

Newsletter of the

April 2026

Issue 141

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)



in support of **National
Trust**



Chairman: Christopher Munden
Treasurer: Valerie Gierth Secretary: Mary Rogers
Founded in 1978 to promote & prosper the work of
the National Trust.

www.goldencapnt.org.uk

Your
card is
inside if
you've
renewed
your
membership

Chairman's Report

Following our AGM on March 30th, I can drop the 'acting' prefix, and concentrate on working hard as your Chairman (sorry I am old-fashioned).

I repeat that the standard set by my predecessors will mean much hard work, but as they say, "if you can't take a joke, you shouldn't join".

I make no apology, for again stating that we badly need two or three people to step forward and join the committee to fill the posts that are vacant, particularly that of newsletter editor. I am sure Chris Senior will advise any new incumbent.

We enjoyed a Spring lunch at Bridport Golf Club recently, good company and excellent food. Do try and attend these events, they are good value and well organised.

April's talk looks to be a lively one, with 'Reminiscences of a Dancing Man', the subject. This is Sarah Nicks swan song after many years finding our speakers. Remember, we have an extra talk this year on June 1st.

Efforts are afoot for the summer outings, with attempts to find those that are easier on the legs, starting in June with a trip on the Swanage railway.

Finally, if you have not confirmed your e-mail addresses (if you have one), can you please do so as soon as possible. Talking about emails, you will notice that some of the committee have changed their email addresses. Please amend your email address book.

Enjoy the coming summer.

Chris Munden - Chairman



Annual General Meeting 2026

Future communication with members

Subsequent to our Newsletter Editor's retirement from the committee and because we have been unable to find someone prepared to take on this task, this will be our last printed newsletter. 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 our News Sheets for you. It will become the only way that we can communicate with members giving details of talks, lunches, outings and news so please help us to make this new method of communication work for us all.

If you haven't already done so please give our Membership Secretary, Diana Coleridge, your email address. Alternatively, **if you do not have an email address** - please ask a relative or friend if they would let you use theirs.

Diana Coleridge - 01308 424431

membership@goldencapnt.uk

Bridport Community Charter Fair Saturday 16th May

Volunteers welcome to help staff our stall in Downes Street.

Can you spare an hour between 10.00am and 3.00pm to chat to people about your experiences with the Golden Cap Association?

Ring or email Alison if you are happy to help

01308 425419

social@goldencapnt.uk

Membership: 2026 – 2027 Subscriptions

To those who have already paid their 2026-2027 subscription your Membership Card is enclosed with this Newsletter, thank you

To those who have not already paid their subscription, this is a gentle reminder that it was due on 1st April. I would be grateful if you would let me have asap your cheque along with a completed subscription form which is on page 5, along with a Stamped Addressed Envelope for your card.

If you have decided not to renew your membership, it would be very helpful if you could let me know so that our records may be updated accordingly.

If no membership card is enclosed that means I have not received your subscription for this year and, therefore, **you are no longer an Association member.**

If you pay by Standing Order but do not have a membership card please contact me asap as I am unable to identify the source of several payments shown on the Bank Statement.

Your current (2026-2027) Golden Cap membership number must be quoted when applying for any of the Association's activities.

If you added a donation to your subscription, please accept our thanks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any queries regarding subscription payment or your membership, please contact me.

Diana Coleridge - Membership Secretary
membership@goldencapnt.uk
01308 424431

Welcome to the following new members since January:

Paul Kelly & Danielle Wootton - Weymouth

Brian Cheater - Bridport

David & Ethna Jenkins - Burton Bradstock

Thelma Pulman - 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 _____

Golden Cap Membership No. _____

I enclose £ _____ (subscription)

Please make your cheque payable to 'Golden Cap Association' and send by post to:
Mrs D Coleridge, 115 Victoria Grove, Bridport DT6 3AE

If you wish to pay by Bank Transfer:

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**

I consent to the above data being used for communication purposes only by the Golden Cap Association. To allow us to communicate with you the box **MUST** be ticked and **SIGNED** (below).

Subscriptions were due on 1st April - £6.00 for one person and £9.00 for two at the same address.

Please enclose/send a Stamped Addressed Envelope to:
Mrs D Coleridge, 115 Victoria Grove, Bridport DT6 3AE
for your Membership Card.

