

Visit

BRIDGWATER

2019-20 VISITOR GUIDE

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FREE



BRIDGWATER

Welcome to Bridgwater in Somerset

**"I'M TONY HEYWOOD,
MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER
FOR 2019-2020
AND I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU
TO OUR TOWN"**

Bridgwater is a friendly place with a lot going for it.

The home of the biggest Carnival in Britain, the site of the Battle of Sedgemoor - the last pitched battle in England - and resplendent with a maritime heritage from our ancient docks to the peaceful meanderings of our canal. Then there is our dramatic river, which rises and falls courtesy of a small wave - the Bridgwater Bore - that brings the sea into our town centre, which you can watch from our quayside cafés, bars and restaurants.

Bridgwater is a changing town and with six new hotels, is becoming an exciting destination for tourists. Whether they are enticed via the coastal path, national cycle route, road, rail or plane; or whether they are looking for a jumping off point to visit Somerset with its hills, moors, beaches, historic towns and quaint villages. Bridgwater is also famously a party town. We have our Carnival on the first Saturday in November, our midsummer Quayside Festival, the four day 'St Matthews' Fair at the end of September and a Green eco Fair at summer's end called 'Seed the Day'. Thanks to our Cultural Partnership, we keep this party atmosphere going all year. With the Arts Centre, the Engine Room film & media centre, Blake Museum, Macmillan Theatre and our splendid Victorian Town Hall, it's no wonder that our town has recently been selected by Arts Council of England for funding to front a consortium of grass roots arts and community organisations to inspire people to engage with the arts and culture.

Come along and see for yourself!

Tony



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MERCURE BRIDGWATER HOTEL

A stylish four star luxury hotel in the heart of Bridgwater. With 119 bedrooms offering a range of styles to suit all budgets, a Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill and fitness suite. Located close to the beautiful Quantock Hills, coastal towns of Watchet, Minehead and Bream; and the Somerset Levels. Mercure Bridgwater is the perfect location for exploring Somerset.

Restaurant, lounge and bar open to non-residents.



56 - 66 Eastover, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 5AR

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Web: www.accorhotels.com/9861

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A Journey Through History



BRIDGWATER DOCKS



KING SQUARE



THE RIVER PARRETT

The history and heritage of Bridgwater is all around us to this day. Mention of it as a settlement dates back as far as 800, when its position on a major river made it important for trade. In 1200 King John granted charters for building a castle, creating a borough and holding a market.

The castle was destroyed in 1645 in a violent siege of the town by Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War but sections still remain built into the modern townscape, most notably the Watergate on the river frontage with its three Norman arches.

Bridgwater is a town of historic non-conformity in religion, which partly explains its rebel history. The spectacular spire of St Mary's Parish church dominates, but isn't the only house of worship, and a short wander around the town takes you back in time to the 19th century St John's church, the 17th Century Unitarian Chapel and the Baptist church of 1600.

In the 18th century, the British Empire generated wealth for the privileged classes and fashionable cities like Bath sprung up as showcases. Here in Bridgwater we have the Georgian Castle Street, built in the grounds of the old castle and used as film sets over the years. Today it is home to Bridgwater Arts Centre. Also, in this special heritage area you can find King Square, on the site of the old castle keep and surrounded by 'upstairs downstairs' homes of master and servant so evocative of the period.

Along the riverside, you can find architectural gems such as the Lions House, built in 1730 by Benjamin Holloway, the man employed by the Duke of Chandos to build Castle Street.



BRIDGWATER WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF ROBERT BLAKE, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST FAMOUS SEA CAPTAINS

Bridgwater was the birthplace of one of the country's most famous Sea Captains. Robert Blake, Cromwell's 'General at Sea' and victor over the French, Dutch and Spanish Navies of the mid-17th century, was born in what is today the Admiral Blake Museum. This is the ideal starting point for a history tour of Bridgwater.

In the 19th century, Bridgwater grew rapidly with its major industries of brick and tile making, its docks and its railway connections. Evidence of that growth can be seen in the many Victorian town streetscapes with terraces that housed the growing workforce.

Brick pits surround the town, now transformed into attractive ponds and lakes such as Brownes Pond and Dunwear Pits, while the last surviving Brick Kiln is now the Brick and Tile Museum on Wylds Road. Bridgwater Docks, although some ten miles from the sea and on a tidal river, still retain their industrial character and are among Somerset's hidden gems.

