

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)



in support of **National
Trust**



The Antrim Memorial Stone on Golden Cap (See page 12)

Chairman: Margaret McClellan
Treasurer: Valerie Gierth Secretary: Mary Rogers
A Voluntary Association of National Trust Members
& Volunteers.

Founded in 1978 to promote & prosper the work of
the National Trust.

www.goldencapnt.org.uk

Chair's Report

Following the sad loss of our President, Chris Walliker, we shall be making a presentation of Life Membership to his widow Sue Walliker in recognition of all the work, hours and total commitment to the Golden Cap Association that Chris gave to the group, supported by Sue. This will take place at our next afternoon talk on Monday September 29th at 2.30 pm.



Since we last had an afternoon meeting in April the planned outing to see the roses at Mottisfont House was cancelled due to lack of numbers but our next outing on September 3rd is fully booked. We can look forward to a cruise on the River Exe and wander around the lovely shops at Dart's Farm.

However, we did enjoy a delicious meal, home cooked by Liz Earle, a local caterer. This is reported on elsewhere. It was the first event organised by Alison, our new Social events organiser, and was very successful – congratulations to her! I understand there are more events in the pipeline, or should I say – oven!

I am very pleased to tell you that a member has volunteered to take on the role of Chair of the Association. They will be coming to the next Committee Meeting in September as an observer and, if still willing, will be co-opted to the committee. This means that as all three officer posts will be filled the Association can continue. Two other members have volunteered to take care of the raffles.

Whilst the Association can continue it will be rather different from what we already know as there are still vacancies.

Outings Co-ordinator – someone who can get a small team together who are willing to do undertake one or two outings each.

Newsletter Editor – someone who can put together all the information members need to find out what is going on in the GCA and how they can join in with the events.

Talks Organiser – someone who can book up and look after the Speakers for the afternoon programme which runs from September to

April. Sarah Nicks has arranged the programme up to April 2026 so the new person should be able to start with September 2026 -April 2027 programme. At the time of writing this report someone has come forward and is considering this role. More information will be available at the September Talk.

Publicity Officer – someone who will advertise our Association, recruit new members, and report on our activities.

It is probable that the new Chair will take over in October 2025. This will enable them to steer the group towards the next AGM and beyond. All other committee members are either staying on the committee or leaving after the next AGM the end of March 2026.

I have enjoyed my brief period as Chair which was always meant to be short, it has been interesting, challenging but overall, enjoyable. My best wishes to the new Chair and the Committee for a smooth transition into a new and exciting time for the Association.

Margaret McClellan
Chair

JustPark at National Trust Car parks

The National Trust have switched all their car parks to JustPark from PayByPhone. JustPark is a downloadable app and website used to take payments for parking.

For the National Trust, JustPark has also been set up to include National Trust memberships as a 'payment' method, so members can use the app rather than scanning their card, giving them more ways to register their support.

Member scanning will remain possible at car parks where physical machines are installed.



Welcome to
Hive Beach

Please validate your parking

Members park Free

Please scan your membership card at the machine. You can also register your membership card with the **JustPark** app.

Not a member?

Simply pay for your parking at the machine or by using the **JustPark** app.

No signal?

Go ahead and start your visit. You'll be able to access the app later to pay for your parking. To pay over the phone instead, call **JustPark** on 07520 634455.

By paying for your parking or scanning your membership card, you're raising money to help care for our coast across Dorset. **Thank you**

nationaltrust.org.uk/outdoors

JustPark

Location ID
80529

Autumn Lunch

Haddon House Hotel, West Bay Road, DT6 4EL

Thursday 9th October 2024 12:30pm for 1:00pm

£32.50 or *£35.50 per person (excluding gratuities)

Menu

Roast Leg of Lamb - with Yorkshire pudding & onion sauce

Supreme of Chicken - with Chasseur sauce

Pan Seared Cornish Hake - with buttery Béarnaise sauce

Vegetarian Nut Roast - with Yorkshire pudding & vegetarian gravy

All the above served with a selection of vegetables, Roast and Marquis potatoes



Apple and Blackberry Crumble - with creamy custard

Tarte au Citron - with fruit compote

Lemon and Raspberry Posset - with a chocolate dipped homemade cookie

Strawberry and Champagne Sorbet - with fresh strawberries

***Cheese Board** (*£3.00 extra)



Tea/Coffee with mints

Alison Ridgeway - 07765 425419

AUTUMN LUNCH

Thursday 9th October 2025 - Haddon House Hotel, West Bay

PLEASE RESERVE ME _____ PLACES(S)