Buffet Lunch

Salway Ash Village Hall

Bridport DT6 5QS

(Parking available for up to 25 vehicles)

Wednesday 20th May 2026 12:30pm for 1:00pm

£25.00 per person (excluding gratuities)

Menu: Selection of Quiche, Salads and butter potatoes

To pay by Bank Transfer (preferred as there are no bank charges)

Account Name: Golden Cap Association

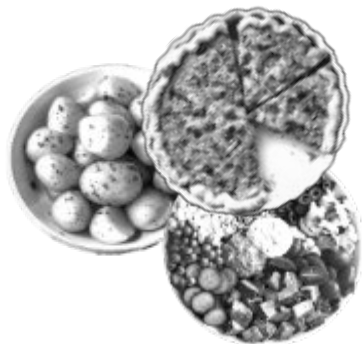
Account No: 21428284 HSBC Sort Code: 40 - 13 - 28

*Quote Reference: **YOURSURNAMEINITIALLUNCH**

And email your details to - social@goldencapnt.uk by 11 May 2026

Or return this form with a cheque (if not paying by Bank Transfer) to:

Mrs Alison Ridgeway,
3 Norman Close,
Bridport DT6 4ET



Alison will contact you by email or phone a week before the 20th May as a gentle reminder of your booking.

Alison Ridgeway
07765 425419
paulandalison4@gmail.com

BUFFET LUNCH

Wednesday 20th May 2026

PLEASE RESERVE ME _____ PLACES(S)

FOR (NAMES OF EVERYONE FOR WHOM YOU ARE PAYING)

IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A TABLE WITH:

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POST CODE _____

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

EMAIL _____

PLEASE Tick your method of payment

I enclose a cheque to Golden Cap Assoc £ _____ (£25.00pp)

or Online Banking Payment (£25.00 pp):



Report on the 2026 AGM



Our AGM on 30 March was well attended with 25 members recording their apologies. Our Chairman welcomed members. The accounts for the year to 31 December were accepted with the Treasurer saying that 2025 accounts were very similar to 2024 with a surplus of £968.

The Resolution to welcome non-National Trust members was passed with only three members voting against. The Constitution will be altered accordingly.

Three long-standing members of the committee were retiring - Chris Senior who had been Editor of the magazine (71 editions) and website for 25 years, Sarah Nicks who, over 15 years, had found 75 different speakers for our afternoon talks and Veronica Smith who, again over 15 years, had run 80/90 raffles and with her husband David organised 23 outings plus one on her own. As Mike Nicks pointed out, this was volunteering at the highest level. They were presented with bouquets of flowers and Hannah Jefferson, Manager of National Trust West Dorset and Cranborne Chase, presented them with long service volunteering awards. In acknowledgement of her contribution Chris Senior was given a garden voucher and she and her husband were made Life Members of Golden Cap Association.

We then moved on to elect the Chairman, Chris Munden; Vice Chairman, Peter Watson; Treasurer, Valerie Gieth and Secretary, Mary Rogers, en bloc and then the remaining members of the committee - Janet Carey, Diane Coleridge, Jan Gale and Alison Ridgeway. Appointment of The Independent Financial Examiner, Linda Le Breton, was also agreed.

There being no other business the meeting closed and members enjoyed tea and a chat before listening to our speaker Hannah Jefferson, General Manager, West Dorset & Cranborne Chase National Trust.

Hannah updated us on the direction the National Trust was taking over the period to 2050 and in



Hannah Jefferson

particular the next ten years. It is all about working closely with other environmental groups such as Natural England and the Wildlife Trusts to join up areas so that wildlife can move freely during a period of climate change. She showed us an example from Exmoor where new and thicker hedges, and more trees and ponds would change the landscape for wildlife whilst still providing land for farming. Nearer to home she gave us an aerial view of how the woodlands of Langdon and Filcombe would be joined to make a corridor for wildlife.

She then moved on to update us on the Cerne Abbas Giant project. She thanked members who had contributed towards the acquisition of the 340 acres of chalk down-land around The Giant. The site includes a 147 acre SSSI site and is home to 36 species of butterfly including the endangered Duke of Burgundy butterfly. Restoration of the landscape, which includes some very poor grassland, will ensure that nature can survive into the future. The Appeal remains open and any further contributions will go towards habitat restoration, tree planting and improved access ensuring that the Cerne Abbas Giant remains within a living, working landscape rather than a frozen monument.



