

The

BRIDPORT

Flyer

GRATIS

WINTER 2025

THE **FREE TOWN GUIDE** ABOUT BRIDPORT **FOR BRIDPORT**
PRODUCED QUARTERLY: WINTER • SPRING • SUMMER • AUTUMN

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WELCOME TO The Bridport Flyer for Winter 2025



Our front cover photo may be familiar to many of you? This attractive cottage is adjacent to the footpath along the River Brit between the brewery and West Bay. Please remember this is a private home with a private garden.

We have some really interesting businesses in this edition! Places to shop, browse and for a day out, home improvements and property maintenance, eateries, deli, pub and bakery, garden maintenance, sheds, furniture and electrical appliances. Motor trades and vehicle maintenance. Bridport's very own "Clocktower Records" have a short review of their business on **Page 12**.

The Allington Hillbillies are already planning events for 2026 – see their feature on **Page 8**. On **Pages 16 and 17** we have a "Fresh Look" at the annual Melpash Show. Across **Pages 20 and 21** we bring you our handy local maps of Bridport town centre and the surrounding areas. Are you a member of the Samways family? Or do you know someone who is? Carol Thorne (nee' Samways) is trying to find her family! On **Page 22** we have a short history of Carol's ancestors, with very strong Bridport links. Can you help Carol fill in the missing bits?

Pages 24 and 25 are devoted to Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, and their activities planned for half-term in late October. On **Page 28** we hear from The Jurassic Coast Railway, and the exciting plans they have to re-open the railway line to West Bay. This coincides with Dorset Council running a consultation on the Local Transport Plan.

On **Pages 30 and 31** West Bay Discovery Centre announce a new exhibition, and autumn activities including a "Hallowe'en visit". Bridport Youth and Community Centre are "Not only a youth club!". Read more about this on **Page 34**.

It seems appropriate to thank all our advertisers and contributors for their continued support in making The Bridport Flyer such a success!

Best wishes,

Anthony Bucke EDITOR.

Email: bridport@theantiquetourist.com

Friday 26 September 2025.



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AN UPDATE FROM THE ALLINGTON HILLBILLIES

We are excited to announce that plans are moving forward apace for our Celebrate 2026 Country Fair to be held next year on the evening of Friday, May 1st and all day on Saturday, May 2nd.

We are very happy to welcome Bridport Town Council as our partners on this event, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the local community raising funds to purchase Allington Hill for the benefit of the people of Bridport.

The event is very much focused on nature, local environment and local traditions.

We have already signed up a number of speakers, from Dorset Wildlife Trust, the National Landscape, and the RSPB, among others. We also have a wide variety of hands on activities in place, such as rope making, willow weaving, cyanotype photographic printing and learning to play the steel drums.

On the Friday evening there will be live music, local food stalls and a bonfire, followed by the main Country Fair on the Saturday. We are inviting providers, stall holders, speakers, local musicians and sponsors to register an interest in taking part either on Friday and or Saturday.

We have of course been fundraising for this



special event. This has involved creating new stock for our online shop, which can be found at <https://allington-hill-volunteers.sumupstore.com/>

We also have a raffle: first prize is a short break at Seymour Barn in North Allington, second prize a tandem paraglide flight and third prize a hamper of local goods worth £100, with plenty of other prizes too! Tickets are available on our online shop and the winners will be announced on Saturday 6th December.

Of course, work continues on the Hill as always! We have collected this summer's crop of Yellow Rattle seed, and have been clearing the overgrown footpaths and coppicing willow and hazel trees. More recently the weather has rather stymied our efforts outdoors, so we have retreated to our workshop to focus on crafting activities to re-stock the shop!



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From Clocktower founder Ray Gregory

Clocktower played a prominent role in rebranding "records" to "vinyl" in 2008, via a Quarterly Fair in Bridport named "Vinyl Saturday". Our fair featured twice in a National magazine and was voted "Record Fair of the Year" as, within 6 months of its inception, other fairs and shops adopted the use of the word "vinyl" into their business.

Our shop in Bridport's Vintage Quarter is a destination store! We offer all genres and types of vinyl records for sale, aiming to provide quality with competitive pricing for buyers. Important to note; we do not sell on-line!