Twentieth century Bridgwater saw the townspeople engaged internationally, with many of them dying in the two world wars. Their names are engraved on the town's war memorial in King Square, a unique masterpiece designed by John Angel.



Admiral Blake Museum

Tucked away in a quiet back street of Bridgwater and just a short walk away from the town centre, you can find the town's local history museum.

When approaching the museum one can be forgiven for thinking that this is a small museum with not much to see, but step inside and it opens out with some nine rooms to be explored.

The museum was first opened to the public in 1926 and is the reputed birthplace of Robert Blake (1598 – 1657), the town's most famous resident. The son of a prosperous Bridgwater merchant, Robert Blake became Member of Parliament for the town in 1640. Joining the parliamentary party against King Charles I during the Civil War, he became Cromwell's General-at-Sea. In the room dedicated to Blake, you can follow this fascinating story of the founder of the modern navy.



The museum is not all about Blake though. From Stone Age to Modern Age, there is truly something here for everyone.

The museum boasts two lovely garden areas where you can relax and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee served from the Victorian Kitchen. You can also bring your own picnic if you so wish!

So, how much does it cost to get in? Amazingly entry to the museum is free, but a donation is most welcome.



Opening Times

The museum opens Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00am – 4.00pm with last entry at 3.00pm, from early April until the end of October.

From November it opens on specific Saturdays only from 11.00am - 3.00pm and with last entry at 2.00pm. It is advisable to consult the museum website at www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk for the latest information.

St Mary's Church

WALK INTO SAINT MARY'S, IN THE MIDDLE OF BRIDGWATER, AND YOU FEEL AS IF YOU HAVE WALKED INTO A SMALL CATHEDRAL

Extensive improvements bathe the church in a new world of light, hope and possibilities.

The church council and volunteers have worked tirelessly to embrace the community and modern worship. The alterations allow for a multitude of events and activities, spiritual and non-spiritual.

There is so much to discover when you look closely at this beautiful church. Come and visit us, see our events on Facebook or our webpage and make some special memories. For opening times see www.stmarysbridgwater.org

Above the altar is the famous painting 'Descent from the Cross' attributed to Murillo and given to the Church by MP Ann Poulet in 1785. A work of art so fine that it is said that Sir Joshua Reynolds broke his long coach journeys between London and Plymouth just to sit and look at it.



DESCENT FROM THE CROSS



ST. MARY'S CHURCH IS HOME TO THE FAMOUS 17TH CENTURY PAINTING "DESCENT FROM THE CROSS"

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I: whitefeathercoffee
T: @White_FeatherCC

The Purple Spoon

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Have you discovered the quirky contemporary hidden

gem that is **The Purplespoon Café?**

Tucked away inside the George Williams Centre (RMCA) with an outside terrace and beautiful views of the scenic Bridgwater and Taunton canal

Choose from a delicious choice of breakfasts, lunches and homemade cakes

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Sunday 10am-3pm (between March and October)

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Bridgwater's International Links

Bridgwater has a proud tradition of internationalism stretching back for centuries and as a result we have gathered seven twin towns over the years plus a welcome new community of workers from our partner countries across Europe and the wider world.

Our twin towns are La Ciotat in France, Homberg in Germany, Uherske Hradiste in the Czech Republic, Marsa in Malta, Priverno in Italy, Camacha on the beautiful Portuguese island of Madeira and Seattle on the Pacific seaboard of the USA.

Each year the Town Council hosts a Twinning Week in June, a Bridgwater Together event, celebrating cultural diversity in October and supports the many events staged regularly by our international community.

This year a new feature of our town centre is a twinning fingerboard signposting our partner towns around the world.



Bridgwater ARTS CENTRE

LIVE MUSIC . CLUBS . YOGA
GALLERY . CHOIR . BAR
CRAFT FAIR . FILM
EXHIBITIONS AND MORE!!

OPENING TIMES
TUES - FRI 10AM - 3PM

BRIDGWATER ARTS CENTRE
CASTLE STREET
BRIDGWATER

01278 422700

BRIDGWATERARTSCENTRE.CO.UK

www.bridgwaterinternational.co.uk/bridgwater-town-twinning-forum

Walking Tours

BRIDGWATER HAS A WEALTH OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE, AND WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO EXPLORE ON FOOT



TOWN BRIDGE



WEST QUAY



BRIDGWATER ARTS CENTRE

Getting to Bridgwater is straight forward. There are two motorway junctions (23 and 24), a newly refurbished railway station that is just a ten minute walk to the town bridge, a bus and coach station on the banks of the river, and a network of cycle paths connected to the national cycle network. There's plenty to see and do once you get here.