Veronica Smith

**Mary Rogers
Secretary**



Sarah Nicks & Chris Munden



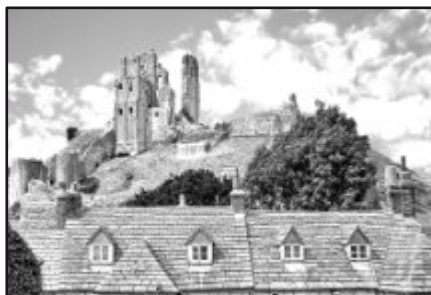
Chris & Kevin Senior with Hannah
Jefferson

Visit to Swanage Railway and The Etches Collection, Museum of Jurassic Marine Life

Monday 8 June 2026

£48.00 per person

We will travel by coach to the train station at Swanage to board the train for a short trip to Corfe Castle where we will re-join our coach for a drive to Kimmeridge.



Corfe Castle

There will be the opportunity to lunch in the local Clavell's Restaurant. (They have suggested that you might like to pre-order your meal to help them. Visit www.clavellsrestaurant.co.uk to see the menu). Or you may prefer to bring a packed lunch.

Kimmeridge is a small village but a short walk towards the sea will take you to Dorset Wildlife Trust's Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre with interactive displays, aquaria and shop.

After lunch we will visit the **Etches Collection, Museum of Jurassic Marine Life**, where, amongst many other fossils, the world famous Pliosaur skull is on display (as featured on the 'Attenborough and the Giant Sea Monster' documentary which is still available to watch on BBC iPlayer).

We will start with a talk and a question and answer session with Steve Etches himself (you may remember Steve gave a talk to GCA some years ago) and then we will be able to visit the museum and hopefully also see Big Sara, the newest and largest addition to The Etches Collection's fossil family. Big Sara is an Allosaurus skeleton, cousin of the T-Rex, and top of the dinosaur food chain during the Kimmeridgian period.

Returning from Kimmeridge at approximately 4.00 pm



Museum of Jurassic Marine Life

Mary Rogers &
Janet Carey
01297 489782

Visit to Swanage Railway & The Etches Collection in Kimmeridge - 8 June

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Please reserve me _____ seat(s)

Your Name _____

Name of person accompanying you _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Tel No: (mobile if possible) _____

Golden Cap M'ship No(s) _____

Email: _____

In the event of an accident, sudden illness or other emergency contact:

Name & Tel No: _____

Please tick your boarding stop (times are approximate, please be there early)

Beaminster Square	9.05	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bridport Co-Op	9.25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bridport Bus Station	9.35	<input type="checkbox"/>

I enclose a cheque to Golden Cap Association £_____ (£48.00 pp)

Or make an Online Banking Payment (£48.00 pp)

Account name: GOLDEN CAP ASSOCIATION

Account no: 21428284 HSBC SORT CODE: 40 - 13 - 28

Quote reference: S U R N A M E / I N I T I A L / S W A N A G E

Whichever method of payment please return this form with a stamped addressed envelope asap but no later than Monday 18 May to:

Janet Carey, 2 Pettycrate Lane, Chideock, Bridport DT6 6LB

News from West Dorset & Cranborne Chase NT

Remembering Thomas Hardy

The NT are keen to be involved in Dorchester's plans to mark the 100th anniversary of Thomas Hardy's passing. Dorchester Town Council is developing a co-ordinated programme with partners including the NT, the Thomas Hardy Society, Dorset Council and Dorset Museum.

This collaborative approach will focus on activities, visitor experience, infrastructure, shared marketing and interpretation, with the aim of creating a lasting legacy beyond 2028 in how Hardy is celebrated in Dorchester.

While plans are still evolving, a key ambition is to present Hardy's bedroom as it may have appeared 100 years ago. We are also considering decorative work in areas such as the entrance, hallway, stairs, landing and dressing room.

Initial work will begin in the winter of 2026/27, with further phases in winter 2027/28. A generous donation has already been received and the NT are exploring additional funding to support delivery.

Virtual Reality Headsets

We were delighted to be asked by the team at the Discovery Centre in West Bay if they could borrow our Virtual Reality Headsets for an exhibition they are running. We took time to train their volunteers on how to use them and it's great to see these headsets, which show incredible footage of the Jurassic Coast being used by a mix of age groups and people from all over the country.

Explore the Jurassic Coast in a whole new way!

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Jurassic Coast being designated a World Heritage Site — a milestone celebrated at the West Bay Discovery Centre through the new Changing Landscapes exhibition.

The exhibition explores how this remarkable coastline has changed over geological time — and how it continues to evolve, with these changes now accelerating due to the impacts of climate change.