Apart from visitors from all over the UK, a large number of International Customers make the journey to Bridport, the shops visitor book has been signed very recently by visitors from Canada, USA, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Israel, UAE, Portugal, Spain, France, Eire, Germany, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway.

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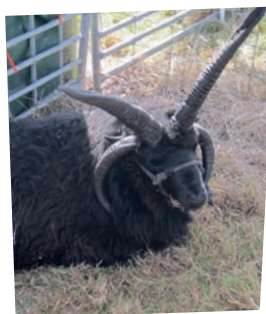
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Melplash Show 2025, A FRESH LOOK

I haven't been to the Melplash Show since I was a teenager, so attending **on behalf of the Bridport Flyer** on the 178th anniversary of the show was a welcome opportunity to revisit. Having travelled a distance, we were relieved to find readily available, well organised parking on site, with only a short walk across the river to the show itself. The one-day show is held on a Thursday, historically half-day closing in Bridport, and there was a lot to see during the day.

Following my personal interests, the first destination was the craft tent where there was an interesting mix of displays; sea -glass, textile crafts, jewellery, prints, cards, wood turning, and several ranges of pottery. Amongst these were some attractive candle holders made in Symondsby by Lauren Norris who had brought her Wylde Ceramics to the show for the first time, and Country Craft's pastel coloured children's clothing, whose frilly sweatshirts printed with tractors were both unusual and popular. Delicate, colourful sculptures from Zimbabwe made from recycled drink cans caught my eye, and it was inspiring to hear how these are helping improve the lives of the skilled craftspeople who make them.



Multi-horned
Hebridean sheep



The Town Crier

There were so many food offerings to choose from, ranging from burgers, fish and chips to pancakes, venison, game and more exotic Caribbean or Persian fusion food as well as confectionery, ice cream and cakes. However, we opted for Rise bakery as it was on our route and enjoyed an early lunch of coffee, a generously filled sausage roll and a delicious almond croissant. Coincidentally, we sat next to the family of one of the bakers, who explained that the bakery is based in Bridport and has an outlet just up the road from the showground. That the Melplash is a family show was further demonstrated by the smiles received by the toddler in a backpack who, unseen by his Mum whilst

she waited to be served, randomly lobbing pieces of banana bread at unsuspecting diners.

We also met the owners of Penston Portlands, who had brought their Portland sheep to exhibit at the show. Although it meant leaving home at 5.30am to make the trip from mid-Devon they were keen to support the show which still maintains a specific class for Portland sheep, now classified as a rare breed. On our way to the Countryside Arena to see the yurts that had won the Rural Crafts Competition we spotted some interesting willow weaving, carts, wheelbarrows and even a wheeled bench. On leaving the arena we dropped in to the Dorset Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, before moving on to admire the Alpacas. Whilst walking back towards the vintage car field we were entertained by Morris dancers, a town crier, Spiderman and music by St Swithun's Band.

Any agricultural show necessitates a wander around the animal pens, and my interest in textiles led me to the sheep. It was a very hot day so it was good to see that many exhibitors were using gazebos to provide much needed shade. It was the first time I had seen a red skinned Rouge de L'Ouest in real life, but the Kerry Hills with their black facial markings and the curly Greyface Dartmoors were particularly appealing. A short walk from the sheep brought us to the goat tent, where a visitor was taking a brief rest, oblivious to a goat discreetly nibbling at her skirt.

There was so much to see that we missed the heavy horse classes, but managed to catch them in the grand parade, still majestic in their brass and harness. Tea time found us having a cuppa at the retro WVS mobile canteen, which had been converted from a 1936 Beardmore Mk 4 taxi during WWII.

Towards the end of the day we watched



Lap of honour for the "unaffiliated" show jumpers



Martin Symes, wheelwright



Vintage Austin

the Unaffiliated Show Jumping in the main ring and the atmosphere of the show was embodied in the generous manner in which the audience encouraged a young rider with a difficult horse.