From the town bridge, newly lit up in the evenings, you can witness the tide coming in twice a day to fill Somerset's principal waterway to the top of its banks being subject to the world's second highest tide range (after Canada). When the tides are highest, the incoming wave forms the Bridgwater Bore which can be quite a spectacle.

Walking along the West Quay with its café terraces, bars, pubs and fish and chip shops you reach the remnants of the famous Bridgwater Castle, destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in 1645 but with some intriguing remnants such as the Watergate now part of the entrance to a fine café.

Turning up Castle Street, one of the most attractive Georgian streets outside Bath, you reach the Bridgwater Arts Centre – the country's first Art Centre funded by the Arts Council. It opened in 1946 and hosted the CIAM architects conference of 1947 which brought the likes of Le Corbusier and Gropius to Bridgwater. It continues to be the home of the town's creative arts from rock music to alternative theatre and has a bar/café with its own range of events.



BRIDGWATER DOCKS

Continue along the river to the town's historic docks - opened in 1840 with its bascule bridge, historic lock gates, vintage cranes and winding equipment now filled with modern houseboats and longboats. You pass the Black Telescopic Bridge built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel in 1871 to carry a railway line which ran along the Clink and linked it to the Railway Back across to the East of the River you reach the Rope Walk leading along the River Parrett to the Town Centre, commemorating Bridgwater's shipbuilding heritage. East and West Quay, on opposite banks, were once lined with ships loading and unloading cargo. The last ship built in Bridgwater, the 'Irene', was launched in May 1907, and is still sailing the seas. Further downstream along the East Quay you'll find the Somerset Brick and Tile Museum. The kiln and drying shed were once part of the Barham Brothers brick yard, evidence of Bridgwater's industrial past. Opening times of the museum are found here: www.swheritage.org.uk/our-sites/brick-and-tile-museum



BRICK AND TILE MUSEUM

From the Docks you can take the Somerset Space Walk along the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal, which uses the 14 mile towpath to display a model of the sun and its planets in their proportionally correct sizes and distances apart. The route takes you on a serene meander skirting the Somerset Levels and Moors where you can walk or cycle. If that's too much, drop in by car to the Maunsel Lock, enjoy a cream tea at the café or take to the water by canoes, kayaks, self-drive motor-boats or a chartered narrowboat courtesy of Somerset Boat Centre. When you're exploring the town's waterways don't forget that along the canal path is the new Eco Park. This area known as 'The Meads' is a publicly owned space resplendent with wildlife, flora and fauna and brings a little of the Somerset levels into the heart of the town.



BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON CANAL



MAUNSEL LOCK

There is always the option to take a walk around Bridgwater in the company of experienced local guides. Our guides bring the town's history to life with stories and anecdotes you won't easily find in books.



BRIDGWATER TOWN HALL

Find out about Lady Christabella Wyndham, who took a pot shot at Oliver Cromwell during the Siege of Bridgwater in 1645 and could have changed the history of England. She missed!

Discover Bridgwater's proud claim to be the first town to petition against the African Transatlantic Slave Trade in 1785 and visit the exhibition of contemporary drawings by the petition's architect and town councillor John Chubb on display at Bridgwater Museum. Visit the 19th century town hall and learn about the time when brick workers went on strike in 1896 and besieged the town council inside its walls. The mayor had to be rescued by troops of the Gloucestershire regiment with a bayonet charge along the High street.



BRIDGWATER HIGH STREET

Learn about how Bridgwater became the only town in the country to reject the 1938 Munich agreement with the election of Independent MP and popular journalist Vernon Bartlett, and much more!

