

Newsletter of the

January 2026

Issue 140

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)



in support of **National
Trust**



Acting Chairman: Christopher Munden
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

Chairman's Report

I took over as acting Chairman, from Margaret McClellan, in October, and I must firstly thank her for her hard work for a short time, and for helping to steady the ship. This is, therefore, my first, and naturally short report.

Having agreed to take the role, Margaret was again excellent in her advice, as were several others, and I must thank them all. I immediately saw a firm future for the



association, but also much work to be done, primarily to fill the vacant roles on the committee. We can and do function, but we certainly need two or three posts to be filled. In the main, these are, a Publicity Officer, a Newsletter Editor and another Outings Organiser. We will certainly miss those hard-working souls who are retiring at the AGM.

We enjoyed a well organised and full day out to Dart's Farm near Exeter, and a relaxing beautiful boat trip down the River Exe to Exmouth. We had a new friendly coach company and driver, and we beat the rain! Anybody interested in taking this role please contact me or the secretary.

We also saw a packed WI Hall for our annual Quiz 'n' Fish and Chip Lunch. A great deal of fun lots of scratched heads, excellent company and superb fish and chips.

You will see at the back of this newsletter that we are planning an extra talk this year, as the last Monday in May is a Bank Holiday it will be held on on Monday 1st June. We will be welcoming a speaker from NCI Lyme Bay (National Coastwatch, Burton Bradstock). The speaker is yet to be advised but watch out for the email giving you all the details.

As we enter a new year may I wish all our members a very Happy New Year and assure all that I will continue to do what I can to support this excellent association.

Christopher Munden
Acting Chairman

Future Newsletters – Changes after April 2026

Chris Senior, who has been Newsletter Editor for 24 years and produced 74 newsletters, will be retiring from the role at the March AGM. She has kindly agreed to produce her last Newsletter in April 2026 but after that time, unless we can find a new Editor, we will be sending you a digital News Sheet every two months.

For this reason it is vitally important that we have either your own email address or that of a relation or friend who is prepared to print the News Sheet for you. It will become the only way that we can communicate with members with details of talks, lunches, outings and news so please help us to make this new method of communication work for us all.

Attached to this newsletter you will have found a sheet showing the email address we have for you:

If this is correct - you need to do nothing further.

If it is missing or incorrect - please contact Diana Coleridge with the correct details.

If you do not have an email address - please ask a relative or friend if they would let you use theirs and contact Diana Coleridge with the correct details.

Diana Coleridge - 01308 424431

dianacoleridge@gmail.com

Membership

I should like to remind you all that **Subscriptions for 2026/27 are due on 1st April 2026** and remain at the current rate of £6.00 for one person and £9.00 for two people living at the same address.

If you would like to pay by **Bank Transfer** please pay

HSBC Bank, Sort Code **40-13-28**

The sum of **£6 / £9**

To the credit of **Golden Cap Association**

Account number **21428284**

Quote your **Surname and Golden Cap membership number**

If you wish to pay by cheque, could I please ask you to use the renewal form on page 5 and forward it to Diana Coleridge, together with your payment, **no later than 1st April**. Cheques post-dated to 1st April can be sent now if you wish. A separate receipt will not be sent - your membership card is your receipt and that will be available at the talk on 27th April or posted shortly after with the April Newsletter.

If you already pay by Standing Order please do not complete the renewal form on the next page. You can see on the front of the 2025/26 membership card whether you pay by Standing Order or Cheque. If you're still not sure ring me to check - 01308 424431.

Once your Membership fee has been received, your membership card giving details of the illustrated talks and other events will be issued with the April Newsletter. **If you send your cheque after the April Newsletter has been issued then please enclose a SAE.**

The 2026/27 card will be valid until 30th April 2027.

Continued Membership of the National Trust or being an active and current volunteer for the National Trust is an essential condition of Association membership. Anyone wishing to see our constitution can find it on the Membership page of our Website: www.goldencapnt.org.uk

Membership details are held on computer for internal use only and will not be disclosed to any third party (see page 22 for our Privacy Statement).