Our final impression is that the show has retained it's local and agricultural roots, and despite having increased in size, it still felt familiar to me after all these years.

by Vikki Haffenden



Rock Art's Zimbabwean
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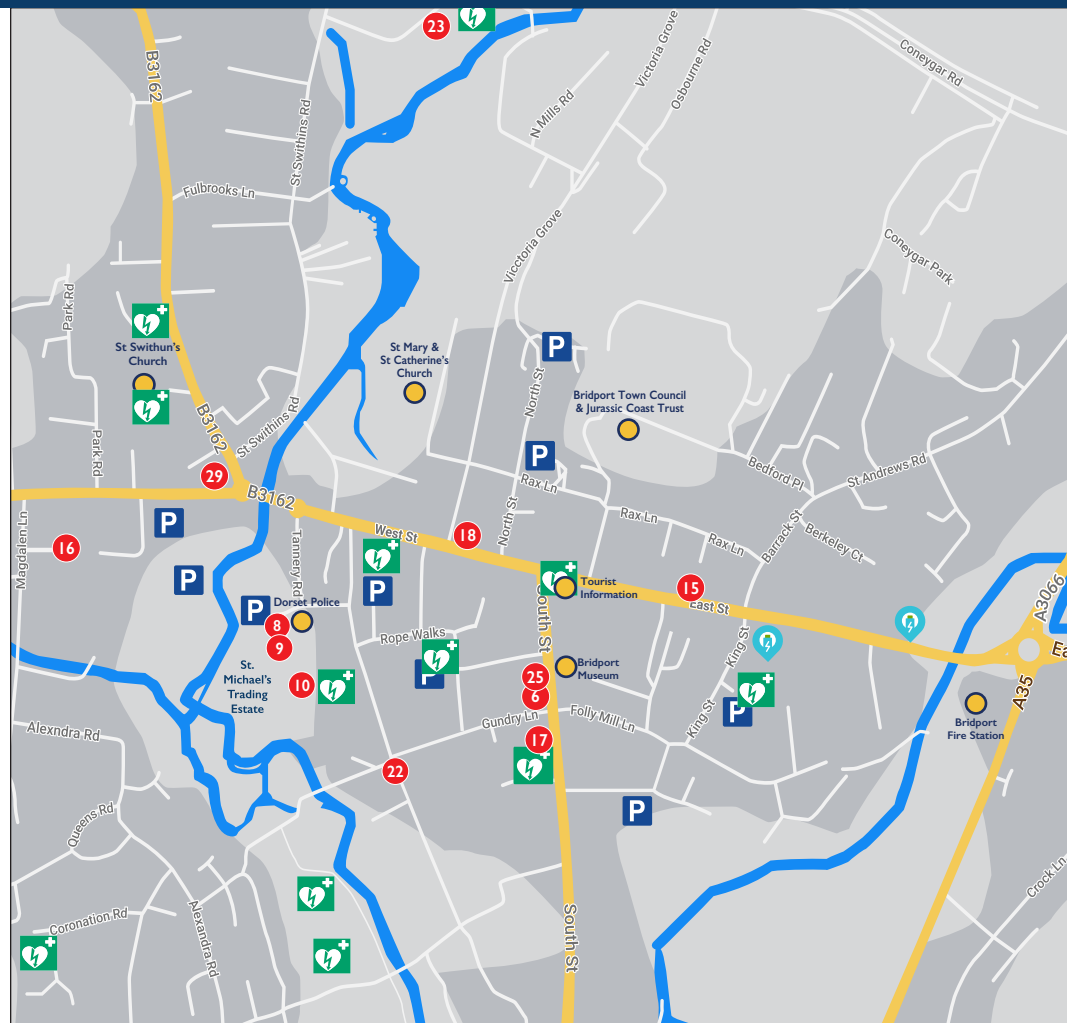
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Calling All "SAMWAYS" in Bridport

Carol Thorne (nee' Samways) is trying to find her family!

The Bridport Flyer received a lovely message from Carol Thorne of Chickerell, Weymouth, requesting help.

From Carol -

"We start with Henry Samwaies (*surname spelt differently back then*) 1595.

Six generations later -

Thomas born 1744.
Married Hannah Hanford 5/11/1769.

They had 6 sons and 2 daughters.

My line comes off their first born -
Richard Samways b. 1770

Richard married Sarah Masters 16/4/1792 in Wraxall.

One of their sons URIAH is my line.
Uriah b. 1820

He married twice. 1st wife was Priscilla Rose they had one daughter Mary.

Priscilla died and Uriah then married Diana (*or Dinah*) Drew.