Bathroom Mirror at Max Gate

We are delighted to have finally been able to hang the mirror back in the bathroom at Max Gate. You may remember that when the bathroom was redecorated along with the first study the outline of the mirror under the lining paper in the bathroom was discovered (see first photo).

This outline and work on the Conservation Management Plan made us realise that the mirror hanging in the shower room matched the outline exactly and had been moved by a previous tenant.

The mirror was in a very fragile state with some damage around the screw holes, so we had to give careful consideration on how to hang it safely. It has now been mounted on a back-board and a small wooden ledge gives it additional protection.

It is wonderful to have it back in position and is another example of using the Conservation Management plan (CMP) to put Max Gate back to how it was originally.



Visit to Swanage Railway

Times are approximate, please be there early

Beaminster Square	9.05
Bridport Co-Op	9.25
Bridport Bus Station	9.35

Janet Carey 01297 489782

Insurance carried by this Association through the National Trust does not provide Personal Accident cover for members aged 90 years and older. The Association is not allowed by Government Statute to offer any advice about insurance but, of course, members in this category may wish to make their own arrangements.

West Dorset NT Walks

The Lyme Regis Circular Loops

– Free Event, Booking Essential

On the 2nd Thursday in the months of April to September a free guided walk around Lyme Regis.

Meet at 10.15am and depart promptly at 10.30am from outside the National Trust shop in Lyme Regis. The walks are designed to have a focus on exercise, wellness, being outdoors and social connection.

The walks will alternate each month between a short 1 hour loop in April, June and August and a longer 2½ hour walk in May, July and September, check the details to make sure you are on the correct walk.

Book a place on the walk by calling the shop directly on: 01297 445828 at least 24 hours beforehand or westdorset@nationaltrust.org.uk

Bus it Back - Lyme Regis to Charmouth Heritage Centre

– Free Event, Booking Essential

Wed 6 May; 3 June; 1 July, 5 August, 2 September 10:15-12:30

Meet our National Trust Walk Leader outside the National Trust, Lyme Regis shop and walk to Charmouth, before getting the bus back. Buses run regularly allowing you time to enjoy Charmouth or have a well-earned refreshment in one of the cafes.

A 5km walk taking around 2 hours, starting at 10.15am from the Lyme Regis shop on Marine Parade in Lyme Regis (ready for a prompt 10.30 departure). On this walk you will be led by our trained walk leader who is looking forward to guiding you to Charmouth Heritage Centre. The walk is designed to have a focus on exercise, wellness, being outdoors and social connection

Once at Charmouth you will have the option to self-guide back to Lyme Regis or we recommend getting the bus which leaves regularly from the main street in Charmouth. Remember to bring £3 for your bus ticket (adult) or £1.50 for a child, or bring your bus pass if you have one.

The first half of the walk is uphill as we navigate our way out of Lyme Regis, some may find this difficult/tiring.

Book a place on the walk by calling the shop directly on: 01297 445828 at least 24 hours beforehand or westdorset@nationaltrust.org.uk

In The Footsteps of Jane Austen

– Free event (admission applies), Booking Essential

Fri 6 & Fri 13 August 10:00 – 12:00 12:30 – 14:30 15:00 – 17:00

Lyme Regis was one of Jane Austen's favourite holiday locations. To celebrate her love of Lyme Regis the National Trust are offering a series of short walks along the Cobb with readings from Persuasion.

The walk will begin at the National Trust shop (Marine Parade, Lyme Regis DT7 3JQ). The walk is short and could take just 40 minutes but we estimate it being around 75 minutes with stops and readings. The walk along the Cobb will not be possible in rough seas but a walk to the cottage and Pyne House, where she stayed would be possible. The Cobb offers a lower walk so you don't have to walk up high on the wall. For those who choose the higher section, care will be needed (and you do so at your own risk) where the surface is uneven and when descending steps. Children will need to be accompanied and supervised at all times.

We will pass the site of Captain Harville's cottage, and follow the Cobb to Granny's Teeth, the steps made famous by Captain Wentworth's unfortunate failure to catch Louisa Musgrove (See 'Persuasion' for further details).

On our return we will see the house where Jane Austen stayed with her brother Henry, his wife and her sister Cassandra in 1803 and 1804.

Distance of walk: 2.3 km. Meet at the National Trust gift shop on Marine Parade. Finish at Pyne House on Broad Street.

