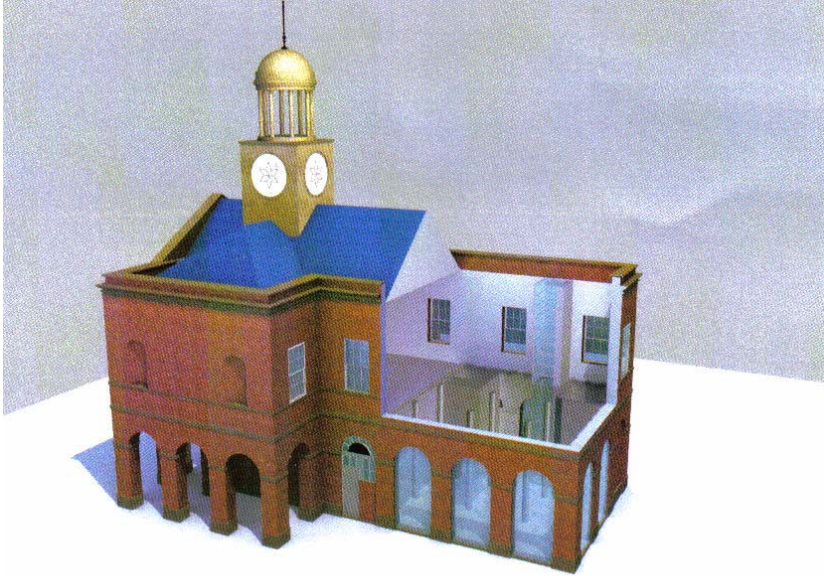




# BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY BULLETIN

*the official newsletter of Bridport Town Council*

Quarterly  
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*Plans for refurbishment of Bridport Town Hall have been on display this month, and can be seen in the foyer of the Town Council offices at Mountfield for the rest of the year. The council hopes to make a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the New Year.*

## **Let us have your views on open space and recreation**

*Councillor Gill Fifield, Secretary  
of the Town Council's Open  
Spaces Taskforce, writes:*

The Town Council wants to protect and improve our open spaces and sports/recreation facilities, which are so important to our health, wellbeing and enjoyment of life in the town. Its new Open Spaces Taskforce is collecting information about how we use our open spaces, and later we will make proposals about how things could be improved.

Members of the taskforce will carry out an audit on who owns the various pieces of land around Bridport, what equipment is situated on our amenity land such as play areas, goal posts and the like and what use is made of such open areas by Bridport residents.

But more important, we would like to hear from you, the residents of Bridport and West Bay. This

newsletter contains a survey form which we would like residents to fill in and return to the Town Council offices, or fill in online and e-mail to [enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk).

Copies of the form will be available on the Town Council website [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk). We would like to hear your comments and suggestions, for instance:

Are there other sports we should be providing for? Do we need more facilities for children? Areas for dog walkers? More litter bins and benches?

This is your town, and the Town Council is here to deliver services for you. So please take a few minutes to give us your views.

**The Open Spaces  
Questionnaire can be found  
on pages 3 and 4 of this  
newsletter.**

## **The lowdown on waste and recycling**

*Our County Councillor and  
Town Mayor, Sandra Brown,  
explains all:*

It became very obvious at the time of the elections in April that many people are still confused about waste in general and the controversial waste transfer station in particular.

The waste from your doorstep is collected by the District Council: the County Council have to dispose of it. At the moment it all goes to a landfill site near Dorchester, or a "hole in the ground", as many people call it. This particular hole has reached the end of its life and the waste will now have to go to the other end of the county, which will be very expensive.

If we could have a Waste Transfer Station in the Bridport area much of this waste could be recycled and would not need to be transported long distances. A Waste Transfer Station is NOT a "hole in the ground": there is no smell attached to it. It is a large building, a bit like an aircraft hanger, into which the refuse lorries can drive and deposit their collections. These are then sorted by machines, and only that which cannot be recycled will go to the landfill site.

We all want to recycle from our houses, but we need the transfer station to enable this to happen. At the moment we are waiting for the planning inspector's decision on Gore Cross.



## St Mary's Playing Field

This green area alongside the River Brit provides recreation facilities for all with a variety of activities from feeding the ducks, walking the dog, to organised football matches.

This summer new goalposts have been provided with the help of grants from the Football Association, the Bridport Young Persons' Action Trust (BYPAT) and the Bridport Junior Football Club. Also the small pitch has been widened and shortened so that it fits the criteria for the 11 to 16 age groups that play on it. Both pitches are well used with four local clubs comprising about ten teams playing there regularly.