Uriah and Diana moved around Dorset and into Somerset following work

on farms -

Netherbury, Wraxall, Winsham, Chard.

Their 6th son, Frederick Samways, born 1864 was my Grandads Grandfather!

Frederick married Mary Jane Wallis in Loscombe in 1892.

They had 9 children.

Their 7th child, Charles Edward was my Grandfather, born at South Bowood, married Winifred Vallance in Weymouth in 1927.

Their children included my father, Charles Wilfred, and his twin brother Edward sadly who died aged 2yrs.

My father told me we were related to Clifford

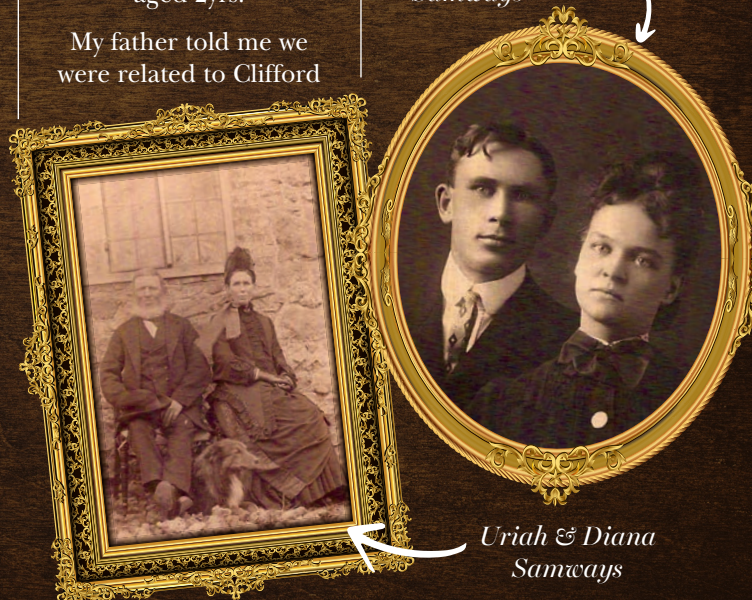
and Clive Samways of the Fisheries. Also one of dad's uncles or cousins was Mayor of Bridport at one time.

Samways is synonymous with farm labourers & fishermen I believe.

Dad was a postman for 40yrs in Weymouth and as a child he took me in the van out to Abbotsbury and the surrounding farms delivering post. He had an Aunt who lived in Abbotsbury I remember.

People can contact me by email"
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Alfred & Hattie Samways



Uriah & Diana Samways

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ANNUAL CRAFT & FOSSIL FAYRE TIME!

What a very busy summer holidays we have had, welcoming over 1,000 visitors through our doors daily! We are now looking ahead to the autumn and will be exhibiting at the Sidmouth Science Festival on **Saturday 11th October**, as well as turning our attention to our own fayre.

Join us on **Saturday 25th October 10am-4pm** at St Andrew's Community Hall, Charmouth. This will be your chance to buy locally made arts and crafts, and locally prepared fossils and gifts in the run up to the Christmas period.

In the morning you will find bacon rolls being served at the back of the hall and during the afternoon, cake and a cuppa! You can enter the raffle for your chance to win one of many prizes, all locally donated and the proceeds which will support our educational charity.

We will be joined by Stonebarrow Fossils, Fossil Atelier and Chris East all with their locally found and

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre
Reg. Charity No 1105386

CRAFT FAIR
JEWELLERY • POTTERY • CERAMICS • PATCHWORK • WILLOW CRAFT
BABY KNITWEAR • PAINTINGS • CARDS • GIFTS • BAGS • FUSED GLASS

Refreshments all day
Bacon Rolls 12 - 2
Cream Teas 2 - 3.30
Fossil Sales Meet the collectors
Cakes & Home Produce
Raffle

Saturday 25th Oct Charmouth Community Hall 10.00 - 4.00
FREE ENTRY

prepared fossils for sale. These pieces are all unique and will make a lovely gift for any enthusiast or an addition to your collection.

Craft makers include Silver By Sam Parkes (glass), Stonebarrow Pottery (pottery), Dulcie James (baby clothes), Caroline Crawford (paintings and ceramic), Jenny Knight (willow), Madge Capel (seashore gifts), Hilary Buckley (paintings), Louise Johnson (gifts and jewellery), plus more to be added to the event.