Booking details - call the Lyme Regis gift shop on 01297 445828 or by visiting the shop or westdorset@nationaltrust.org.uk



Dates for your diary

September	<p>Visit to Brownsea Island</p> <p>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.</p>
Wed 7th October	Autumn Meal - Venue: Somewhere lovely
Wed 18th November	Quiz & Fish 'n' Chip Lunch Venue: WI Hall, North St, Bridport

Car Parking at Hive Beach





Following a successful planning application, ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) will be coming to Hive Beach in the next few months. This is part of the National Trust's updated car park system, helping to make parking fairer, encourage payment or member validation, and reduce misuse. Income from parking plays a vital role in supporting conservation work at our places.

The system will record vehicle registrations on entry and exit to check compliance. If you don't need to pay or validate a membership, then this will be managed by the outdoor welcome team through a permit system.

We'll also be moving to a new car park provider, Group Nexus, who will install new machines with contactless payments, ticket-less parking, and more reliable connections.

Illustrated Talks 2026/27



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

Mon 1st June*	 	<p>Keeping You Safe At No Extra Cost To The Taxpayer by Judy Clarke, NCI Lyme Bay (National Coastwatch, Burton Bradstock)</p> <p>Judy joined the National Coastwatch Institution charity in 2010, she was the Secretary 2014-2019 and has been Station Manager since 2019. She will speak about the NCI, NCI Lyme Bay and the satellite station NCI Charmouth.</p> <p>*Not the last Monday of the month due to the Bank Holiday.</p>
Mon 28th Sept		<p>The Natural Beauty of Dorset by Colin Varndell – Dorset based Natural History Photographer.</p> <p>We welcome back Colin, best known for his evocative images of animals, birds, insects, wild flowers and landscapes. He is sure to be a popular speaker so come early to ensure a seat.</p>
Mon 26th Oct		<p>Quirky Bridport by Chris Stevens, Outreach speaker for Bridport Museum</p> <p>Chris has been a speaker for Bridport Museum since 2022. 'Quirky Bridport' is a fascinating book, developed by a volunteer for the Museum, a range of unique, strange, funny and sometimes scary stories about Bridport and its people. Chris will be sharing some of these stories.</p>

Illustrated Talks 2026/27 Contd...

<p>Mon 30th Nov 2026</p>		<p>Rewilding Wild Woodbury by Daisy Meadowcroft.</p> <p>Wild Woodbury is Dorset Wildlife Trust's pioneer community rewilding project located in the heart of Bere Regis. Acquired in 2021, the site has seen biodiversity and bio-abundance flourish across the site with species such as the tree pipit, dingy mocha moth and silver-studded blue butterfly now calling it home. Thanks to natural processes led management through extensive grazing Wild Woodbury is now a haven for people and wildlife.</p>
<p>Mon 25th Jan 2027</p>	<p>Speaker to be arranged from Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance</p>	
<p>Mon 22nd Feb 2027</p>		<p>Parish Life in the Dorset Victorian Workhouse by Luke Moulard, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Sherborne Museum.</p> <p>The Victorian workhouse still evokes powerful images of fear and hardship but was it really so dire? This talk draws on stories from a number of Dorset's workhouses to illustrate what daily life was like for inmates. Luke is a freelance genealogist, researcher and speaker based in North Dorset.</p>

Illustrated Talks 2027 Contd...

<p>Mon 22nd March*</p>		<p>AGM - Speaker to be arranged *Not the last Monday of the month due to the Bank Holiday.</p>
<p>Mon 26th April</p>		<p>Pirates - The Origins & Truth by Richard Hutley</p> <p>The swashbuckling heroes and villains of Hollywood. But what is the truth about Piracy over the past 1000 years, the origins of such as we understand it and its relevance to today.</p> <p>Richard joined Dorset Police in 1984, retiring in 2015 as a Police Inspector, after a varied and colourful career.</p>
<p>Mon 7th June*</p>		<p>Merton's Dream Garden: The Story of the Russell-Cotes Garden by Phil Broomfield</p> <p>Phil has been Lead Garden Volunteer at the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum in Bournemouth since 2020. His talk will cover the original design and layout of this cliff-top garden and how it has evolved, highlighting key features, with a spotlight on plants and showcasing how it looks through the seasons.</p> <p>*Not the last Monday of the month due to the Bank Holiday.</p>

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.

Officers & Committee Members

To avoid spam all contact details have been removed.

Send your query to the following address and it will be passed on to the appropriate committee member.

secretary @ goldencapnt . uk



www.goldencapnt.org.uk

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