Diana Coleridge - Membership Secretary

Welcome to the following new members since September 2025:

Jonathan & Katherine Brown — Bridport

Thomas & Jillian Jones — Chideock

Joyce Rouse — Bridport

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) Renewal of Annual Subscription 2026/2027

TITLE(S) _____ (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TEL No _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NT MEMBERSHIP No. _____

I ENCLOSE £ _____ (SUBSCRIPTION)

I consent to the above data being used for communication purposes only by the Golden Cap Association. [It is important that this box is ticked.]

Subscriptions are due on 1st April. Subscriptions are £6.00 for one person and £9.00 for two at the same address. Please make your cheque payable to 'Golden Cap Association'. Please hand it in at any Association meeting or send by post to Mrs D Coleridge, 115 Victoria Grove, Bridport DT6 3AE.

If you would like to pay by Bank Transfer please pay

HSBC Bank, Sort Code 40-13-28 the sum of £6 / £9

To the credit of Golden Cap Association, Account Number 21428284

Quote your Surname and Golden Cap membership number which you can find on your 2025/26 Membership Card.

TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH FORMS.

Standing Order Form

This form supersedes all previous Standing Orders in favour of
The Golden Cap Association of the National Trust

To: _____ BANK PLC) NAME AND
_____) ADDRESS OF
_____) YOUR BANK

Please pay the HSBC Bank, Sort Code 40-13-28 the sum of £ _____ annually on 1st April, commencing 2026, to the credit of 'The Golden Cap Association' Account Number 21428284 and debit my account accordingly

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____ SORT CODE: _____

NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please do not send this form to your Bank. Send it to The Membership Secretary: Mrs D Coleridge, 115 Victoria Grove, Bridport DT6 3AE. It will then be recorded and passed to your Bank.

The Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) of the National Trust 2026 Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Forty-seventh Annual General Meeting** of the Golden Cap Association will be held on **Monday 30 March 2026** at **2.30**_pm in the Bridport United Church Main Hall, East Street, Bridport.

AGENDA

(Please bring this Agenda with you to the meeting)

Chairman's welcome of members to the AGM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Chairman's Address
3. Minutes of the 46th AGM held on 31st March 2025 (on page 8)
4. Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda
5. Treasurer's Presentation of Accounts (on page 14) including:
 - Approval of Committee's recommendations for rate of subscriptions.

6. Consideration of the following Resolution:

That non-National Trust members should be admitted to membership of Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) and that The Constitution of Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) be altered accordingly.

This Resolution is being proposed in order to widen the membership of GCA, following a period when it was very possible that the Association would have to close due to a lack of suitable Committee members being found to run the organisation. It is hoped that by bringing in new members, people will be found to fill the vacancies on the Committee and also make the running of events and outings viable for the benefit of all members.

Voting will be by a show of hands with the Acting Chairman holding a casting vote.

7. Election of Hon. Officers:

(a) Chairman (b) Secretary (c) Treasurer (d) Vice-Chairman

Election of General Committee

8. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner (Auditor)

9. Any other business.

N.B. Nominations for the election of Officers and Committee should be sent in writing to the Secretary to arrive not later than **Monday 9th March 2026** and should be signed by the Proposer, Seconder and Nominee.

Closure of AGM will be followed by Refreshments and our Guest Speaker will be Hannah Jefferson, General Manager, West Dorset & Cranborne Chase National Trust.

Election of 2026/27 Committee

I NOMINATE _____

AS CHAIRMAN / SECRETARY / TREASURER / VICE-CHAIRMAN / COMMITTEE MEMBER*

*PLEASE DELETE AS APPROPRIATE

NOMINATED BY: SIGNED _____ DATE _____

SECONDED BY: SIGNED _____ DATE _____

I CONFIRM THAT I AM WILLING TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE AS NOMINATED ABOVE.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

I would like to see the activities of the Association continuing and improving and am happy to offer my services as a member of the Association's Committee.