FOR (NAMES OF EVERYONE FOR WHOM YOU ARE PAYING)

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

TEL NO: _____ GOLDEN CAP M'SHIP No(S) _____

EMAIL _____

Main Course

Roast Lamb	
Supreme of Chicken	
Hake	
Nut Roast	

Sweet

Crumble	
Tarte au Citron	
Posset	
Sorbet	
Cheese Board £3.00 extra	

PLEASE Tick your method of payment

I enclose a cheque to Golden Cap Assoc £ _____ (£32.50 or £35.50pp) ☐

or Online Banking Payment (£32.50 or £35.50 pp): ☐

Account Name: Golden Cap Association

Account No: 21428284 HSBC Sort Code: 40 - 13 - 28

*Quote Reference: YOURSURNAMEINITIALLUNCH

Whichever method of payment please return this form with a Stamped Addressed Envelope asap but no later than **Thursday 25th September** to:

Mrs Alison Ridgeway
3 Norman Close, Bridport DT6 4ET

PTO TO LIST PEOPLE
YOU WISH TO SIT WITH

Continued . . . NAMES OF EVERYONE FOR WHOM YOU ARE PAYING

If possible I would like to share a table with some (or all) of the following friends:

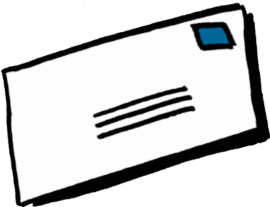


Every effort will be made to ensure you sit on the same table as your friends but this cannot be guaranteed. If you don't give preferences it will be assumed you are happy to sit with anybody.

Please return this form with a stamped addressed envelope as soon as possible but by **Thursday 25th September**.

Bookings with full payment are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Please remember to enclose a Stamped
Addressed Envelope for your tickets.**



Mrs Alison Ridgeway
3 Norman Close
Bridport DT6 4ET

Report on the Summer Lunch held in the Salway Ash Village Hall

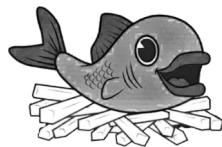
What a wonderful meal we had on Wednesday 16th July! It was the first time Alison Ridgeway, our new Social Secretary, had organised a lunch for us and it was a great success. Over 30 members were there and the general consensus was – could we have this type of meal again? It was reminiscent of several years ago when the Social Committee produced the delicious food themselves but eventually that stopped due to the advancing years of the cooks! Now, with someone else doing the cooking we have been able to experience home cooking again.

Alison had engaged the services of Liz Beale a local caterer, already known to some of the committee, to serve up a delicious cold buffet. There was cold salmon, ham, various quiches and many salads, new potatoes and artisan bread. This was followed by raspberry roulade, chocolate brownies, cheesecake, meringues and fruit.

Definitely an event to be repeated.



Quiz and Fish/Chicken 'n' Chip Lunch



Thursday 27th November 2025

**in the W.I. Hall, North Street, Bridport
from 11.30 am to 2.30 pm**

Tickets: £16.00 per person

– includes lunch, coffee/tea & mints



Come along and stimulate the grey cells with an interesting but not-too-controversial quiz, with prizes to be won for top scoring table and a small booby prize for the lowest scoring table. This year our Quiz Master is Kathy Hince.

The quiz is divided into two with lunch plus coffee/tea and mints at half time.



- ❑ If fish and chips is not for you, chicken and chips is available, indicate your choice on the booking form.
- ❑ Come on your own or with friends, everyone is welcome for a fun sociable event. Even if you are alone, you are guaranteed to meet someone for a chat since all the tables are made up of three or four people.
- ❑ Places are limited so book early and not later than **Thursday 20th November 2025**.

*Alison Ridgeway
07765 425419*

Welcome to the following new members since April:

Peter Brown & Diane Verity - Bridport

Colin & Pat Bowditch - Chideock

Meet Montacute's specialist craft team

16/17 Sept 11:00-16:00 Free event.

There is so much to see and learn of what goes on behind the scenes to protect and conserve our heritage. Join them in the old stables coach-house.

Application Form:

Quiz & Lunch – Thursday 27th November 2025

Please reserve me place(s) @ £16.00 each.

