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Flyer

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AUGUST 2026

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Cooking Events at Rural Ranges

Rural Ranges, your local premium cooker expert, is excited to announce a series of new cooking events.

The first event will be a Charlie Oven Fire Feast in collaboration with Bridport chef, Ross Duncan, from The Open Flame Experience on **July 26th 2026**. This hands-on cooking and dining experience allows guests to learn how to cook with charcoal, try new recipes and enjoy a delicious meal at the end.

Rural Ranges will also be at Melplash Show again this year, on **August 27th 2026**, showcasing its reconditioned Agas and outdoor cooking appliances. With special offers, and a competition to win a hamper, make sure you stop by and speak to the team.

September 19th 2026 will bring an autumnal feast from Philippa Vine, of Philippa's Seasonal Kitchen, in collaboration with ESSE range

cookers. She will be cooking recipes from her latest cook book Autumn, on the ESSE X Pro 1000 electric range cooker.

October 24th 2026 will see an ElectricKit Aga demo with George Marsh, formerly of the Bull Hotel, Bridport, and now Head Chef at the Fox Inn, Corscombe, who will cook a winter comfort food feast. And on **November 18th 2026**, the cast iron queen herself, Sarah Whitaker, will run a traditional Aga, festive cooking demonstration, teaching Aga cooking tips and tricks with a delicious Christmas inspired menu.

All cooking demonstrations and events will take place at Rural Ranges HQ at North Mills, Bridport. All events are ticketed and are available to book via the Rural Ranges website www.ruralranges.com/pages/events

There are limited tickets available. For more information email info@ruralranges.co.uk.



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WELCOME TO OUR AUGUST 2026 EDITION.



This edition of The Bridport Flyer is specially prepared with both local readers and visitors in mind. Of course we have local businesses and service providers, including home improvements, motor repairs, and recent past events.

We also have interesting galleries, studios, shopping ideas and great days out for visitors! Plus places of cultural, historical and heritage interest; musical nights, educational days; farming, vineyard and orchard tours.

On **Pages 8 & 9** we feature a local thatching business spanning three generations!

On **Page 12** "Get Active Outdoors" have an autumn programme of events. On **Pages 14 & 15**, Bridport Soul Club introduce readers to their events. Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre bring us news of "fossilising" along the Jurassic Coast on **Pages 18 & 19**.

On **Pages 22 & 23** you will find our informative maps of Bridport and the surrounding areas. Here you will also find "defibrillators" and EV charging points. Very handy to keep in the car!

Allington Hillbillies held a very successful Country Fair in May. Read all about it on **Pages 24 & 25**.

The 48th West Bay Vintage Rally was held in June. Please see more details on **Pages 30 & 31**. West Bay Discovery Centre have informative and interesting displays, backed up by local guided heritage walks. For more information please turn to **Pages 34 & 35**.

Bridport Youth and Community centre are celebrating their 10th anniversary. Art, table tennis, pickleball, food club – and not just for "youth"! More details on **Page 38**.

Please support our local businesses, they are eager for your custom, and I am sure that you will receive great value and service.

With best wishes for the Summer Holidays,

Anthony Buckle. EDITOR.

Email: bridport@theantiquetourist.com
Friday 10 July 2026.

'Our front-cover photo is the "William Foster" thrasher and reed-comber in action at West Bay Rally June 2026. Read more inside....'

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"Former cornmill in West Street, Bridport."



"Whales jaw-bone archway at North Chideock."

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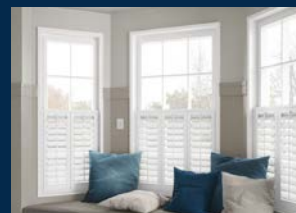
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Tom Knott, Scott Symonds,
Dave Symonds, Sam Legg, Harry Powls.



D&S SYMONDS - MASTER THATCHERS

Dave Symonds grew up in Whitchurch Canonichorum in the 1950's and 60's. As an 11 year old, in Whitchurch, the school bus dropped Dave off where a thatcher was working. This was Ron Thomas from Symondsbury. They developed a friendship, and Dave started to help Ron - school holidays and after school. At the age of 15, Dave was offered an apprenticeship with Ron, and he has never looked back. "I love being up on a roof...! **The one above sees all!**" said Dave.