I am interested in becoming involved with _____

Signed _____ Tel _____

Please send nominations to Mrs Mary Rogers, Orchard End, Bright Hay Lane, North Chideock DT6 6JZ to be received by **Monday 9 March 2026**. Photocopies or handwritten copies of this form are acceptable.

Life Membership Award

At the September 2025 talk Sue Walliker was awarded an Honorary Life Membership. She has been a member of our Association since the very beginning in 1978.

Sadly, Sue lost her husband, Christopher, in April, who had been our President for 15 years. Chris and Sue also organised 46 outings.

Thank you very much Sue for your dedication to the Golden Cap Assoc.



**Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting
of the Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)
held on Monday 31st March 2025
at the United Church Hall, East Street, Bridport**

Present Margaret McClellan - Chairman;
Mike Nicks -Treasurer;
Mary Rogers - Secretary;
62 members.

The Chairman, Margaret McClellan welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and gave Chris Walliker's apologies for not being at the meeting due to illness and wished him a rapid recovery.

1. Chairman's Address – Margaret McClellan

The report from Mike Nicks, Former Chairman, had previously been circulated in the Newsletter Issue 137. January 2025.

Margaret McClellan added to this report by covering the period from December 2024.

"I am pleased to be back on the Committee working with a group of people most of whom were on the committee when I was Secretary a few years ago. It is proving to be enjoyable, if a bit challenging at times.

So far this year there have been two talks, one by Charlie Wheeler about the Swannery and another from Alan Jenkins about a Royal Visit that went Wrong. Later this afternoon we shall be hearing from Hannah Jefferson about some projects that have been undertaken over the last year in this region. In April, which is the last talk of the winter season Andy Williams will be talking about the Bankes family and Kingston Lacey. Sarah Nicks has more interesting talks arranged for the remainder of the year.

Coming up next month is the Spring Lunch at Lyme Regis Golf Club. Valerie Gierth has been organising this and will be handing over to Alison Ridgeway who has joined the committee as Social Activities Organiser. More of her later! Unfortunately, the outing to Mottisfont, arranged by Mary Rogers and Janet Carey has been cancelled due to insufficient members taking up the places. This has happened before when there is a fair bit of walking involved but the outings that include cruising on waterways are still popular. Mary is currently looking into running another one during the summer.

There has been one Committee meeting so far this year and much of time was spent discussing the future. At the same time we welcomed Alison

Ridgeway who is in the process of taking over from Valerie Gierth organising our social activities. Valerie will now become Treasurer and Mike will now be able to stand down after all the years he has spent keeping the Association afloat and during the last few years acting first as Treasurer and then taking on the responsibility as Chairman as well.

I thank all the committee for making me feel welcome and also to Chris Walliker for his support and wise words."

2. Apologies for absence – these were received from Barry & Yvonne Welch, Roger & Vivian Hudspith, Mrs Stevie Longridge, Judy Weeks, Chris & Sue Walliker, Elizabeth Price, Jenny Burbury, Wendy Francis, Ann Mabbott, Gill Pryke, Maureen Miller and Don & Judith Newman.

3. Minutes of the last meeting – 25 March 2024

These were **AGREED** and signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

There were none

5. Treasurer's Report – Mike Nicks

The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024 were published in Newsletter Issue No. 137 January 2025. The accounts were **AGREED**.

Mike Nicks, the retiring Treasurer, highlighted the fact that bank charges were costing the Association a considerable amount of money (40p every time a cheque was written or paid in). He also thanked the membership for entrusting him with their money over the years.

5.1 Donation to the National Trust – As we would only be able to donate £1,000 to the National Trust this year it had been agreed with Hannah Jefferson that we would hold this over until next year or if we close down all the remaining money will go to the local National Trust. This was **APPROVED**.

5.2 Annual subscriptions – Mike Nicks proposed that these remained at £6 for a single membership and £9 for a double. This was **APPROVED**.