I would like:

☐

Fish

☐

Chicken dinner(s)

My Golden Cap Membership Number is

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name(s)

Address

. Postcode

Tel No.

Email:

I enclose a cheque to Golden Cap Association £ _____ (£16.00 pp) ☐

or **Online Banking Payment (£16.00)**

Account Name: Golden Cap Association

Account No: 21428284

HSBC Sort Code: 40 - 13 - 28

★Quote Reference: *SURNAMEINITIALQUIZ*

Whichever method of payment please return this form as soon as possible but not later than **Thursday 20th November to:**

Mrs Alison Ridgeway
3 Norman Close
Bridport DT6 4ET (no need for an SAE)

For further information contact Alison:

email - paulandalison4@gmail.com

or

ring - 07765 425419

Open Days at Portland House 24 Belle Vue Rd, Weymouth DT4 8RZ

**Fri to Sun 19-21 September 2025
10-4pm with last entry at 3pm**



This stunning Art-Deco inspired style villa on the Dorset coast lounges elegantly at the top of a slope overlooking the harbour at Portland.

Entry is free and there will be a small catering unit selling hot drinks and refreshments (both cash and card will be accepted). Also available are the collectable pin badges which can be purchased with cash only.

A visit to Hardy's Cottage

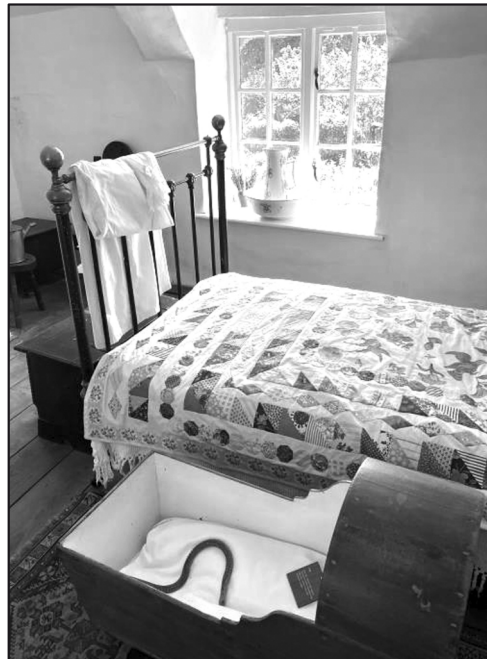
by Elizabeth Grant

Hardy's cottage was looking particularly beautiful. It was great to see how well the new porch looks as if it was always there.

The dry summer weather caused some problems, particularly higher levels of dust in the houses. The doormats, and boot brushes all helped to keep the levels down.

The wooden snake in the cradle next to the parents' bed at the cottage reminded me that we do still find adders and grass snakes at the cottage when the weather gets hotter.

The story is that Thomas's mother found a snake curled up in his cradle whilst he was sleeping, but thankfully he was unhurt.



'You are human once' Meet Simon Ndubai, a very special visitor to Stonebarrow

It was a ludicrously hot day during the June heatwave when out of the bright sunshine an outburst of words came fizzing onto our remote countryside site.

"It was just like I was walking! I could travel without any stress", Simon exclaimed about his first dizzy experience of using a mobility tramper at Stonebarrow.

His excitement was mesmerising, and I wanted to hear more about his trip exploring nearby Chardown Hill and Cain's Folly, the clifftop overlooking Charmouth and along the bay to Lyme Regis. As part of the team of Welcome and Service Assistants, we hire the tramper out on a daily basis to increasing numbers of visitors; it proves to be a memorable - and sometimes profoundly moving - experience for many people, who are often happily overwhelmed by the freedom it gives them to explore the countryside, local wildlife and even the weather, without any constraints - other than the 4mph top speed the tramper is limited to!

From his home in Kenya via a UN conference on disability rights in New York to Stonebarrow in West Dorset, Simon Ndubai certainly took the road less travelled to visit this National Trust site. Invited to the UK by his lifelong friends, Robin and Sue Carter - who he has known for over 50 years since Robin, a medical doctor, treated him in hospital in Kenya - this was Simon's first visit to Stonebarrow. It proved to be an unforgettable one, too.

"I volunteer for a Kenyan organisation called Federation of and for People with Disabilities" said Simon. "In Kenya" he continues "I could not do what I have just done today. I could not go out for a walk and be amongst nature unaided. We don't have facilities such as the tramper provided by any organisation for such a small fee, as the National Trust provides."

