

Press Release

23 - 25 August 2014

BRIDPORT & WEST DORSET OPEN STUDIOS 2014

Explore Bridport's Vibrant Art Scene over the August Bank Holiday Weekend

This August Bank Holiday weekend 23 - 25 August, Bridport and West Dorset Open Studios are celebrating their 16th Annual Open Event with 60+ artists taking place in 40+ venues.

A Free 44-page Guide of the event will be available from early August in all South West based TIC's, Galleries and Arts Centres and will include 7 beautifully designed Art Trail maps of the area.

Bridport Open Studios gives both art lovers and discerning collectors an opportunity to discover a new generation of artists - both established names and emerging talents - who are making Bridport one of the most respected artistic centres in the West Country.

The Bridport & West Dorset Open Studios event was started by artist Caroline Ireland in 1999 and has continued every year since. The current Director is artist Kit Glaisyer.

The largest venue taking part is St Michael's Studios which also started in 1999 in an old warehouse on a former rope-making estate in Bridport. Providing work spaces for 25 artists, the studios have become a highly visible community of painters, designers and illustrators. Its popularity has led a renaissance on the industrial estate with the emergence of the Art & Vintage Quarter, with a resurgence of crafts, traditional skills, antiques shops and creative trades.

Other great venue taking part include Sladers Yard Gallery in West Bay which is showing painter Dan Llywelyn Hall, also sculptor Lisa Lindqvist is showing at Eype Church Centre for the Arts, while Greta Berlin, her father Sven Berlin & daughter Zennor Box will be at the Allsop Gallery in the Bridport Arts Centre.

As part of the Open Studios event, the popular '6 by 9' group exhibition will once again be taking place at the Chapel in the Garden venue. The exhibition consists of small works by participating artists and is being curated by the new event Coordinator Megan Dunford.

Background to Bridport's Art Scene:

Since the 1960's a new generation of artists have chosen to move out of the city and set up studios in the towns and countryside across West Dorset. At the centre stands Bridport, a quiet market town with a uniquely enterprising and resourceful community. With a steady influx of artists and musicians the towns artistic culture began to blossom and supportive venues began to spring up. The Bridport Arts Centre opened in 1973 followed in the 1980's by the West Dorset Art School in Symondsburry - just outside Bridport - and the adjacent Oakhayes Art Residency which ran throughout the 1990's. The next generation of artists soon followed in St Michael's Studios, the Pierrepoint Gallery and Sladers Yard.

For up to date information about the event follow Bridport & West Dorset Open Studios on Twitter @BridportOS or go to Facebook/BridportOS

www.bridportopenstudios.co.uk



Dan Llywelyn Hall



Lisa Lindqvist



Mart Tebbs



David Brooke