6. Election of President

Chris Walliker was unanimously elected.

7. Election of Officers and Committee – The following were **AGREED**

7.1 **Officers** Chair - Margaret McClellan; Secretary - Mary Rogers;
Treasurer - Valerie Gierth; Vice-Chairman - Peter Watson.

7.2 **Committee** Janet Carey; Diana Coleridge;
Sarah Nicks; Alison Ridgeway;
Chris Senior; Veronica Smith

8. **Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner**

Linda Le Breton would be happy to carry out this role and it was **APPROVED.**

9. **Any Other Business**

Margaret McClellan presented Mike Nicks with a gift from the membership in recognition of his 14 years as Treasurer plus 4 years as Chairman of the Golden Cap Association.

The AGM was followed by the EGM and then refreshments.

Hannah Jefferson, Manager of National Trust North and West Dorset, then showed a National Trust promotional video and gave details of work that had recently been carried out locally as well as outlining the National Trust's new strategy which will be shaping the direction of the organisation for the next 10 years and well beyond.

The Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) of the National Trust Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday 31st March 2025 in Bridport United Church Hall, East Street, Bridport

Present: 62 members

Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman, Margaret McClellan, opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and explaining the reason for the EGM.

"Firstly I want to say that this motion is being put to you with a heavy heart from the committee. For some time now it has been difficult to attract members to come on the committee, and we are very lucky that Alison Ridgeway has accepted the challenge! There have been many requests over the years for more members to come onto the committee, but with little effect. I remember at one of those wonderful lunches that took place pre-lockdown, that had been prepared by the Social Committee, when Valerie Gierth, who led that group came out of the kitchen at the end and symbolically took off her apron and said that no longer would we be having any more home cooked lunches. They had done it for many years and it was just becoming too much for everyone. I can still remember that, and I wondered then how long we would continue. You know that the outing to Mottisfont has not attracted sufficient numbers to make it viable. No longer are members lining up to go out to NT houses and gardens ►

where there is an amount of walking to undertake. Still popular are cruises on waterways where very little walking is required. But there are only so many rivers, canals and coastal routes to do and we have done most of them! I understand there may be one more!

There have been many offers of help but that is not what we need. There is help here this afternoon as several members will be helping with making, serving and clearing up the tea. There are those who help put out and clear up the chairs but we need more of that help. All very helpful and we are grateful to them. In the past there has been help from individuals who have organised outings but now our Secretary, Mary Rogers, is doing that with Janet Carey doing the admin side of things.

Four years ago Mike Nicks, the Treasurer, took on being Chair as well in order to keep this organisation going. This can not go on any longer.

What we need are members who will commit to spending 2-3 years on the committee. People who have good computing skills are now essential. It is not just attending three or four committee meetings a year and attending various social events. You also need to be prepared to spend much time working at home. Each role requires a different amount of work and often it comes in different amounts.

Most people on the committee have been there for many years and they have enjoyed doing it but now some think it is really time for others to take their turn.

Four committee members have indicated that if we don't close at the end of the year they will be retiring at the next AGM. Veronica Smith, who worked with her late husband David running many very successful outings in the days before Covid entered our lives and we were much fitter and stronger. Chris Senior, who produces our Newsletter and manages the Website will also be leaving as will I. I said I would be Chair for a maximum of two years and the obvious time for me to step down, if not at the end of this year, will be the next AGM. Sarah Nicks who organises our speaker programmes will also be stepping down then.

Our lives have changed since Lockdown and the effect of it has reached this association. So much Information Technology is available and companies are running their businesses online. That is affecting the way we now run the GCA and will do in the future. It is affecting the way we bank, and try to do bookings for events. I am sure you have come across hotels and restaurants where you have to book online – nightmare!

We need to recruit new, younger members and we are not, at least not in sufficient numbers. The role of Publicity Officer has been vacant for many years. That person would now have to be familiar with all the ways of recruitment that the internet has to offer – Social Media Platforms eg Facebook.