FOR INFORMATION ON ALL THE TOWN TRAILS AND GUIDES CONTACT US AT -

Bridgwater Town Council,
Town Hall,
High Street,
Bridgwater,
TA63AS

01278 427692

townclerk@bridgwater-tc.gov.uk

Just a Short Hop to the Coast

A walk along the River Parrett from Bridgwater will take you to its mouth on the Bristol Channel, or as it was known once, the Severn Sea. Thanks to the opening up of the Somerset stretch of the England Coast Path, it is now possible to walk the 58 miles from Minehead to Brean Down on a way-marked route, which brings you almost to Bridgwater Docks before heading back towards the sea. Of course, you can drive or cycle to the coast, which is dotted with seaside resorts, made

popular in Victorian times, as well as numerous attractions such as piers, harbours, lighthouses and even a shipwreck. Somerset has its own Jurassic Coast, along by Kilve, so you can search for fossils and study the geology. The wildlife is amazing too with flocks of over-wintering birds and wonderful spring flowers. Open all year round with free entry is the Wildfowl and Wetland Reserve, 'Steart Marshes', offering a close-up look at one of the UK's newest wetlands. For a number of circular walks based around the coast go to: www.visitsomerset.co.uk



National Cycle Routes

More and more people are choosing to cycle around England and nowadays the national cycle routes take you directly into the centre of Bridgwater.

The National Cycle Network is a series of safe, traffic-free paths and quiet on-road cycling and walking routes. In Somerset this often follows the route of the old railway lines that were taken up in the 1960s and 70s.

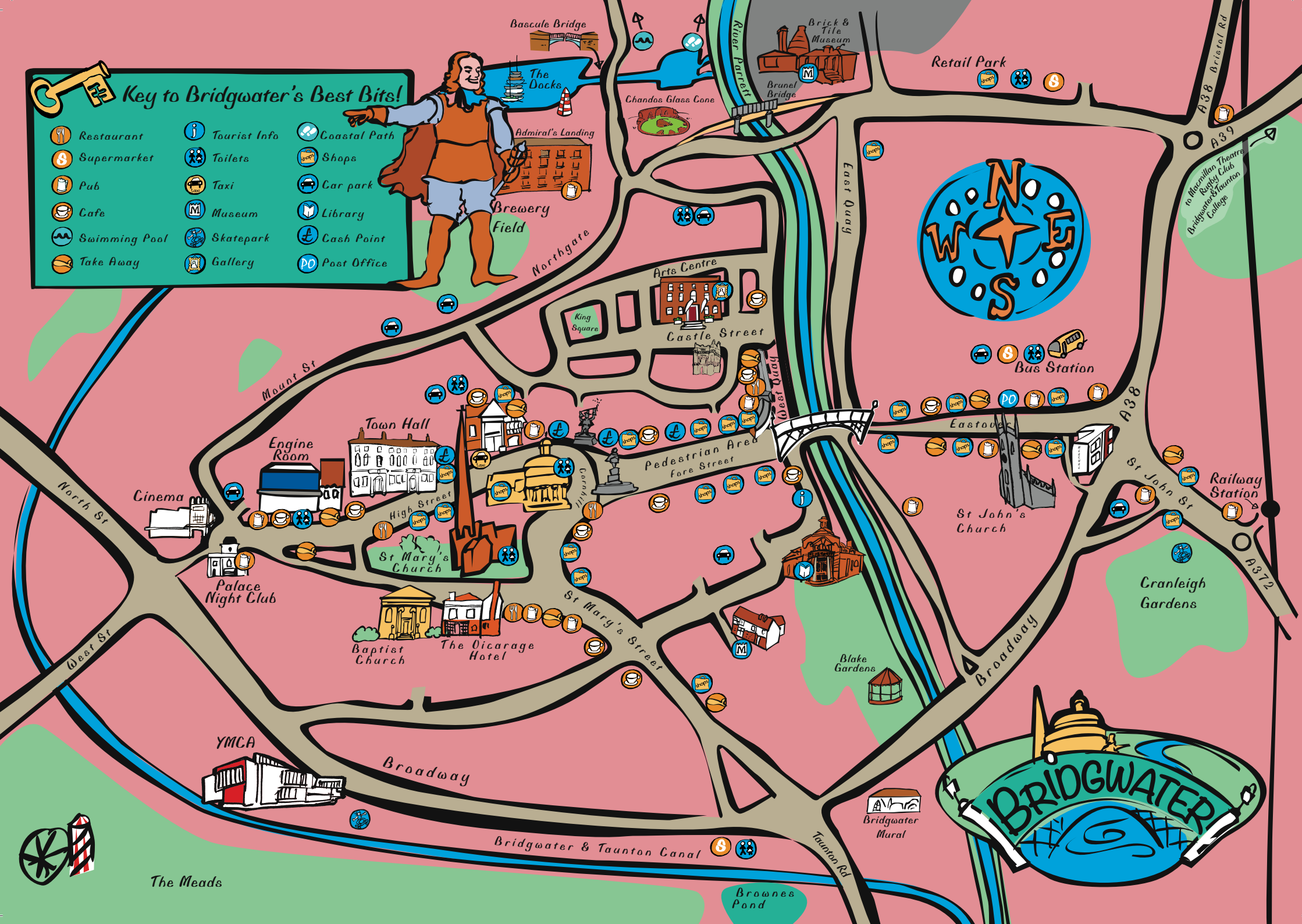
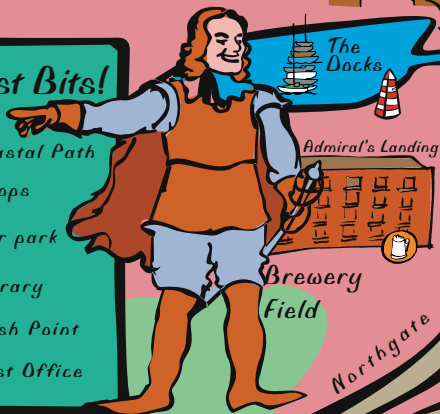
To get to Bridgwater you cycle along canal towpaths, alongside beaches, up hills and across moors and wetlands and riverbanks, through car free tunnels and through charming villages.