Simon had polio as a child, consequently experiencing a number of falls, and today is assisted in his walking by a pair of crutches. "When you're out in nature, you relax - and relaxation is very important to human beings. It brings so many benefits - just like going on holiday! It also increases awareness amongst non-

disabled people of our need to have these experiences and share these spaces. In this world, it's important that nobody is left behind - we should all be together. You are human once."

**Colette Meacher
Welcome & Service Assistant
for the Trust's North and West
Dorset portfolio**

Those with long memories will remember that in 2016 the Association donated money to the West Dorset NT to finance the hire of the first Tramper on duty around Stonebarrow.



From the Archives

- Extract from Newsletter No. 3 - January 1979

On the top of Golden Cap is a memorial (see cover photo) to the 13th Earl of Antrim, chairman of the National Trust from 1966 until his death in 1977. He was instrumental in the development of the 'Enterprise Neptune' appeal campaign in 1965, when plans were made to purchase and protect unspoiled coastline by the National Trust prior to the arrival of developers.

GOLDEN CAP
Given by members of The National Trust
and friends in memory of
THE EARL OF ANTRIM KBE
Chairman of The National Trust
From 1966 until his death in 1977

The Memorial Inscription - see front cover

The Antrim Memorial Stone on Golden Cap

A great deal of thinking, planning and research had been going on for a long time, but as far as Golden Cap was concerned it all culminated on September 5th 1978 when the three ton stone that was to be Lord Antrim's memorial was brought to its site on the west end of the top of the Cap. Even helicopters had been considered as a means of lifting it up to the top! In the end, Mr Jackson, House of Blandford, who 'specialises in the impossible', brought it in a giant bulldozer. A huge swath had been cut in the bracken and heather; slowly and confidently the great machine crawled up the slopes from Filcombe to the steep crown of the Cap and inched its way up the swath, the lip of the bucket with the great stone chained in it, only just clearing the rising ground. The 'impossible' was accomplished when that huge monster turned round in its own length and lowered the stone as lightly as a dropped pea plumb into its base. The chains were pulled out through the mysterious channel left in the foundations and the stone sat comfortably as if it had grown there.

It has been chosen from Mr Hayson's quarry at Worth Matravers; it is rugged with an exciting impression of a very big ammonite at the top. The inscription had been beautifully cut in Westmorland Slate by Mr Harvey of Bridport, and the plaque was fitted perfectly into its slot.

On the 14th September the memorial stone was unveiled by Lady Antrim. It was covered with Tom Burr's counterpane with the Antrim flag bound round it, and it was surrounded by a large body of family and friends. Lord Gibson made a speech that was so just right and moving that even an outsider like myself felt a bit lumpy-throated. Lady Antrim pulled the string and the flag fell and the counterpane was helped with a hitch or two over the top and that was it.

Then there was a private luncheon in a marquee down at St Gabriel's. There is no flat ground at St Gabriel's so the matting on the floor was apt to roll downhill and somebody's plate skidded off the end of the sloping table!

Miss E I Cherrill

Kingston Lacey

Formal Garden Tours

Sun/Mon Thur/Fri - Until 24th Oct 11:30-12:30 14:00-15:00 Booking essential
Come along to one of our volunteer-led Formal Garden tours to discover the history, horticulture and highlights of the season.

Meet a volunteer guide for a guided tour of Kingston Lacy's Formal Garden. Experience the carefully planned, cut and planted areas of the Formal Garden from the beautiful displays on the South Terrace to the historic planting of Lime Avenue and Nursery wood.

Meet the Garden Guide at 11.30am and 2pm in the Formal Garden, by the front of the house.

We recommend pre-booking your ticket to avoid disappointment. Some tickets may be available on the day from Visitor Reception. This is a walking tour lasting for approximately 60 minutes.

Meet Rembrandt: a slow looking Experience

12 Sept – 16 Nov 10:30–15:00 12 Jan-22 March 2026 Booking not needed
Slow down, get comfortable and come face-to-face with Rembrandt this autumn. You are invited to spend time with Rembrandt's Self-portrait in a Feathered Bonnet, giving yourself space to make your own discoveries and engage more deeply with this astonishing, flamboyant work.

There will be comfortable chairs for you to settle in, and audio guides to prompt your slow looking. What you see will be up to you; this is time for you to respond personally to a single work of art, connecting over nearly four centuries with one of the greatest visual artists ever.

