

Bridport Lockdown

A community project to create a shared collection of images and stories from the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic for Bridport and the surrounding area.

The idea?

We are all living in a unique time and learning about our “new normal.” This project aims to create a shared archive of this period in local history. Using photos but concentrating on both the good, and the less good, stories, thoughts, or feelings. And details of the lives of the people in, or behind, the photos.

Who can take part?

- Everyone and anyone. It isn't just for photographers or for writers. This project is about ALL of our lives. Everyone, young and old, has a story to tell no matter how large or small.
- We are particularly keen to engage with groups, clubs, schools, charities, businesses or other organisations so that this is a record of our existing communities not just the big new one which has come together now. Please contact us if you would like to speak specifically about how you might get involved if you fit into one of these categories.

“BRIDPORT” lockdown...? What about us in our village or on our farm or up here in Beaminster?

- Yes. You too! This project is for anyone who sees Bridport as being a part of their daily or weekly lives or who works in the area but lives elsewhere.

What sort of photos?

- General themes below but... essentially this project is for you. Your project. Your themes. Your ideas. It is based on photos but is just as much about the **stories** behind them.
- Think of the photos that you might see in an old family album or in a museum. Look at the photos that we have already shared. Think of the things that change. The clothes, the haircuts, the home decor, the streets and businesses and shop fronts. And the people. These are all part of our history and are changing all the time. This is a chance to record tomorrow's history today.

3 main themes:

- the **changes** due to lockdown - the rainbows, queues, PPE, emptiness, etc.
- the **creativity** due to lockdown - the ideas, innovation and adaptations making our lives easier, more bearable or more fun.
- the **normality** that is evolving due to lockdown - the smaller details of our lives at home or at work are all interesting when we add in the stories behind them.

A few other ideas for your own themes (but feel free to add your own):

- “My daily exercise” – how are you keeping active?
- “My work / My study” – how has your work or study changed?
- “Doorstep portraits” – if you are helping friends, relatives or neighbours who are self-isolating then we would love to see photos of them stood in their doorways and thoughts from them about these current times.
- “Workplace portraits” – photos of the people who are still out working keeping our services operating, food on our tables etc.
- “Our dinner table” – you may be on your own or with your family, at a table or in front of the TV. But it is likely that when you sit down to eat you have some time to talk or think about the world. We would love hear those thoughts and stories.
- “The view from my window” – ideally not just the view but with the window frame included too. This is really more about your thoughts than the photo. We've all spent time staring out of the window recently...
- **The photos that you already have.** Many of us take photos all the time now. We would love any photos and stories that you already have – maybe from earlier -in this situation? e.g. the empty supermarket shelves or the crowds at West Bay when “social distancing” was a concept that many were taking some time to learn...or just shots of your life at home, at work or generally out & about.

- Any photos that might be less relevant? – landscape shots or photos of your pets. These can be very relevant but tend to change the least over time. Don't feel that you can't submit these but if you do then give some thought to the words that you send in with them. However this situation is having an impact on the natural world and our wildlife so please do send photos relating to that which have insight or stories behind them.
- Photos can be colour or black and white. Any format. Taken on a camera or on your phone. Please send the original photos rather than screenshots which generally have poor image quality. But...if that is all you have...then please still send.

I can take a photo but I'm not great with words or stories. Can I still get involved?

- Absolutely. Every photo, and each of us, has a story. There are people involved here who love writing. They can speak to you, or whoever is in your photo and write that story for you.

My photography isn't great. Can I still get involved?

- Absolutely. This isn't a photography project. It is a record of our lives. Any photo, no matter how good or bad, with a great story or honest thoughts behind it, is a valuable part of that record.

What happens at the end of all this...?

- The photos and accompanying stories will be added to the Covid-19 archive at the Dorset History Centre. They will be a record of the most important shift that's taking place in our society since the last world war. This collection of photos and stories will become an archive for historians of the future, in the same way that the handwritten diaries of the past, left to us by the likes of Samuel Pepys, recorded the histories that we know now of events like the Great Plague of London.
- We plan (TBC) to put on an exhibition locally of a wide selection of the submitted photos.
- This isn't a competition, however... there will be an opportunity available to a small number of people between the age of 18 and 25, selected on their photos and stories, for work experience or internship positions within the creative industry. Details will be announced once we can!
- Plans (TBC) for a special award for exceptional contributions from anyone under 16.

How do I send in photos?

All photos should be submitted via this link: www.bridportlockdown.org/sendphotos

- ALL photos sent this way will become part of the Covid-19 archive at Dorset History Centre
- A SELECTION of submitted photos will also be added to our Instagram page and website.
- If you would like your photos publicly visible IMMEDIATELY then you can use #bridportlockdown on Instagram www.instagram.com/bridportlockdown (hashtag monitored daily)
- A selection of those hashtag photos will also be added to our Instagram page, to the gallery on the website and to the Covid-19 archive at the Dorset History Centre archive but ONLY once they have also been submitted via the main submission link on the website.
- We would really encourage you to send as many photos as you think might fit in with the project. The more photos the better the historical record.

Can the project promote my business, club, group or organisation?

Although this is not really an opportunity for advertising it is a great opportunity for ensuring that all parts of the community have an opportunity to be included in this slice of life in the most unique time in our local history and for sharing your work. We will happily tag you in any social media posts about your photos if you let us know details when you submit your photos.

Where can I find out more information about the Bridport Lockdown project?

- Plenty more information, details of the organisations who are our partners, and a selection of photos are on our website: www.bridportlockdown.org – or, if you aren't an internet user, please call Eddy on 07976 249699 who can answer any questions about the project.

Many thanks from the Bridport Lockdown team for your support for this project and for playing your part in recording this unique time in our history. Please follow us on Instagram or Facebook or subscribe to our newsletter for updates on the project. Links on website.