The canal towpath run (NCN3) also has the added incentive of a scale model of the solar system along its 14-mile route.



Key to Bridgwater's Best Bits!

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Restaurant | Tourist Info | Coastal Path |
| Supermarket | Toilets | Shops |
| Pub | Taxi | Car park |
| Cafe | Museum | Library |
| Swimming Pool | Skatepark | Cash Point |
| Take Away | Gallery | Post Office |





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BRIDGWATER

A Working Town with a Vibrant Culture

Probably because of its rich history of carnival and the inherently rebellious nature of the people, Bridgwater has a unique take on culture and the arts. Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival has grown year on year into the magnificent spectacle which takes to the streets of Bridgwater in early November.

Bridgwater boasts the first Art Centre in the country funded by the Arts Council and, opened in 1946. It is also home to the Somerset Film and Video Centre at the Engine Room, kick started by a fundraising gig with the Clash frontman Joe Strummer who loved the area so much he moved here, saying 'this is a Clash town', the spirit of the alternative has long had a home in Bridgwater.

Today, the town has a Cultural Partnership which brings together all of these creative outlets, working together to capture and release the innovative talents of the town's people whether it's rock music, film making, dance, performance or visual arts.

The spectacular Quayside festival sees the town spring to life in the midsummer neatly balancing the winter lights of the carnival with its vibrant procession and its breath-taking firework display.

WHETHER IT'S CARNIVAL
CONCERTS, OPERATIC AND
DRAMA GROUPS, ROCK BANDS,
BELLY DANCING OR MAJORETTES,
BRIDGWATER HAS IT ALL



THE ENGINE ROOM



BRIDGWATER CARNIVAL



THE MCMILLAN THEATRE



BRIDGWATER ARTS CENTRE

Bridgwater Quayside Festival 2020



The centre of Bridgwater is transformed with live music, theatre, dance, circus, acrobatics and puppetry in Blake Gardens, West Quay, King Square, Eastover, Fore Street and Angel Place; as local, national and international artists celebrate the culture, history and diversity of Bridgwater that was once among the top ten ports in the UK.

Working with the Bridgwater Cultural Partners, the company, FUSE, organises this free summer outdoor festival that recalls Bridgwater's fabulous heritage with a rich array of musicians singing sea shanties, folk and rock and with performances, mermaids and pirates.

Bridgwater and Sedgemoor communities transform spaces in the town with an array of performances and art works. There are also fun activities for all the family including circus and carnival arts making, medieval games, archery and inflatables. There is fabulous food and drink from local producers, an array of stalls that connect the local environment and wildlife, displays of arts and crafts.

The streets are adorned with iconic images of Bridgwater's rich culture and history with silver streamers flowing from the bridge over the river that was once central to the region's prosperity.

This is a date to remember in Bridgwater's cultural calendar, July 18th, 2020.



Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival

CARNIVAL SUMS UP THE SPIRIT OF BRIDGWATER IN SO MANY WAYS – IT'S FULL OF FUN AND ENERGY!

The world famous Bridgwater Carnival takes to the streets of the town on the first Saturday in November and is widely recognised as the largest, most spectacular, illuminated procession in Europe. Little wonder since the 50 or so carnival carts in the parade can be up to 100ft in length, 11ft wide and 16.5ft high, with each lit by some 25,000 lights. Marching bands, groups of masqueraders and individuals make up the huge parade which takes more than two hours to pass any one spot on the 1.7 mile route.

There is more to Bridgwater Carnival than just a parade. On the eve of carnival, one of the largest

firework displays in the south west takes place in St Matthew's Field and on carnival day itself the town centre comes alive with music to suit all tastes on three stages, along with street theatre and entertainment for the whole family.

The Bridgwater Carnival experience reaches its climax immediately after the parade with a squibbing display involving more than 170 handheld fireworks which are lit simultaneously, creating an amazing display which is unique to Bridgwater.

The carnival's origins date back to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 when King James I declared that the failure of the conspiracy was to be celebrated with bonfires and fireworks. Although the town's bonfires are a thing of the past, Bridgwater still knows how to celebrate the event in style!



Shopping

**WITH ITS PEDESTRIANISED
MAIN STREET, RIVER FRONTAGE,
GREEN SPACES AND BUILDINGS
OF HISTORICAL INTEREST;
BRIDGWATER ATTRACTS
MANY INDEPENDENT TRADERS
AND IS A COMFORTABLE TOWN
TO WALK AROUND
AND DO YOUR SHOPPING**

Castle Market

Bridgwater is a historic market town and continues this tradition every Friday with its "Castle Market" well known in the area for its quality, variety and experienced and friendly stall holders.

The Avenue and Angel Crescent

A delightful Victorian Arcade and Crescent with various independent stores and a relaxing atmosphere to browse at your leisure. Not to miss is "3 The Avenue" for its wonderful mix of vintage clothing and accessories!

Fore Street

Here you will find some of your favourite brands, along with a few surprises. Make sure you take in the side streets which lead to little treasures such as Alak Health, Beauty and Spa. Why not pamper yourself.

The Cornhill Indoor Market

The Cornhill has always been the historic centre of the town. The pineapple, which is the crowning piece on top of the dome above Prezzo, is a symbol of welcome. The Indoor Market is home to a shabby chic furniture shop, butchers, boutique, traditional sweet shop and 'Nice Buns'!

Eastover

The Eastover area, along the East bank of the river, features a range of independent shops and restaurants just across the town bridge. If you follow the yellow brick rope (carved into the pavement) you come to Bridgwater Retail Park, occupied by several major outlets such as Sainsbury's, Lidl, Argos, Next, M&S Foodhall and Currys. Why not leave your car and follow the rope for a stroll into the town!

Angel Place

Angel Place has everything you need right on your doorstep from everyday essentials and groceries, to the latest fashions and accessories.



GREEN OLIVE

MEZZE RESTAURANT & BAR

At Green Olive you can experience the delicacies of Mediterranean cuisine at affordable prices. Specialising in Turkish and Greek dishes, Green Olive first opened in 2011, and has been popular since.

We offer a variety of homemade food, and are proud to offer a separate Vegan and Gluten Free menu, so you can choose your food without stress or worry.

OPENING TIMES

Mon- Sat Lunch 12 noon - 2pm

Mon-Sat Evening 5.30pm - 11pm

Sunday Lunch 12 noon - 2pm

Sunday Evening 5.30pm - 10.30pm

Lunch Set Menu £12.95 for two courses

Evening Set Menu £15.95 for two courses

We cater for any occasion, and Christmas parties either for a sit-down meal or a buffet style for up to 80 people!



Contact Us

Tel: 01278238565

Email: greenolive.bw@gmail.com

Web: greenolivebridgwater.com

Facebook: facebook.com/

GreenOliveRestaurant

Wild Rocket

TAPAS RESTAURANT & BAR

The Wild Rocket is set in the heart of Bridgwater and offers both a casual and fine dining experience, with locally sourced produce to ensure we use the freshest ingredients and high quality food.