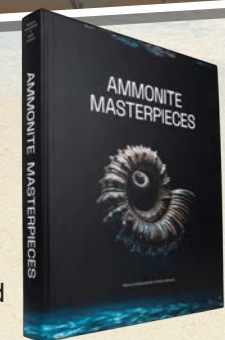
You may remember our dinosaurs roaming around the village last year so be sure to keep a look out for them again this year, making mischief in the local shops! And they are always happy to have a photo with you. This is a one-day event, and we hope to see you all there!

The Centre produces its own charity Christmas card, with the images provided by volunteer Bill Burn and all proceeds supporting our educational charity. Other volunteers have been knitting sparkly Christmas ammonites ready to decorate the tree, and there

are many other locally made gifts available in our shop and online shop. We stock '**Ammonite Masterpieces**' only available with us and one other outlet in the UK, and high resolution prints of Black Ven including detailed illustrations of the fossils. This item is exclusively sold at the Centre.

And of course, the Centre will be open as usual if you want to pop down for any fossil hunting identification, tips and advice. It will be half term so while we are running fossil hunting walks, they book up very quickly. If you would like spaces on our walks, you can book in advance via our website once dates have been released: **www.charmouth.org/chcc**

Ali Ferris, CHCC.





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2025 UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED JURASSIC COAST RAILWAY

Dorset Council are preparing a new Local Transport Plan, to cover future development from 2026 to 2041. Currently this is out for public consultation. The closing date for representations is 13 October 2025.

The section covering Bridport and West Dorset may be found on the following link:

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/dorset-and-bcp-councils-local-transport-plan-ltp-implementation-plan-2026-to-2031-draft-for-consultation#western-dorset

Crucially the third paragraph of the section headed "Delivery Plan 2026 to 2041"

contains this:

"To support healthier and safer communities with improved travel options, we will:

Prioritise active travel and access to green spaces to support healthier lifestyles. Town centre traffic management and access improvements in Bridport and Lyme Regis will reduce traffic, improve air quality, and create safer, more attractive environments for walking and cycling. These schemes will be supported by enhancements to the rights of way network enabling more people to enjoy the health benefits of nature, including developing the Maiden Newton to Bridport Trailway. The plan also supports the development of a mobility hub in Bridport, which will integrate active travel with public transport and provide facilities such as cycle parking and travel information."

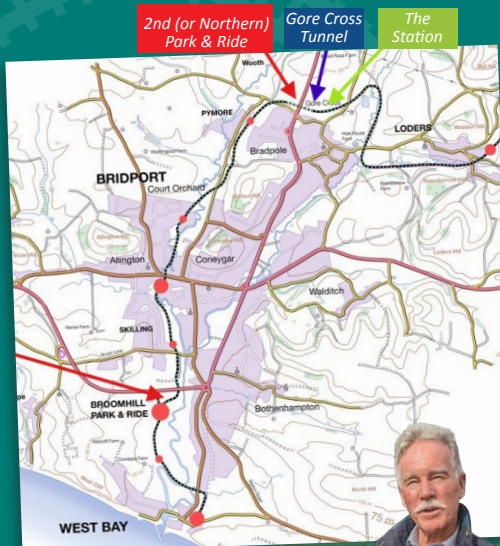
In our Winter 2022 edition of The Bridport Flyer, we featured the proposal of a new JURASSIC COAST RAILWAY running from Maiden Newton through Powerstock, to Gore Cross, Bridport Bus Station in Tannery Road, and on to West Bay via Broomhills. (Pages 22 -24)

Since 2022 plans and proposals have been updated, with a new emphasis on the first stages from West Bay northwards.

Quoting Chairman of Jurassic Coast Railway Ltd, Nigel Ewens: *"We propose to build from West Bay to Bridport town centre transport hub (Planning Permission previously granted, now lapsed), then to Gore Cross interchange station with major park and rides at Broomhills and Gore Cross, followed by expansion to Powerstock and the main line at Maiden Newton as funding permits."*

FEATURES

- Battery-electric powered trains with lightweight carriages.
- Batteries charged by solar energy.
- Frequent services, linked with buses at Tannery Road, and Park & Rides at Gore Cross and A35/Broomhills.
- A cycle and walking trail alongside the railway.