Stooked wheat reed



Ron retired, and with so many local thatched properties, Dave soon found opportunities to build his business. A few years later Dave's son Scott joined the business, "D & S Symonds Master Thatchers" was formed, and the workforce continued to grow. Then 5 years ago aged 16, Dave's grandson Rhys decided that thatching was his chosen career, and joined his Grandad and Uncle, bringing the workforce up to a total of six.

The operation is completely self-sufficient, as D&S Symonds grow their own wheat on

50 acres around Chideock and Seatown. The season starts with ground cultivation and drilling the corn. Last year's harvest must be thrashed and prepared, to keep up with the thatching. Throughout the year thatching projects are underway, with the average thatched roof taking around a month to strip the old thatch, carry out any roof repairs, re-thatch, and then make good with flashings and protective roof netting. Harvest is a busy time, when the traditional reaper/binder is brought out, the sheaves are "stooked" and then carried into the barns. Then more thrashing to keep up the stocks needed for thatching projects over the coming months.

Throughout the year, the whole team multi-task, getting involved with all the different functions. When The Bridport Flyer visited D&S Symonds HQ during the June 2026 heatwave, Scott was in charge of the team thrashing more wheat reed in the barn.

Feeding the thrasher at West Bay Rally



Dave wanted to explain how important his "William Foster" thrasher is; "Because it has a reed-comber on the rear, the thrasher removes the grain, whilst the reed comber takes out any impurities and the short and bent straw, presenting the reed ready for thatching. So the reed is ready for immediate use on the next thatching project."

Wheat has become very popular as a thatching material, because all older properties were traditionally thatched with wheat. As a result, when the roof needs replacing on the many local thatched properties "listed as being of historic interest", water reed cannot be used. In order to comply with Listed Building Regulations, the thatch used has to be the original wheat reed.

NOTE. Some photos here were taken at the 2026 "West Bay Steam Rally, supported for years by Dave and his family.

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Helping you to move more

The Get Active Outdoors 2026 programme offers entry-level activities designed to make moving more accessible, enjoyable and social. From Nordic walking and health walks to cycling and Tai Chi, there are plenty of ways to improve your health and wellbeing in a supportive outdoor environment.

You can view the full programme online or collect a printed brochure from your local library or community hub.

1. GENTLE HEALTH WALKS - BRIDPORT

Every Wednesday, the group meets at the United Church, East Street, Bridport for a 20 to 40-minute walk on mainly flat, firm surfaces with gentle slopes and no steps or stiles.

A longer walk also takes place every Thursday, starting at 9:45am from the United Church and lasting around 60 minutes. These routes may include moderate slopes, steps and uneven surfaces.

After both walks, walkers and leaders often enjoy a social catch-up at a nearby café.

Just turn up — we look forward to seeing you there!

2. GET INTO NORDIC WALKING — CHARMOUTH

With the support of a qualified Nordic Walking Instructor, these friendly courses will help you master the basics and improve your technique while enjoying the outdoors.

Charmouth Recreation Field, Barr's Lane, Charmouth, DT6 6PS

Cost: **£15 per person**

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Monday 14 September
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Tuesday 13 October
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Wednesday 11 November
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3. BECOME A VOLUNTEER HEALTH WALK LEADER

Do you enjoy walking, meeting new people and helping others become more active?

We are looking for friendly volunteers to support and lead local health walks. Full training and ongoing support are provided, and no previous experience is necessary.

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JAZZ-FUNK & SOUL BRIDPORT

Bridport Soul Club holds regular monthly **"Jazz-Funk & Soul"** club nights begun in May 2019 by me, Linda Harris and Mitch Norman.

We also hold Soul Music related fundraisers. Our monthly Saturday club nights are a place to share the joy and "spread the love" of old school dance tunes mostly 70 and 80s but not

exclusively. There's a lot of new Soul coming through now too.

Our Club is a happy place for everyday people to dance and make connections. Over the past 7 years it has grown into a community! It's all about the dance groove and boogie! There's always something for everyone who wants to do their own thing on our dance floor.

