



Bridport Arts Circle

Led by our experienced new Director, Claire Tudge, and with the support of a new Board of Trustees, Bridport Arts Centre (BAC) is being revigorated and reimagined to be once again at the vibrant heart of the creative community in Bridport and West Dorset. Central to this task is ensuring its financial sustainability following some years of operational uncertainty and financial losses. We hope that you will share our passion for BAC and desire to help secure its long-term future by joining our new Bridport Arts Circle with an annual subscription of £1,000 pa for a five year period.

BAC is a vibrant multi arts venue, presenting a year-round programme of visual arts, theatre, dance, comedy, music, spoken word and films. It is the home of the Bridport Prize, an internationally renowned writing competition attracting entries from 100+ countries annually, which discovers and celebrates talent in poetry, short story, flash fiction and memoir writing. It is also the home of the From Page to Screen film festival, the UK's only festival celebrating the adaptation of books to films, and its youth theatre, BACStage, is recognised for its ambition in developing confident, creative expression with many of its members going on to further training and careers in the performing arts.

BAC has a vision of 'All the Arts for Everyone' and works closely with other Bridport arts organisations including the Lyric Theatre, Bridport Literary Festival, Bridport Film Society and Bridport Youth Dance to achieve this. With the new direction clearly defined, our good standing is being recognised. In Spring 2024, Bridport was selected by Dorset Council as the pilot "Town of Culture" for the county. BAC played a leading role in making that project a resounding success. This Autumn, our beautiful café space reopened and we welcomed the highly-regarded F.east team to tempt more people into BAC with delicious coffee, cakes and lunches. Recently, double Academy-award winning screenwriter, Sir Christopher Hampton, has agreed to become Patron to From Page to Screen film festival.

"Bridport Arts Centre draws communities together by showcasing artistic excellence of all kinds. Through its annual film festival (From Page to Screen) and writing competition (the Bridport Prize) the BAC nurtures creativity and stimulates interest in the arts throughout the South West and far beyond. In difficult times we need these inspired local venues more than ever."

Sir Christopher Hampton



However, the financial climate is challenging. Whilst BAC is making great progress, with modest reserves we need to explore all funding opportunities. Our new Programme has been welcomed warmly and ticket sales are growing steadily. We are delighted that the Arts Council, Dorset Council and Bridport Town Council have renewed their funding – far from certain in the current climate. Plus we are working hard to increase support from charitable foundations, regular giving - the BAC Supporters scheme, legacies and sponsorship.

Most importantly, the Bridport Arts Circle is now launching for a select group of supporters who share our passion for the arts and desire to secure BAC's long-term future. Bridport Arts Circle members would not only enjoy invitations to unique Circle events, but also be invited to an annual Circle lunch with a distinguished arts professional. This would also be an opportunity for you to share your views on BAC's strategic plans.

We would be delighted if you would join the Circle and make an annual subscription of £1000 for five years. As the Trustee spearheading this campaign - and of course joining the Circle myself - I would be delighted to have a further discussion with you together with BAC Director, Claire Tudge, whose inspired leadership is widely acknowledged. Either in person or remotely, whichever you prefer.

At the 2024 From Page to Screen festival, both curator, Rebecca Lenkiewicz and guest, Christopher Eccleston spoke passionately about the importance of local arts organisations. Sadly, so many places don't have somewhere like Bridport Arts Centre. We invite you to join with us to make truly sustainable what we have so carefully created here in Bridport, with the Bridport Arts Circle providing a valued bedrock for our continuing success.

Sir Richard Greenhalgh
Bridport Arts Centre, Trustee for the Bridport Arts Circle