In order to replace Chris Senior someone must be adept at Desk Top Publishing and Web site management. It should be noted that Chris spent in excess of 250 hours last year on work for Golden Cap Association. ►

The end of this year has been chosen for closure as December is the end of our financial year and all loose ends can then be tidied up. At our committee meeting we decided that we would have one last attempt to fill the upcoming vacancies by not invoking the motion until the end of September. Since then we realise that the deadline must be brought forward to the end of July to allow for the publication of the Newsletter in September and to prepare the programme of events for the next few months.

Many of our colleagues in other similar associations in Dorset have already closed for the same reasons and we are one of the last to consider this action. GCA has a lot to celebrate in its 46 years and we would rather leave with a celebration of those achievements than to quietly close down through lack of interest or people unable now to commit to the amount of time and work that is required."

A discussion then took place when it was stressed that it would be a tragedy if GCA closed and that if we voted for the Resolution that would be the end with no going back.

A suggestion was made that meetings could be held in the evening to encourage younger members who work. Attendance at meetings had fallen from 80/90 people before Covid to 50ish now.

It was pointed out that we were unable to recruit new members to the National Trust because under GDPR the Trust are unable to supply us with the details of the new members.

It was also mentioned that there had been seven National Trust Associations in Dorset but there were now only three.

Hannah Jefferson highlighted the fact that as NT volunteers all committee members were invited to events and received the twice monthly Dorset Minute.

As 80% of the membership are on email it was agreed that a mailing would be sent out detailing the roles that needed to be filled on the Committee with a letter being sent to those not on email.

Voting then took place on the Resolution

To dissolve the Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) of the National Trust on 31 December 2025

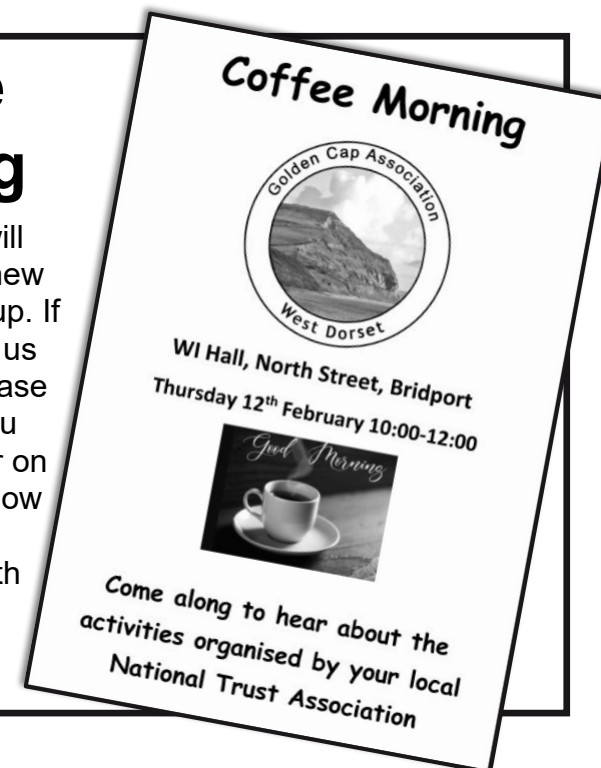
Proposed by Margaret McClellan, Chair of the GCA on behalf of the committee and seconded by Chris Clark.

Votes were: 23 for the Resolution 19 against the Resolution

As two thirds of those present and voting was required to pass the Resolution, it was not carried.

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning will hopefully encourage new people to join our group. If you would like to help us promote the GCA please come along. Also if you can advertise a poster on your gate let Alison know on 07765 425419 and she will supply you with a colourful poster.



Towards the end of November 2025 46 members gathered in the Bridport WI Hall for our annual memory test - set again this year by Kathy Hince. Midway through proceedings staff from nearby Longs' Fish & Chip Shop brought in our much appreciated lunch.