We are based at **The Bridport Masonic Hall, 7:30pm - 11:30pm on the first Saturday of the month**, every month of the year except January and August. Everyone who comes enjoys the friendly atmosphere and well-priced bar. Resident DJ Dr Funk - aka Mitch Norman and our Guest DJs are devotees of the genre playing quality dance tracks across the range of Jazz-Funk, Funk, and Soul.

Mostly spun on vinyl the music we play is richly diverse and full of bassy rhythms, brass interludes, guitar riffs, percussive beats and brilliantly sung vocals. Many are timeless classics.

Our DJs also bring a bit of education by playing some lesser known tracks which go down well with our regular clubbers and discoverers alike. It's a safe and happy place where the older clubbers give the younger ones a great dance off!

The music we play has timeless appeal for anyone who loves to express themselves through dance.

So we offer half price tickets for the under 30s at £5. Everyone else it's £10. Advance tickets are sold via the Bridport Tourist Information Centre (50p booking fee applies).

We have around 50-60 people on an average night, sometimes more, with

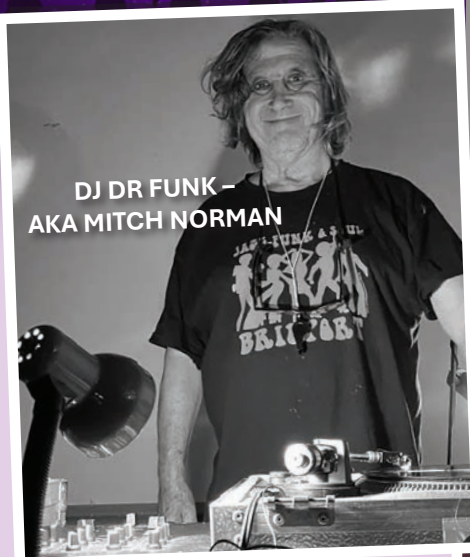
people coming from all over the South West as well as local soul music lovers.

You don't have to be a member to come along, however we offer a free membership card which is used as a loyalty reward card. Bridport Soul Club has made donations to various local charities and support groups over the years.

Recently we have dedicated our surplus funds specifically to the youth clubs at BYCC; we raised over £2k in the last year for them. Our next Club Night will be September 5th when we shall be donating to "head-related" charities supported by Bridport Hat Fest, so we hope you can make it! Future dates: **October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th.**

Contact us for more information
bridportsoulclub@gmail.com

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CHARMOUTH HERITAGE COAST CENTRE

We are now fully into our summer programme, having had a busy spring full of schools visiting, The Lyme Regis Fossil Festival, and National Marine Week celebrations. You may still be able to find some spaces on our fossil walks this summer, but you will have to be quick



Annual Fair 2025

as spaces get snapped up! The easiest way to book is via our website at www.charmouth.org/chcc/events-calendar/

We continue our celebrations of the **25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JURASSIC COAST WORLD HERITAGE SITE**. During the spring, artist Donna Goold unveiled a new painting on the outside wall of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. It depicts Golden Cap 'a Living Painting' and is on brass; an alloy of copper and zinc, metals found within the geology of the Jurassic Coast. Brass slowly forms a natural patina, causing its surface to erode over time. This change reflects the process shaping the coastline. Visitors



Dragon Festival

to Charmouth are invited to take part in this living painting by gently polishing the natural brass at the top of Golden Cap!

August will be the last time to see the winning fossils of last year's Children's Fossil Competition. After they leave us, they are moving onto the Lyme Regis Museum until the end of December. This year's competition is in full swing, and the closing date is 30th September. So don't forget to get hunting for fossils this summer! Our Fossil of the Month display also



'a Living Painting' - by Artist Donna Goold

continues, showcasing local fossil hunters' treasures and preparation skills. Later in the year we are going to celebrate these local collectors as part of the World Heritage Site Celebrations.

We will be gearing up to have our **annual fair** on **Saturday 31st October** at the **St Andrew's Community Hall** in **Charmouth**. Come along for your chance to buy locally made arts and crafts and fossils collected and prepared locally in Charmouth. You may spot our dinosaurs running around Charmouth again. Refreshments are available throughout the day, and it will be Halloween so we may have some festivities!