This is a self-led experience. There are a limited number of seats and if the property is particularly busy you may be asked to come back at a quieter time.

Japanese Tea Garden Experience

27 Sept 11:00-12:00 13:00-14:00 Booking essential
Celebrate 20 years since the restoration of the Japanese Garden. Enjoy an exclusive tour of the Japanese Tea Garden with Kingston Lacy's head gardener, before sitting down to enjoy tasters of Japanese tea in this peaceful spot. The tour will finish outside the tea hut, where you'll join Comins Tea for a tasting of Japanese teas from the Fukuoka prefecture. You'll learn more about these wonderful teas while enjoying them in this beautiful natural setting.

Kingston Lacy's Magical Christmas Ball

22 Nov – 4 Jan 2026 10.30-15:00 (excluding 25/26 December) Booking not needed

A glistening Christmas deserves an equally elegant ball that will sweep you off your feet. Follow the story of a wondrous woodland winter ball in the house and gardens, with plenty of festive magic to discover.

Explore the house and gardens, decorated for a spectacular Christmas ball. You'll follow the story as you move through the spaces, from quiet side rooms full of gossip and speculation, to the spectacular woodland dance floor and feast.

Outside, the woodland creatures have been drawn into the garden and are ready to be discovered under the giant Christmas tree outside the house.

Advance Notice

Monday 23rd February, 2026

Mapperton House, Gardens and the Montague Family by Peter Rand

Peter is a retired CEO and has lived in Dorset for the past 15 years. He is a lover of History and became a Mapperton guide in 2022. Following the estates approval he has taken Mapperton and the history of the Montague family on tour.



Monday 30th March, 2026

A.G.M. - Speaker to be advised



Monday 27th April, 2026

Reminiscences of a Dancing Man by Richard Wirdnam

The title of the talk is the name of a poem by Thomas Hardy. Richard has been a member of the Thomas Hardy Society and has helped edit their journal. He is interested in the references of dancing in Hardy's poems. He will be playing some traditional tunes to illustrate his talk.

***Please note that the order of speakers is different from that previously advertised.**

Privacy Statement

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) keeps names, addresses and other contact data exclusively for the purposes of maintaining membership records and contacting members via newsletters and individual correspondence to advise on events and activities.

This information is never divulged to any other individual or organisation, nor is additional information on any member obtained from any other source. On cessation of a membership, all personal data is removed from our records.

Any member has the legal right to see, alter or remove personal data kept by Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) by submitting a formal request (including his/her name and address) to the Chairman. A response must be provided within one month of the request being received.

Illustrated Talks

in the United Church Main Hall, East Street, Bridport
at 2:30pm

Mon
29th
Sept



***Versailles and the English** by Philip Mansell

Philip is an eminent Historian and author with awards and honours in the UK and France. He will talk about the relationship between England and France from Louis XIV to Queen Victoria. How the court and palace at Versailles influenced English taste, including art, architecture and gardens.

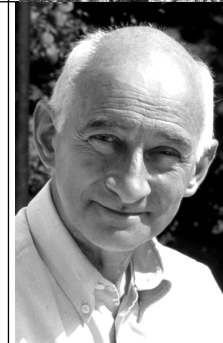
Mon
27th
Oct



***The Shetlands** by Peter Watson

During Peter's career in the oil industry he managed to visit many locations across the world. One of the most interesting was spent in the Shetlands where he was for eight years. The talk will highlight life in the Shetlands with his family and it shows how the islands have changed since he left.

Mon
24th
Nov



Arts and Crafts, Houses and Gardens by Paul Atterbury

Between the 1880's and 1930's domestic architecture, interior design and small gardens were radically changed by the Arts and Crafts ideas, styles and philosophies. It started with William Morris, and was then carried forward by Lutyens, Voysey and Gertrude Jekyll. Paul will show us how these changes laid the foundation for the way we live today.

Mon
26th
Jan



The German Occupation of the Channel Islands in WW2 by Lt Col James Porter

James retired in 2011 with the rank of Lt. Col after a 41-year career in the Army. After that he spent 10 years as a skipper instructor and qualified as a battle field guide. He runs the Wessex Military History group and is a researcher at the Keep Museum in Dorchester.

Officers & Committee Members

**Contact details removed
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and your email will be passed on to the
appropriate person.**



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