The Town Council is working in partnership with the Bridport Football Club to provide improved changing facilities for the club and much needed facilities for those playing at St Mary's. A planning application for this will be made shortly.

In 1997 the St Mary's 'Trim Trail' was installed. This provides a dozen pieces of

apparatus on a jogging circuit around the field. Pieces such as step-ups, hurdles, balance beam, pole climb and many others are freely available to provide healthy exercise for all to use.

At the northern end of the field is the small children's play area. About a year ago, multi-activity equipment was added to supplement existing play equipment and paddling pool. This was chosen following consultation with users of the play area.

In the early 2000s, the old riverside gravel path was badly damaged by flooding. In 2000, in a joint venture with West Dorset District Council, a combined footway/cycleway was constructed from Foundry Lane to Skilling Hill Road. As part of this project, two river platforms were built. These have become popular spots to observe the river and feed the ducks.

**Bernard Paull**  
*Town Surveyor*

## Bridport Youth Assembly

Bridport Youth Assembly, which gives a voice to the young people of Bridport, has worked closely with Bridport Town Council over a number of years. Recent developments at the Youth and Community Centre arose from needs identified by members of the Youth Assembly. A major project is the Youth Café, which is scheduled to open Saturday lunchtimes and evenings from November onwards. Six young people are acting as a steering group and will also be working in the café as volunteers. The café will provide good food at affordable prices, access to the internet, live music and occasional workshops.

Boosted by the success of the 'Zest!' music project, the Youth Assembly has consistently identified a need for rehearsal space and a quality recording studio. This is currently being developed at the Youth Centre through the 'Humph' sound studio, a memorial to the late Humphrey Dibdin, who was a regular volunteer at the Youth Centre, and who always encouraged young people in the love of music. Both these projects have received financial support from Bridport Town Council as well as from the district and county councils.

Another identified need is locally based training for young people and a joint project is starting at the Youth Centre between the Youth Service, Connexions Service and East Devon and Bicton Colleges. This will provide a pre-E2E (Employment to Education) programme two days a week aimed at 16-18 year olds not in employment or full time education.

As part of 'Local Democracy Week' a weekend residential seminar was held on the 15 & 16 October, where young people from Bridport considered the needs of their own community and talked to local politicians including those from Bridport Town Council.

For more information on Youth services contact Arthur Woodgate on 01308 422500.

## Forthcoming Council meetings

### Town Council

Tuesday 29 November, 7 pm, Bridport Town Hall

### Town Council Plans Committee

Mondays, 28 November and 19 December, 2005, and 23 January 2006, 7 pm, Mountfield

### Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesdays, 16 November 2005, and 1 February 2006, 7 pm, Mountfield

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings, and may ask to speak in the Public Forum at the start of the meetings.



*Councillor Sandra Brown, Bridport Town Mayor, unveils a plaque (made by local stonemason Karl Dixon) to St Vaast la Hougue, in Normandy, on the Mound at West Bay as part of the twinning celebrations on 11 September. Also pictured are Mary Penfold, Chairman of West Dorset District Council, and the Mayor of St Vaast, M. Lepetit. (photo: Linda Bullock)*

## Trafalgar remembered

On 14 August veterans met to remember with sadness and pride their comrades who fell in the Second World War. There was a memorable service in St. Mary's Church. This was a splendid finale to the Forties House exhibition at the Town Hall which drew over 6000 visitors.

On 21 August we welcomed the Trafalgar Dispatch on its way to the Admiralty in London. I wonder how many people in Bridport in 1805 realised the huge significance of this message when it passed through at that time. Also present on a glorious sunny day were the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Marquess of Salisbury, Rear Admiral Gwyn Pritchard in full uniform, Royal Marines and two of the captains from HMS Bridport (now sadly decommissioned).

Today, as I said in my speech when I uncovered the plaque at the Bull Hotel, the French are our friends, having been our allies in two world wars, but 200 years ago things were

very different. Had Nelson not been victorious at Trafalgar the face of Europe would have been quite altered. That victory followed by Waterloo 10 years later led to a long period of peace during which huge steps were made in commerce and invention during Victoria's reign.

This was not glorifying war, it was celebrating a great man, and Bridport certainly enjoyed the event along with another exhibition at the Town Hall celebrating the sea as well as Trafalgar. This event was spearheaded by Elizabeth Gale with help from many others including Alice Martin who had just taken over as the new Curator at the Museum. We welcome her in true Bridport fashion.

In both these events we were extremely well served by Fido May in his role of Parade Marshal, and also Linda Bullock for all the organisation prior to the day.

**Sandra Brown, Town Mayor**