In the autumn our volunteers, members and community of Charmouth will be treated to a screening of Sir David Attenborough's Ocean movie. We are not only celebrating 25 years of the Jurassic Coast, but also recognising Marine Week, our special Lyme Bay Marine Reserve and Sir David's 100th birthday in 2026. Sir David unveiled our Attenborough Sea Dragon back in 2018 at the Centre.

If you are interested, the autumn-winter time is the perfect time to train up as a new volunteer with us. As well as volunteering we run an active social calendar throughout the year that you can get involved with. In the winter we have a lecture series to pass the dark evenings and come the spring-summer it's time for cream teas, BBQ's and a day trip! This year as part of the 25th celebrations, we visited the far end of the Jurassic Coast to Durlston Castle for a nature walk with the rangers and visit to the



Friends Cream Tea



Fossil of the Month

Centre and their geology room.

You can help volunteer on fossil and marine walks or inside the visitor Centre. Sometimes you even get to dress up as a dinosaur to help at events! You don't need prior knowledge as full training is given, but you can assist in our daily activities and even answer some very interesting questions from our visitors. There is a lot of fun to be had! If you would like to know more, you can find a full 'Introduction to Volunteering' on our website www.charmouth.org/chcc/volunteering/ Ali Ferris.

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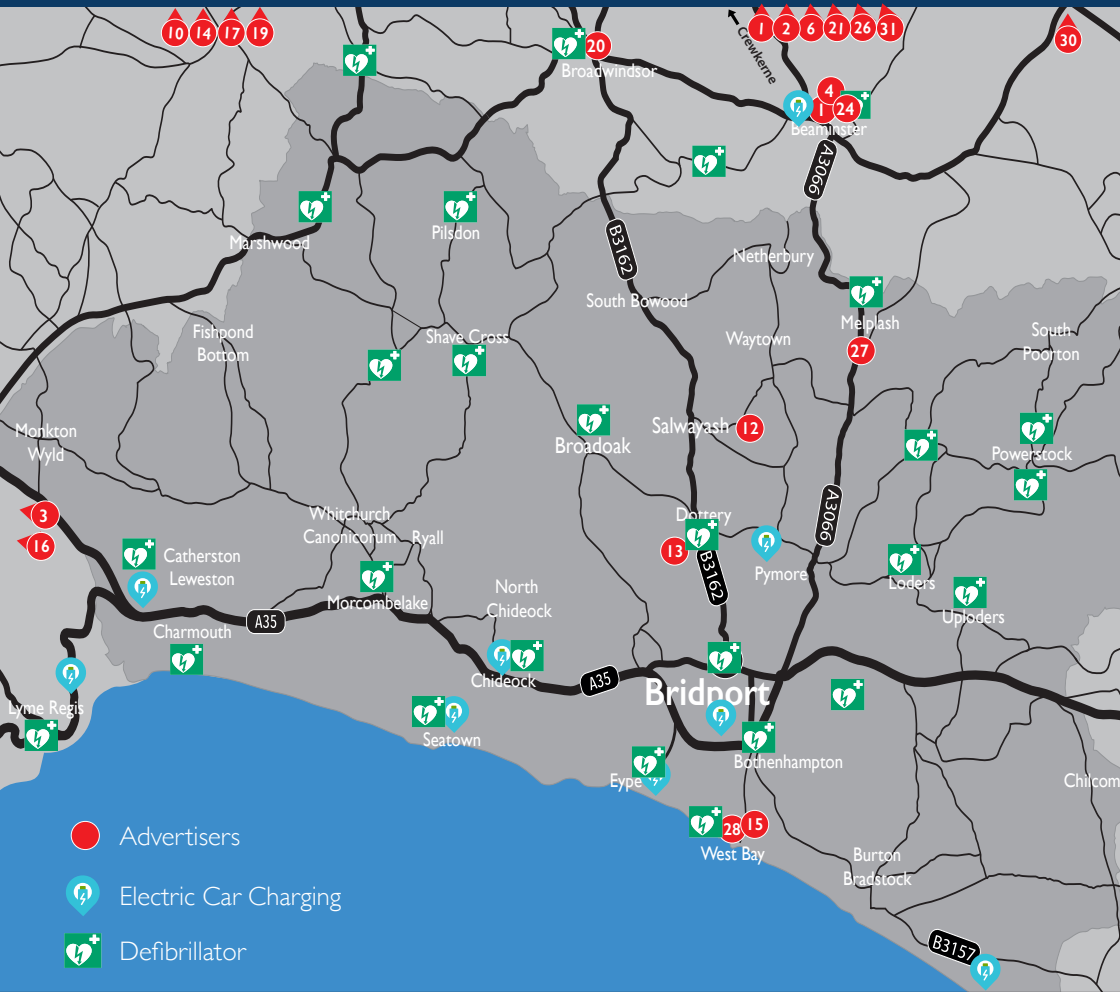
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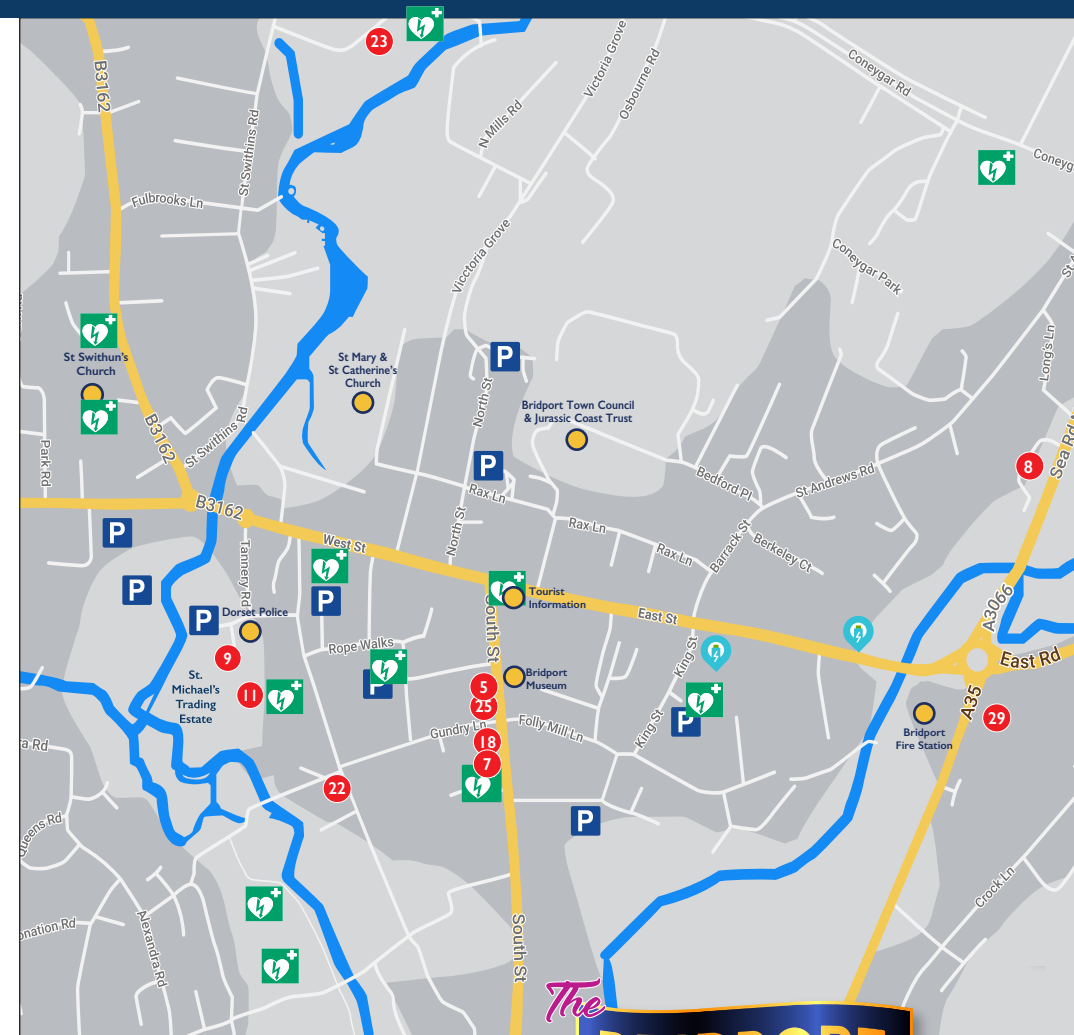
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BRIDPORT TOWN MAP



The **BRIDPORT.** *Flyer*

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ALLINGTON HILLBILLIES

On May 1st and 2nd, Bridport Allington Hill Country Fair and Music on the Hill drew an estimated crowd of over 3,000 people, making it a resounding success for the community.