Quiz & Fish 'n' Chip Lunch (chicken also available)



Chris Munden presenting Kathy Hince with a bouquet

**Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)
of the National Trust
Income & Expenditure Account
for the year ending 31st December 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
Income		
Subscriptions	1,272	1,368
Donations	94	75
Contribution from Events		
Outings	248	119
Illustrated Talks	391	497
Social Functions	223	176
TOTAL INCOME	2,228	2,235
Expenditure		
Bank charges	100	123
Printing and Stationery	572	517
Postage	354	300
Sundries	234	154
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,260	1,094
SURPLUS BEFORE DONATIONS	968	1,141
DONATIONS TO NATIONAL TRUST	0	3,000
SURPLUS/DEFICIT AFTER DONATIONS	968	-1,859
Reserves brought forward	3,878	5,737
Reserves at year end	4,846	3,878
Represented by:		
Cash at HSBC	4,816	3,878
Cash in hand	30	0
	4,846	3,878

Notes re: Golden Cap Assoc (West Dorset) Accounts for 2025

2025 Donation to The National Trust to be agreed at AGM
Total donated to The National Trust since 1978 = £132,513.00

Income	£	Expenditure	£
OUTINGS			
Darts Farm	1,260.00	Coach	600.00
		Stuart Line	322.00
		Gratuities	90.00
Totals	1260.00	Surplus	1,012.00
SOCIAL EVENTS			248.00
Lyme Regis GC(Jun)	1560.00	Food	1536.00
Buffet Lunch	855.50	Food, Hall	776.00
Haddon House	1,239.50	Food	1,235.00
Quiz	752.00	Food, Prizes	636.80
Totals	4,407.00	Surplus	4,183.80
ILLUSTRATED TALKS			223.20
5 Talks + AGM		IT etc	34.93
Entry fees	1,115.00	Speaker fees	520.00
Raffles	239.16	Hire of Hall	387.00
		Tea / Coffee	21.64
Totals	1354.16	Surplus	963.57
ADMINISTRATION			390.59
Print & Stationery		Newsletters	455.80
		Stationery	116.65
Total		Total	572.45
Bank charges			99.53
Postage		Newsletters	340.00
		Other	13.60
Total		Total	353.60
Sundries		Committee	67.40
		Hall storage	50.00
		Website & IT	60.00
		Gifts	56.50
Total		Total	233.90

Spring Lunch

Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club Restaurant,
Burton Road, Bridport DT6 4PS

Thursday 26th March 2026 12:30pm for 1:00pm

£28.00 per person (excluding gratuities)

Menu

Chicken Breast in Marsala Sauce
Pork Tenderloin in Marsala Sauce
Pan Fried Salmon with a lemon butter sauce
Beetroot and Butternut Squash Wellington

All the above served with a selection of market vegetables, new potatoes or potato cakes

¶

Fresh Fruit Pavlova
 Apple Crumble with Custard or Ice Cream
 Biscoffi Cheesecake with Cream

¶

Tea/Coffee



Please post the form or email your menu choices and contact details to Alison Ridgeway by 12th March 2026. She will contact you by email or phone a week before the 26th March as a gentle reminder of your booking.

Alison Ridgeway
07765 425419
paulandalison4@gmail.com

SPRING LUNCH

Thursday 26th March 2026 - Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club

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	Chicken Breast	
	Pork Tenderloin	
	Pan Fried Salmon	
	Beetroot & Squash Wellington	
Sweet	Fresh Fruit Pavlova	
	Apple Crumble with Custard	
	Apple Crumble with Ice Cream	
	Biscoffi Cheesecake with Cream	

PLEASE Tick your method of payment

I enclose a cheque to Golden Cap Assoc £ _____ (£28.00pp)

or Online Banking Payment (£28.00 pp):

Account Name: Golden Cap Association

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

*Quote Reference: **YOURSURNAMEINITIALLUNCH**

Whichever method of payment please either

- return this form to: Mrs Alison Ridgeway, 3 Norman Close, Bridport DT6 4ET
 or email your details to

- paulandalison4@gmail.com by **Thursday 12th March**

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 information as soon as possible but by **Thursday 12th March**.

