnings. Good Friday may promise the delight of a spicy hot cross bun, but more importantly, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon – the time Jesus died on the cross – we have the service of the Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion.

On Holy Saturday night, the Easter vigil Mass dramatically heralds the end of the darkness in the church. Throughout Lent, all statues, stations of the cross and crucifixes have been covered with purple cloths. On this night, from the church door the deacon carries the paschal candle into the church and three times sings 'Lumen Christi' (each time a tone higher) first at the entrance, then in the middle of the church and finally in front of the altar. He puts the paschal candle in its place. The priest, servers and congregation stand in their places holding lighted candles. The Deacon then sings 'Exultet' (rejoice). When we reach

the 'Gloria' during the Mass the bells ring out. There's a great feeling of happiness and elation at this moment. Easter has arrived!

The following morning is Easter Sunday, when once again the faithful flock to Mass in large numbers and we all seem brighter and lighter. It is a joyous time. Home again after Mass to painted boiled eggs for breakfast – this always amuses the children but not nearly as much as chocolate Easter eggs do.

In our family, after returning from Mass we have an Easter egg hunt throughout the house and out into the garden. It is not enough to just hide the eggs, no, this is accompanied by cryptic clues – and they have become more cryptic as the years go by. Sometimes we hunt for minutes on end until joyous shouts ring out as one by one the eggs are discovered in their hiding places and a great feasting of chocolate begins...

Pat McEvoy

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, and 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

Meet our new kitchen manager...

We're very happy to introduce the new manager of the Community Kitchen, Terry Barker (*pictured*). The kitchen runs on Wednesdays and Fridays, 11am to 2pm.

Who are you?

Hello, my name is Terry Barker and I am the new Community Kitchen manager. I live in Axminster with my wife Laurie. I do a lot of volunteer work with the Waffle House and help people who are struggling. I go to a church in Exeter called Rediscover, and I love welcoming people into the church. I enjoy photography as a hobby as well.



BEACON CHURCH continued...

What are you most excited about in your new role as kitchen manager?

I am excited to see how God is going to work in my new position. I am excited to work with all sorts of different people, meeting and coming alongside them and working with the amazing team. The Community Kitchen has a great welcoming atmosphere and I love to see people enjoying that and being themselves in a place of warmth and peace. I thank the Lord for sending me to Beacon Church and this new role.

New Beacon Family Club

We welcome families with primary school aged children to come along and be in a warm, safe space to relax and spend time together as a family.

Every Wednesday 3.30 to 5pm at Beacon Church. Food, drink, crafts and games will be provided free of charge. We look forward to seeing you and your family.



Pray Bridport

Tuesday 8 April from 6.30 to 7.30pm at Beacon Church.

You are always welcome at Beacon Church. Wherever you are in your journey in faith, and whatever you believe, we'd love to meet you. Our service is at 10.30am each Sunday in the Beacon Evangelical Hall, Priory Lane DT6 3RW.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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 for worship every Sunday at 10.30am and at various times during the week.

We seek to bless the community of Bridport with the Good News of Jesus, and everyone is assured of a warm welcome at our Sunday services or when joining in any of our activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bridport QUAKER MEETING
The Meeting House
97 South Street

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

Rejoicing in every day

It's spring. There is new life everywhere: lambs in the fields, blossom on the trees, tadpoles in the ponds, chicks in the nests. In the church there is Lent, a time of preparation, and then Easter, a time of fulfilment.

Early Quakers believed there were no special days or months, no marked out times and seasons. In 1902 John Wilhelm Rowntree wrote that the "religious life is the inward life of the spirit... no place or time can limit its action."*

It's great to have the symbols of Christmas and Easter

with their stories of new life and promise, but Quakers try to live in a way that expresses all times and seasons as equally important in their own way. That's quite a challenge and it must be admitted that nearly everyone enjoys being given an Easter egg!

Meeting is held at the Meeting House in 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.

**From Quaker Faith and Practice 27.37*

Get involved: local clubs, groups & societies

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

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

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 Bridge Club meets at St Swithun's Hall on Tuesday afternoons (beginners/rusty players; not fourth Tuesday), Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons (relaxed; not third Friday), plus online on Thursday evenings. Beginners' lessons started in mid-October. See www.bridgewebs.com/bridport or phone Martin Angold 01308 861120.

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

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

West Dorset Flower Club meets at the WI Hall, North St, at 2.30pm on the second Monday each month with demonstrations and speakers. On 14 April there will be an Easter surprise! Phone 456339.

Bridport Stage Company theatre group is now rehearsing its production of Alice Through the Looking Glass at The Bull Hotel on Monday evenings at 7pm. To

get involved, email Valerie: tasterella@hotmail.co.uk. No experience is needed, and all ages are welcome.

West Dorset Singers (formerly the New Elizabethan Singers) meet for choral rehearsals in the United Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from September to May. For more info contact the membership secretary, Jill Edwards: membership@westdorsetsingers.org

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

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

Bridport & District Gardening Club will meet at the WI Hall, North St on Thursday 17 April, 7 for 7.30pm, when Mike Burke will speak about The Gardens Group. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

The Cowshed Wellbeing Gardens group meets on Tuesdays 2–4pm. Gardening, talking, art & workshops for people with health vulnerabilities or wishing to enhance wellbeing. Access is to the left of Bridport Medical Centre. For details please text 07769 720773.

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. org or visit www.ascapegroup.org

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 →

Voices of Hope Singing Group is open to all ages and abilities. Easy, uplifting, joyful songs from around the world, some rounds and some in parts. Borough Gardens (off South Street) or The Chapel in the Garden if it's raining, Fridays at 11am. Suggested donation £5. janesilvercorren@gmail.com / 07887 675161 for more details or to join the mailing list.