The Fair was organised by The Allington Hillbillies volunteer event team Cathy, Cath, Claire, Sal, Jane and Jim, who would like to extend their thanks to the many individuals and groups who made the day possible.

Among them was Chris Deacon of Bridport Folk Festival, who put together an amazing line up of local musical talent, with performances over the two events on Friday and Saturday, and provided essential technical expertise. With Chris in the main marquee were Sam and Dan from Dorset Mobile Bars & Disco who kept attendees refreshed. The 1st Bridport Scouts



provided equipment, food, and invaluable support throughout the fair - Mark and Emma were always smiling and happy to help, they were certainly prepared for every eventuality.

The distinctive willow tusks - crafted especially for a guest appearance by Ropey the Elephant - were created by Jo Sadler.

Logistical support was delivered by Bridport Town Council, and children's entertainment was organised by the Ladies Circle. Light



refreshments were kindly provided by the Brit Valley Rotary Club.

A highlight of the day was the popular dog show, expertly run by Karen Piercy, which attracted an impressive 91 entries. Visitors also enjoyed over 40 country craft stalls, many of which offered interactive "have-a-go" sessions.

Toby Hoad was also in attendance with his beautiful working horses.

The event was officially opened by the Mayor, Anne Rickard, who cut the ribbon, and was attended by Ed Morello and his family - who particularly enjoyed the charcoal making in Cooper's Circle. In addition to the festivities, the day also supported charitable organizations, with one attendee raising over £180 for Weldmar Hospicecare.

It was a joyous occasion with community spirit at the forefront and the Allington Hillbillies felt proud to be able to put on this event to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Bridport community coming together to raise the money to purchase Allington Hill.

Going forward, the Hillbillies have a full timetable of exciting events over the next few months. We have Jurassic Pantastic visiting Nature Club on Weds 19th August, 'Art in Nature' in collaboration with Culture Quest on Tuesday 28th July and Wednesday 5th August and summer garland making with Kim Head of Welcome the Maker on Wednesday 19th August.

These events have all been made possible with funding from Local Alliance Group (LAG).







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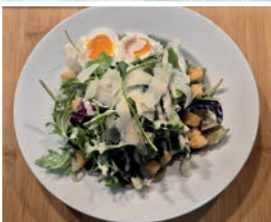
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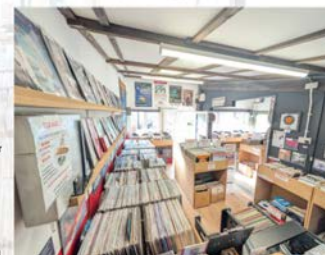
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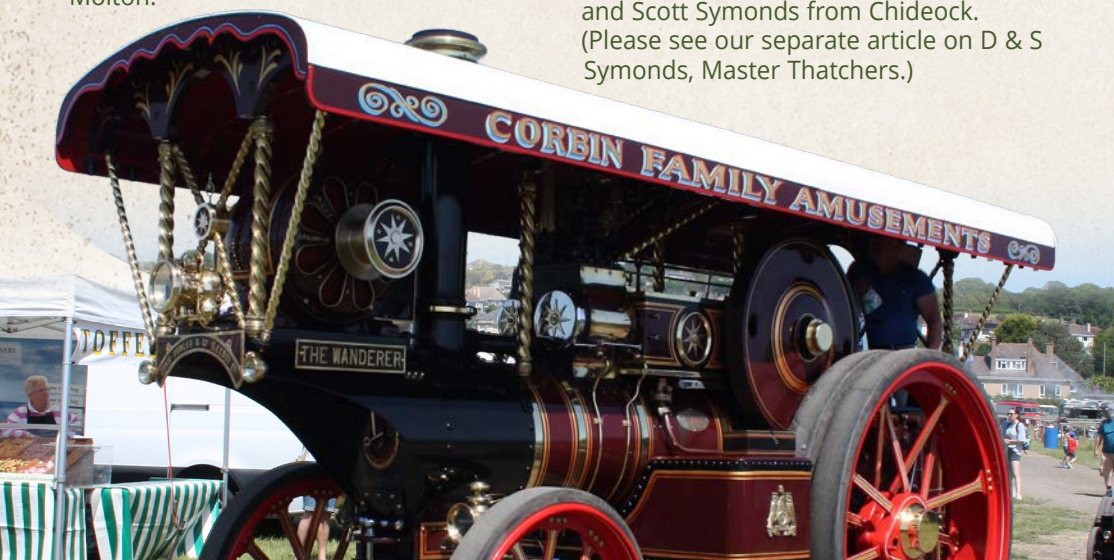