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

Mrs Alison Ridgeway
3 Norman Close
Bridport DT6 4ET

paulandalison4@gmail.com

07765 425419

2026 Outings

We are hoping to organise the following Outings for you during 2026 and full details and booking forms will be available in the April Newsletter.

June



A trip on the steam train from **Swanage to Corfe Castle** where we will be met by our coach for a drive to **Kimmeridge**. There will be the opportunity to lunch in the local Clavell's Restaurant before visiting the nearby Etches Collection, Museum of Jurassic Marine Life, where, amongst many fossils, the world famous Pliosaur skull is on display (as featured on the 'Attenborough and the Giant Sea Monster' BBC documentary). We will be arranging a guided tour around the museum, maybe led by Steve Etches himself. Steve gave a talk to GCA some years ago.

September

Our coach will take us to Poole Quay where we will board a ferry to take us across the Harbour to **Brownsea Island**. The island, famous as the birthplace of Scouting and Guiding, is a haven for red squirrels and diverse bird life. There are walking trails and bird hides for the adventurous and



for those who do not want to walk far there is a secondhand bookshop in the Engine Room whilst The Coffee Shop and the Villano Café have indoor and outdoor seating and serve light snacks, hot and cold food and drinks and ice cream. Wildlife such as Sika deer can often be seen close to the Reception area.

Mary Rogers and Janet Carey

News from West Dorset & Cranborne Chase NT

Cerne Abbas Giant Appeal

On 3rd December 2025 an appeal to raise £330,000 to help fund the purchase and care of 138 hectares (340 acres) of land surrounding the Giant. This land is home to rare chalk grassland species, including the endangered Duke of Burgundy butterfly, and will be managed to create a thriving nature haven for wildlife and future generations.

To support the appeal, limited edition pin badges are being sold as part of the campaign.

- A badge featuring the rare butterfly, a species clinging on at just six stronghold sites in Dorset - £5.00 suggested donation



- A badge of the iconic Cerne Abbas Giant itself - £5.00 suggested donation

- A limited edition 'Cheeky Giant' badge, offering a playful imagined rear view of the famous chalk figure - £10.00 suggested donation



Hannah Jefferson, General Manager for West Dorset & Cranborne Chase, said: "We know how much the Giant means to local people, and the pin badges are a fun way to show support while helping us protect this extraordinary landscape. Every badge bought in Dorset contributes directly to securing the Giant's future and the rare species that depend on this land."

The pin badges are available now in National Trust places around Dorset including: Lyme Regis National Trust shop and Hive Beach - Burton Bradstock as well as locally in Cerne Abbas at Cerne Abbas Brewery, The Old Saddler, Cerne Abbas Stores and Post Office, the New Inn and the Royal Oak.

Donations to the appeal can also be made online at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cerne-giant-appeal.

Any donations received after the appeal has reached its target, will be used to support habitat creation, transform the wider site for nature and for people to enjoy, and improve access - in consultation with the local community.



Before Christmas contractors were busy assembling the new hut for Hive Beach. This is a like-for-like replacement but without the holes in the floor and with doors that work!

Interest in the newly restored Tuke painting at Clouds Hill, *T. E. Lawrence as a Cadet at Newport Beach, near Falmouth*, has brought welcome publicity and television coverage, drawing in fresh audiences and boosting visitor numbers.



We have been busy in the houses 'putting them to bed' for the Winter. Lots of objects are put away or moved for safe keeping over the closed season. Everything has had a really good clean now that we can move the furniture, but the deep cleaning will happen in the Spring so that everything will look at its best when we reopen.

While sorting through cupboards at Max Gate we came across this beautiful quilt made by the Marnhull Quilters in 1993. We are hoping that this photo might jog someone's memory. Do get in touch with Elizabeth Grant if you know anything about it elizabeth.grant@nationaltrust.org.uk.