NIGEL EWENS

Chairman of
Jurassic Coast Railway Ltd
nigelewens@btinternet.com
07970 166946

BENEFITS

- Meets several of the aims of Dorset Councils "Local Transport Plan".
- An integrated transport solution to meet the needs of the proposed major increase in new homes.
- Reduction in road congestion and pollution with extra parking, particularly at holiday peaks.
- A carbon-free transport solution.
- An all weather tourist attraction.

Anthony Bucke.
EDITOR, The Bridport Flyer.
Monday 22 September 2025.

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LUNCH
BRUNCH
CAKES & BAKES

West Bay Discovery Centre is expecting a busy autumn with lots to interest, inspire, and entertain its visitors.

The Centre's latest exhibition, "**Pier Terrace Through Time**", is proving popular with visitors. The exhibition runs until March 2026. Pier Terrace is West Bay's most iconic building, and 2025 marks its 140th anniversary. Pier Terrace fascinates local people and visitors in equal measure and has appeared in TV and film. It was built as the first step in a plan to transform Bridport Harbour into West Bay, a popular tourist destination to rival resorts like Bournemouth and Weymouth.

The exhibition explores the social history of those who lived, stayed and worked in Pier Terrace from the Victorian era through to the modern day. It features major events such as the two fires and celebrates the stories of extraordinary women who have been associated with the building, from royalty to rock stars and from landladies to social reformers. One of the most fascinating exhibits is a doll's house that has been transformed to provide a representation of life in Pier Terrace in the 1900s and 1950s. The exhibition provides a snapshot of the Arts and Crafts style, inspired by William Morris.

The Discovery Centre's programme of regular **Thursday morning walking tours** around West Bay continues until the end of October. The tours, which



start at 11 am and last around 90 minutes, cost £5 per person and are led by the Centre's knowledgeable volunteers. The main themes include West Bay's hidden history and a wildlife walk that includes looking at what is "flying or in flower". Find more details about these, and everything at the Centre, on its website or Facebook page.

Over the October half-term week, the Centre invites younger visitors for a **spooky spider-themed Halloween visit**. All week, you can go on a spider hunt – they are hidden all over the centre.

Over the winter, the Discovery Centre will be resuming its popular programme of monthly talks at the Salt House in West Bay. Details of these, which feature local subjects, will be published on its Facebook page and website.

The Discovery Centre operates on a not-for-profit basis, and **admission is free**, though donations from visitors are very welcome to help meet the Centre's running costs. It is open 11 am-4 pm Tuesday to Sunday each week until the end of October, then weekends only in November. It relies on a team of enthusiastic volunteers, most of whom volunteer for 2.5 hours, once a fortnight.

If you would like to learn more about joining them, please email the Centre manager, Macarena Styles at manager@westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk or pop in to talk to her.

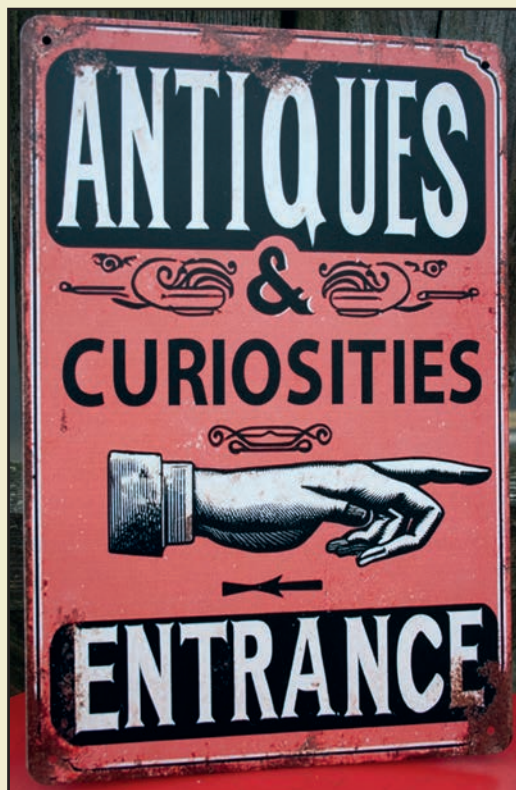


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Bridport Youth and Community Centre

- Not Only a Youth Club

I believe in the power of community. Research shows strong communities cope better in difficult times. With today's challenges, especially climate change, this matters more than ever.