WEST BAY RALLY 2026

The Bridport Flyer visited West Bay Rally on Saturday 13th June. Auction day! A bit of a change here, with Stags Auctioneers now in control! A large number of lots on offer, and as a consequence the auction sale continued well into the afternoon. Many familiar faces – viewing, buying – and yarning! Some interesting prices; set of 4 heavy wagon wheels did not sell at £60, whilst a Fordson Major diesel sold for £880, and a running Ferguson T20 sold for £935. The auction was run by the very professional team from Stags, South Molton.

At the main ring the familiar voice of Ivor James kept us attentive during his commentary, as the various entries paraded by. A pack of beagles; tractor display (Ivor in his element), steam vehicles, classic cars and motorcycles; commercial vehicles; all had the opportunity to process around the main ring.

The working area was supported by two rack saw benches, each driven by a traction engine, and the stunning threshing machine brought in by Dave and Scott Symonds from Chideock. (Please see our separate article on D & S Symonds, Master Thatchers.)



The lower part of the field was populated by many interesting stationary engines, each “popping” and “puttering” about their various tasks. Pumping water; crushing grain; shearing sheep; generating power. Interesting to reflect that mains electricity only reached the Marshwood Vale by around 1960, so these stationary engines were vital to farming and general subsistence for families trying to modernise in and around Wootton Fitzpaine, Whitchurch Canonicorum, Marshwood, Pilsdon and Broadoak up until that time.

Elsewhere a “Collectors” area was supported by model collections, tool displays, a collection of mugs, even a bow-top Romany wagon. The classic car section was well represented, and we found commercial vehicles, motorcycles and a few military vehicles.

West Dorset Vintage Tractor and Stationary Engine Club is run entirely by volunteers, and was formed 50 years ago. However 2026 was the 48th rally, because one year was lost due to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, and another year due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Every year proceeds of the rally are donated to local charities, – including those who help at the rally; Dorchester Central Scouts, Charmouth Scout and Ranger Group, Bridport Sea Cadets, Weldmar, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance – to name just a few.

West Bay Vintage Rally is always held on the second full weekend in June. Next year’s event will be on 12th & 13th June 2027.

New club members are always welcome, so please contact Wendy Beaven by email:

wendy.wdvtsec@hotmail.com.

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SUMMER AT WEST BAY DISCOVERY CENTRE

It's a busy summer at the West Bay Discovery Centre, with visitors enjoying all the Centre has to offer and finding out more about West Bay's heritage, wildlife and attractions.

The Centre's Changing Landscapes exhibition marks the 25th anniversary of the Jurassic Coast's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It offers insights into how the Jurassic Coast was formed and why it is internationally recognised for its outstanding value. Visitors can discover an impressive collection of fossils found along the West Dorset coast, revealing the story of life some 170 million years ago.

The next exhibition coming up in September tells the remarkable journey of Dr Giles Roberts of Bridport Harbour, from harbour-side beginnings to a life of faith,



science, and community service. The exhibition is prompted by a book discovered by the Centre's volunteers, once given as a Methodist Sunday School prize, based on Dr Roberts' own autobiography. The book was dedicated to Mary Cox, whose family built the Discovery Centre.

For those wanting to make their own journey into West Bay's fascinating past, the Centre's guided heritage walks take place every Thursday morning. Led by

knowledgeable volunteers, these popular walks bring to life the days when West Bay was known as Bridport Harbour, bustling with sailing ships importing and exporting goods from around the world. The walks also explore the growth of tourism and how the harbour evolved into the much-loved destination we know today.

Nature enthusiasts can also enjoy a monthly wildlife walk, led by a local expert who shares insights into the area's diverse habitats and wildlife.