Hardy Monument: We welcomed 2,810 visitors this season. Staffing shortages meant 26 of 52 planned open days couldn't be fully covered and were unable to open on 3 days.

Portland House: Visitor numbers for 2025 reached 4,498, and in 2026 due to conservation and capacity we will open for one weekend (14–16 May) only rather than two, we will also be introducing a £5 non-member entrance fee and expanded volunteer roles.

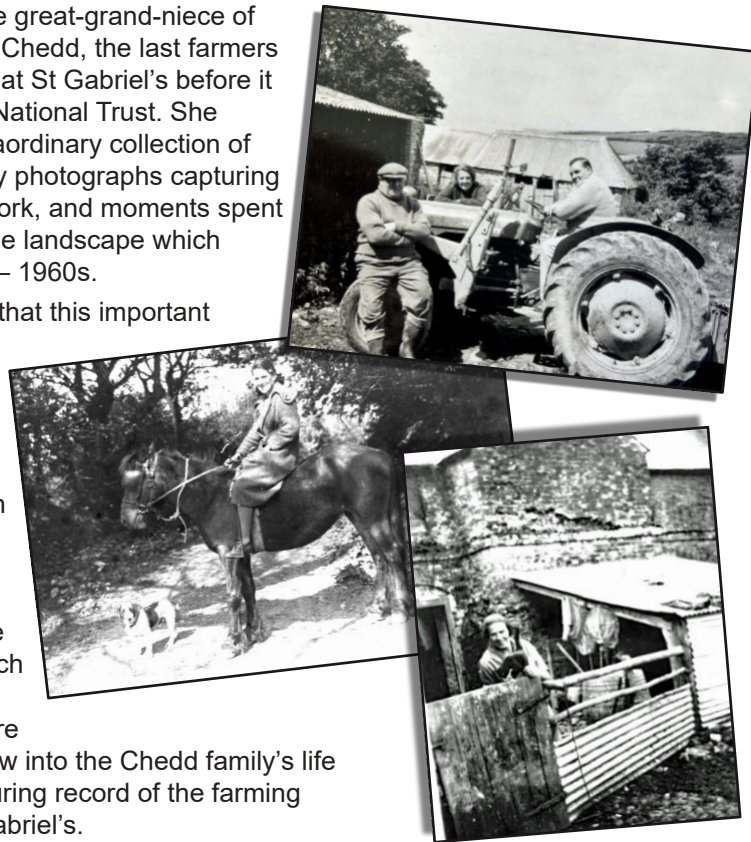
Access: Our partnership with Disability Together enabled 109 Tramper trips (Stonebarrow 55, Hive Beach 54) and created 40 new memberships.

Preserving the Past: Family photographs from St Gabriel's find a new home

Ann Hellier is the great-grand-niece of Cecil and Freda Chedd, the last farmers to work the land at St Gabriel's before it was sold to the National Trust. She donated an extraordinary collection of nearly 100 family photographs capturing daily life, farm work, and moments spent in this remarkable landscape which span the 1930s – 1960s.

We're delighted that this important collection has now been donated to the Dorset History Centre, where each photograph will be catalogued, preserved, and made accessible for future research and enjoyment.

These images are not only a window into the Chedd family's life but also an enduring record of the farming heritage of St Gabriel's.



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

<p>Mon 23rd Feb</p>		<p>Mapperton House, Gardens and the Montague Family by Peter Rand</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Mon 30th March</p>		<p>Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Hannah Jefferson, General Manager West Dorset & Cranborne Chase National Trust</p>
<p>Mon 27th April</p>		<p>Reminiscences of a Dancing Man by Richard Wirdnam</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Mon 1st June</p>		<p>NCI Lyme Bay (National Coastwatch, Burton Bradstock) - Speaker to be advised.</p> 

Officers & Committee Members

Contact details removed
to avoid spam

Contact: info @ goldencapnt.org.uk

and your email will be passed on to the
appropriate person.

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