Free play singing, circle toning, layering and creating spontaneous tunes, with improvised sound and world rhythms. Tuesdays 1.30pm at Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane. For more info phone Pen 07713 008290.

Bridport Health Walks are free gentle walks around town. A 30-minute walk every Wednesday and a walk of about 60 minutes on the first and third Thursday 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. For more details contact 01305 252222 / sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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

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

Bridport History Society meets on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at the United Church Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £5pp. Membership is £12 individual / £18 couple. For more info visit www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk

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

Bridport Branch Royal Naval Association meets on the third 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 Peter May glassertonm1141@outlook.com

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 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 2025? Contact joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.bridportcarnival.co.uk

Bridport Community Shed, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, opens Mon, Wed & Thurs 10am to noon. On the first Tuesday of the month there is also an evening stitching session (please book in advance). Contact 07593 880428.

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 centre opening hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am–1pm) to find out how we can help you. Now at Unit 1, The Tower Building, St Michael's Estate (entrance via courtyard off Foundry Lane DT6 3RR). Phone 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. Based at The Harmony Centre, new address as in previous entry. Phone: 07385 290804.

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

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

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

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

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 & District u3a is for people no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings 2pm on the fourth Tuesday each month (except December) in the United Church Hall, East St. The talk lasts about an hour, followed by Q&A and refreshments. On 22 April the organisation will hold its AGM followed by a short talk by chairman Alastair Forbes titled 'How to Be a Good Tourist'. Members free, visitors £3. More than 60 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. Contact Alastair Forbes 424166 / *chair@bridportu3a.org.uk* / website *www.bridportu3a.org.uk*

The **u3a Singers Group** meets on the first and third Thursdays each month at the WI Hall in North Street, 10am for a 10.30am start. All welcome (no audition). Contact Heather 425219 / *www.bridportu3a.org.uk*.

The **Rotary Club of Bridport** meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 for 6.30pm at the Bridport & District Golf Club, Burton Road DT6 4QT. We also hold fundraising and social activities on other dates and elsewhere. We help good causes locally, nationally and internationally and support the local community. Contact Mike Green 07909 990693 / *mikegreen@greenmail.net*

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.

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

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*

Girlguiding West Dorset has Rainbow, Brownie, Guide & Ranger groups meeting in 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 structure offering opportunities and awards. *www.girlguiding.org.uk* / *girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com*

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

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

Bellringers in the Parish of Bridport: We always welcome new ringers and are happy to train you on our bells. At St Mary's Bridport we meet at 7.30pm on Thursdays. For more info contact Bob Hardwick 420632. At Holy Trinity Bradpole we practise at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. We have a ground-floor ringing chamber and training simulator. Contact *htbrabells@parishofbridport.org*

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) in support of the National Trust, organises illustrated talks in the United Church Hall, East Street, at 2.30pm. On Monday 28 April, Andy Williams will speak about the Bankes family and Kingston Lacy. Non-members £5. Contact Sarah Nicks 459855. *www.goldencapnt.org.uk*

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

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

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

The New Arts Group will next meet at Bridport Town Hall on Wednesday (note change of day) 9 April, 1.30 for 2pm, when John Ericson presents The Shakers: Their Beliefs, Architecture and Artefacts. £10 per person to cover costs (no membership fee). Tea/coffee from 1.30pm (£1), talk starts at 2pm. For more details contact *jenifer.morley@btinternet.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.

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

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!

West Bay Harriers are a Bridport-based off-road running group. One-hour trail on country footpaths, etc., every Monday 7pm from in front of The Woodman, South Street. With headtorches in winter. No charge. Contact Pete Brown 07762 257212.

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 Art Society is a friendly, non-profit group of artists at all levels of experience which aims to encourage interest in and practice of the visual arts. It holds an annual summer exhibition to celebrate its members' creativity. Find us at www.bridportart.com and on Facebook and Instagram.

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

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 second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 1.30–3pm. £2.50pp. Phone 01305 269444.

Colmer WI meets on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street. Visitors welcome to come for a no-obligation evening. Contact Sarah Fletcher sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk

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

Bridport Lions Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Haddon House Hotel, West Bay. A social evening often also takes place on the fourth Tuesday, plus fundraising events throughout the year in aid of individuals and groups in our community. Contact Sheila Greenaway 07930 636804 / bridportlionsclub@outlook.com. Website www.bridportlionsclub.org

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

Bridport Embroiderers meet in St Swithun's Hall on the third 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

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.

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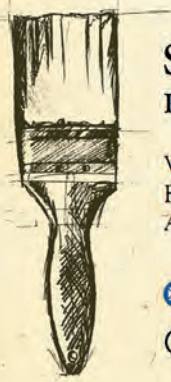


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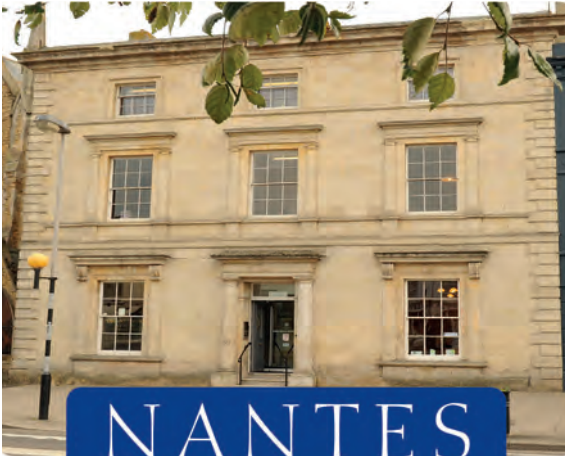
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