Many of you may know me from Sustainable Bridport, Bridport Fashion Revolution, or my work as a Co-op Pioneer. I'm now Community Development Coordinator for Bridport Youth and Community Centre—a role I took on because this is a great place to build connections.

The Centre, on Gundry Lane, has been a youth club since 1968. When Dorset County Council withdrew funding in 2016, local volunteers formed a Charitable Trust to keep it running and expand it for wider community use. Today we host activities and services for all ages.

From here, Bridport Food Bank stores and sorts food packages. Bridport Clothes Bank also operates from the Centre, with rails across town and a monthly Saturday opening. Bridport Fashion Revolution has become the Bridport School of Regenerative Fashion, which stores donated haberdashery here for community use.

We also host:

- Stay & Play (Mon & Fri mornings, term time) – toddlers socialising, parents/carers connecting
- Jurassic Amateur Boxing – training three times a week
- ASCape Club – activities for autistic people and families
- The Space youth project – monthly LGBTQ+ meetups
- U3A groups – painting, table tennis, and more

Gundry Lane, Bridport, DT6 3RL - 01308 422009 - www.bridportycc.com



- Age UK – Brain Training on Tuesdays
- Forget Me Not singing group – dementia-friendly sessions on Thursdays
- Games group – for 18–25ish year olds, first Tuesday of the month

And yes, we're still a youth club too—on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Our facilities are suitable for most purposes, from meetings to parties and dance classes, with very competitive hire prices – including cheaper rates for charities and not for profit organisations.

BYCC is 'your community centre'. Please look at our website at bridportycc.com to see a timetable of all the things happening here. Feel part of your community and if there is something that you would like to see that isn't already there....because I haven't mentioned everything, then get in touch with suggestions.

Email Lesley at bridportycc.community@gmail.com



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website: www.lilycaringangels.com

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6.30 to 9.30pm

£3

There will be a great selection of games to play and you are very welcome to bring games along that you would like to play with others too.

New
GAMES CLUB
for 18 to 25s
at the BYCC

Gundry lane DT6 3RL
bridportycc.com



New Group Starting
The Forget Me Not Singers

For people living
with dementia
AND their carer



Research has shown singing supports wellbeing, especially those living with dementia by reducing anxiety and increasing happiness as well as supporting memory, word recall and energy levels. Join Jane Silver-Corren to sing and have fun in a relaxed environment.

No diagnosis needed.

Sessions start with Refreshments
1st and 3rd Thursdays 11am to 12.30
2nd and 4th Thursday 2.30pm to 4pm
£5 per couple book at bridportycc.com or just turn up



Bridport Youth & Community Centre
Gundry Lane, DT6 3RL 01308 422009

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So how do we distribute? Royal Mail deliver one copy of "The Bridport Flyer" to every business and private address throughout Bridport and the DT6 postcode. That is over 12,000 addresses, stretching along the coast from Swyre to Charmouth, and inland across The Marshwood Vale to Pilsdon, Netherbury and Powerstock.

In addition every advertiser has copies to display. We also have stands in focal points including Bridport Co-Op, Wetherspoons, Bridport Town Hall, Chideock Stores, Felicity's Farmshop, Nisa Charmouth.

We publish 4 times a year – Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Our next edition for **SPRING 2026** will be out week commencing **Monday 2 March 2026**

Deadline Friday 30 January

WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS TO SUCCEED!




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Saturday 13th December

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- Prawn Cocktail with Bloody Mary Sauce
- Breaded Brie with Cranberry Sauce

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- Roast Turkey with Cranberry & Orange Stuffing, Pigs in Blankets & Roast Potatoes
 - Venison, Bacon, Mushroom & Port Pie with Roast Potatoes
 - Seabass with Leek, Spinach, Sauté Potatoes & Dill Sauce
 - Butternut Squash, Spinach & Cheese Wellington with Roast Potatoes
- (All mains served with seasonal vegetables)

DESSERTS

- Christmas Pudding with Brandy Cream
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