Full details of all walks are available on the Centre's website and Facebook page. Walks begin at 11.00 am from the Discovery Centre every Thursday, with tickets costing £5 per person, payable on the day.

The Discovery Centre recently received a unique addition to its collection thanks to traditional signwriter James Finlay, who recently donated two hand-painted signs originally created as props for the hit ITV drama Broadchurch. James, whose work has also featured in Downton Abbey and EastEnders, was inspired to make the gift after visiting the Discovery Centre last autumn. The signs are now on permanent display. Visitors can also follow the Broadchurch Trail via the Discovery Centre's website or purchase a printed trail guide from the Centre for £1.

The Discovery Centre operates on a not-for-profit

basis, and admission is free, although donations are welcome to help meet running costs. It is open six days each week, Tuesday to Sunday (11 am to 4 pm) until the end of October, with Monday opening during school holidays.

The Centre is always keen to welcome new volunteers. If you have a couple of hours to spare once a fortnight or even once a month, and would enjoy joining a friendly and enthusiastic team, find out more by emailing Macarena Styles, Centre Manager, at manager@westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk or call into the Centre for an informal chat.



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Celebration Time At the BYCC

Yes, it's 10 years since Bridport Youth Centre became **Bridport Youth AND Community Centre**, and we are feeling very proud. We are lucky enough to have three different youth clubs supporting the varied needs of young people in Bridport and the surrounding villages, and we also have a growing timetable of events for the wider community.

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, we have planned a series of events around the theme of 10. We began with a quiz in July, and our next celebration will be an open day, with pictures from past and present, on Saturday 19 September from 10am to 2pm. Many of the community groups based at BYCC will be there to showcase what they do, and, of course, there will be birthday cake. Look out for social media posts and posters nearer the time for more information.

The Not So Youth Club has launched, with the Bridport Mayor and Deputy Mayor paying a visit. Table tennis has been very popular, and, thanks to a generous donation from local dentist Simon Wood, we now have the kit to start pickleball.

Local artist Sarah Jane Ross sets up the art studio with easels, paints and inspiration. The artists all look very focused and relaxed.

Mark Heath, from the Friendly Food Club, cooks a shared lunch. Joining him is a great way to learn skills to take home with

you. The take-home tip from the last session was to leave chopped or crushed garlic to rest for 10 minutes. This allows the enzyme alliinase to react with oxygen, converting compounds into allicin. This maximises garlic's health benefits, including its immune-boosting and anti-inflammatory properties, and enhances its flavour before you cook it.

All this, plus hot and cold drinks and cake, games, crosswords and advice sessions. The Jurassic Social Prescribers have been on hand for the first three sessions, while LiveWell Dorset and Citizens Advice will also pop by at different sessions.

The Not So Youth Club is designed for over-50s who want to connect, laugh, move, learn, share interests and, most importantly, shape something special together.

It's a place to "hang out", bringing people together through simple, joyful, community-powered activities.

It takes place on the third Wednesday of the month, from 11am to 2pm. It costs £3 per session, or £5 if you sign up for a shared lunch.

If you have any ideas for something you could lead, or an activity you would like to try, please come along and let us know. This group is yours to steer in the direction of your interests.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook or Instagram. If you would like to get involved or need any more information, please visit bridportycc.org or email our Community Development Coordinator, Lesley Windsor, at community@bridportycc.org.



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SUDOKU 1

	4	3						
					3	8		
				8		5		6
	9	2	8		1			
			2	7				
			3	4				
		7		2				8
				6		1		5
4						7	6	

Level: **Easy**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

8			7			9		
				6				
	2				8	1	4	
	7		1					
			2				6	3
				5	4			
4				9	3			
		5		4		8		9
						4		

Level: **Hard**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

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4	5	9	1	3	7	8	2	6
2	3	8	6	4	7	5	1	9
1	6	7	5	9	3	8	6	4
3	8	4	2	7	6	1	5	9
6	9	2	3	5	4	7	8	1
5	7	3	1	8	6	2	9	4
7	2	6	9	3	8	1	4	5
9	5	1	4	6	2	3	7	8
8	3	4	7	1	5	9	2	6

SUDOKU 2



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