



# BYCC

## NEWSLETTER Winter 2026

Bridport Youth & Community Centre

### BYCC CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

On the 9th April 2016 the Dorset Echo's front page headline read 'Worrying news over Dorset youth centre closures'. The article went on to say 'Youth centres are facing closure across Dorset. Local communities are fighting to save their youth clubs and centres because of the invaluable work that they do'.

but to their credit the trustees and staff have always managed to find a way to pull through. The fact that BYCC is still here, doing what it has always done and more, is testament to their efforts over the past ten years. Throughout 2026 BYCC will be holding a series of events to celebrate our 10th Anniversary.

And that is exactly what happened here in Bridport with the establishment of a charitable trust, on 27th July 2016. Bridport Youth and Community Centre Trust was created with the aim of acting as a resource for children, young people and the wider community of Bridport, by providing them with a meeting and activity space, advice and assistance where they are in need of it, physical and educational programmes, and a range of other activities.

Moving from a local authority funded service, to one totally reliant on a combination of self generated income and project funding, has been a challenge over the past ten years,

The purpose of these events is to:

- Bring BYCC and what it delivers to a wider Bridport audience.
- Raise much needed funds to enable BYCC to continue and expand what it delivers.
- Raise funds towards BYCC's ambitious building refurbishment and development programme.

We look forward to welcoming you at one or more of BYCC's 10th Anniversary events, so look out for posters and notifications on social media and lend your support.

**Ian Bark**  
Chair of Trustees

### BRIDPORT COOK-UP TOGETHER

Bridport Cook-up is the latest project run by Ripple Workshop, a Bridport based Community Interest Company led by local mums Kate Brook and Eileen Haste. Kate says, "We're looking forward to learning about people's favourite recipes and culture food heritage. We know from our Community Café project in Beaminster that eating together at one table is such an enjoyable, community spirited thing to do and with everyone being able to contribute even if in a small way."

They had their first try-out session at BYCC in November 2025, joined by Emily Brown, Dorset Council's Community Engagement Project Officer. "Dorset Council is proud to support The Ripple Project, as it brings people of different ages and backgrounds together in Bridport through something that is common to us all... food. The Cook-up sessions involve preparing and eating good food, all ages together.

To accommodate as many food preferences as possible the food is vegetarian with vegan options. Alongside the cooking prep are art and craft activities to enjoy.

#### 2026 DATES:

Tuesdays 3.30 to 5.30pm 5th Feb, 19th Feb, 5th March, 2nd April  
Tuesdays 9.30 to 12.00am 12th Feb, 26th Feb, 12th March, 26th March, 9th April, 23rd April

To mark our 10 Years Celebration, BYCC would like three Logo's that can be used on social media and print, to advertise the anniversary events that we plan to hold for each age group at the Centre over 2026. If you are a budding designer or artist, then this is your competition! **There are three categories :**  
**Ages 6 - 11**  
**Ages 12 - 18**  
**Ages Over 18**

The winner of each category will win a £50 cash prize donated by Simon Wood of 'Lumley and Wood' Our panel of judges will be led by Trustee Julie Wood, a Graphic Designer specialising in Identity & Branding, together with Kat Polanska the Centre Manager, Lesley Windsor the Community Development Coordinator, Ian Bark Chair of Trustees, and Arlo Castle Youth Worker / Designer

#### The artwork must follow these guidelines :

- The logo artwork should be no larger than 150mm x 150mm
- It **must** feature the words 'BYCC 10th Anniversary'
- It can feature an illustration which captures the community spirit of BYCC or can just use the words above in an eye-catching design.

#### COMPETITION DEADLINE IS SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Entries to the BYCC office, or email as a pdf to [office@bridportycc.org](mailto:office@bridportycc.org)



### YOUTH CLUB

On Wednesday 26th November Bridport Youth and Community Centre was buzzing.

The Fundraising Committee knew thanks were owed for the many donations to their successful Crowdfunder which had raised nearly £30,000, and were particularly grateful to Palmers Brewery for matching the funds raised by the Crowdfunder. So they invited the supporters to come and see how their valuable funds had been spent. Guided tours were offered to the many visitors as the Primary Youth Club, Years 3 to 7 and the Junior Youth Club, Years 7 to 9, were running – showing the children engaging in the many different activities on offer.



Bridport Round Table took the opportunity of the Open Day to give the centre a generous cheque of £1,000 for sports equipment.

### STAY AND PLAY

**BYCC Stay and Play** is for children aged birth to 5 years and is an informal session where parents, carers, childminders and their children can come in and have fun and meet new people.

Mondays: 9:30am - 11:30am  
£1 per person

### GAMES CLUB

**Games Club is open to all!**  
Super board gamer Louis Amor brings a selection of games but you are welcome to bring your own. 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6.30pm to 9.30pm. £3 per person  
**Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.**

### COMMUNITY

#### Changes at the BYCC

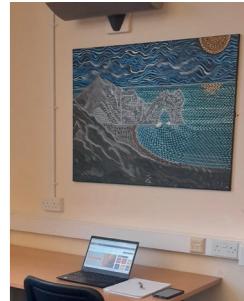
We have been working to make Bridport Youth and Community Centre a comfortable place to spend time and there have been some notable changes! The first thing you may notice on entry are the new automatic doors made possible after Grant funding from Dorset Council. We have kept a noticeboard just inside the front door for you to continue to put up flyers so that our users can see what is happening elsewhere in the community. All BYCC information is displayed further inside the foyer.

The pool table has been removed from the downstairs room, which is now an easily accessible **Community Room** with tea making facilities. It is put to use by Age UK to hold CST and Brain Training sessions, The Forget-Me-Not Singers who enjoy a good old sing song and the Men's Wellness group which offers monthly peer support evenings.

The sports hall has been renamed the **Recreation Hall** and as the biggest sports hall in Bridport, is home to the Jurassic Amateur Boxing group as well as lots of other activities too, such as our Stay and Play group, the Bridport Steel Band and as of 2026, The Rock Choir!

The **Sound Space** has had a refurb and more soundproofing added. The Practise Room is available for hire and we are just tweaking the Control Room to make sure the instruments and recording software are ready for use.

As you walk upstairs the artwork on display is by one of our showcased local artists, Saskia Dite, who creates bold one-off pieces, as shown by her portraits.



BYCC welcomed our Ukrainian friends to celebrate the start of what we all hope will be a better New Year. "Good food and friendship is so important and means so much." "It's so good to be together."



BRIDPORT YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE  
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WEBSITE : BRIDPORTYCC.ORG

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram :  
bycccommunitygroup  
bridport\_youth\_club



Upstairs on the right is **Colmer's View**, which is mainly used for meetings, conferences or desk hire. Another local artist, Sarah Jane Ross is displaying some of her large captivating landscapes, which add great character to the room. <https://sarahjaneross.com>

It's a perfect space for working in. Seetec, a specialist social enterprise helping jobseekers who need support to find work, is based here two days a week.

Upstairs on the left is **The Hub**. Here on Wednesday and Friday evenings it becomes **The Youth Club Hub**, a place the young people of Bridport and the surrounding areas have made their own. Space Youth Project runs an LGBT+ group on the second Monday of the month and ASCape run a youth club for 12 to 17yr olds on the Autistic Spectrum each first and third Tuesday of the month. The Hub has an attached kitchen where Bridport Food Matters hold their monthly Nosh and Natter evenings and Ripple Workshop's Community Cook Up brings all ages, cultures and backgrounds together for a shared meal, art and craft. Also upstairs is **The Studio**, perfect for art sessions and home to Bridport School of Regenerative Fashion's community textile hub.