The Wild Rocket is proud to be a sister restaurant with Green Olive Mezze Restaurant since 2011.

Breakfast & Lunch - 7 days a week

A la carte / Tapas / Cocktail Menu -
Wednesday to Saturday from 5pm

Sunday Roast 12pm - 4pm

Vegan, Vegetarian and Gluten Free dishes available.
Child friendly restaurant.

We can cater for any occasion such as Birthday, Anniversary, after funeral wake and Christmas parties either for a sit-down meal or a buffet style for up to 80 people!

Contact us -

Tel: 01278238770

Email: wild-rocket@mail.com

Web: wild-rocket.com

Facebook: facebook.com/wildrocketcafeandbar

Food and Drink

Coffee Stop

As you would expect from a town surrounded by countryside, Bridgwater has access to plenty of fine local produce especially the treats for which Somerset is famous - its cider, cheese and strawberries. Look out for some of these at the weekly market or our annual Food and Drink Festival. We even have our own delicacy named after the town - the Bridgwater Manchip, which is a jam-filled rolled pastry. It is available from Judith's Bakery in St John Street.

The UK's love affair with tea is still going strong but it seems we are much more partial to a cup of fresh coffee than we were ten years ago. We are lucky to have numerous coffee shops and cafes serving both, not to mention the homemade cakes and scones. If you want to know where we stand on the jam or cream first debate, we do not mind as long as you have lashings of both. Another change in the last decade has been the trend for eating outside so why not take a seat alongside the River and watch the world go by?



JUDITH'S BAKERY

THERE ARE SO MANY
PLACES WHERE YOU CAN
ENJOY GREAT FOOD IN THE TOWN;
IT IS REALLY A QUESTION
OF WHAT YOU FANCY

Drinks

Whether your favourite tipple is a G&T or a pint of bitter, we have cocktail and wine bars as well as traditional pubs serving our locally produced ciders or ales. If you don't want your evening to end, why not head to one of the town's nightclubs?



Dining out

Traditional English cooking has been joined over the years by a host of international flavours from as far afield as Thailand and Turkey. You can tuck into a steak, share a Meze, or go A la Carte. For food on the go, there are plenty of takeaways including our newest Vegan addition, 'Scoffage'.



SCOFFAGE - VEGAN FOOD



Explore Somerset

**WITH A RANGE OF NEW HOTELS
AND GUEST HOUSES BRIDGWATER
IS AN IDEAL BASE FOR TOURING
AROUND THE HISTORIC COUNTY OF
SOMERSET. WITHIN A FEW MILES
OF OUR TOWN YOU CAN FIND THE
ENTIRE HISTORY OF BRITAIN!**

The Vale of Avalon, includes Glastonbury with its majestic Tor, the apocryphal 'green hill' of biblical times where legend says Jesus once walked (or at least his uncle Joseph of Arimathea) and where it's said that the legendary King Arthur and his Knights are buried awaiting the call to return at England's behest. We haven't seen them yet! There's also the famous Abbey where Saxon kings were interred and which was destroyed during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

The Somerset levels saw the last pitched battle on English soil, the Battle of Sedgemoor in 1685, which brought an end to the Duke of Monmouth's campaign to become King. They also witnessed the first battles in English history, when King Alfred the Great hid out on the Athelney marshes. There he built up an army to overcome the Vikings, forcing them to a peace treaty at nearby Wedmore and baptising their leader, Guthrum, at nearby Aller before going on to unite the first English state.

Less than ten miles from Bridgwater and you're in the dramatic Quantock hills with their spectacular views across the Bristol Channel and over the moors. The hills are home to ponies running free, heath gorse and heather and the setting for the poetic wanderings of Coleridge and Wordsworth. You can visit Coleridge Cottage in Nether Stowey, Fyne Court, home of Andrew Cross and his experiments with lightning that

were said to have influenced Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*! Take a gentle train journey through the hills on the West Somerset Railway, a delightful 20 miles through Somerset countryside, where you can hop on and off at any of the ten stations and explore at your leisure.

The Somerset coastline takes in the medieval Dunster Castle, the ancient port of Watchet, the dramatic Brean Down peninsula jutting out to the islands of Steep Holm and Flat Holm and the holiday resort of Burnham-on-Sea and leisure park at Brean.



Within 30 minutes of Bridgwater, are the Mendip Hills dropping down to the Cheese, Strawberry and cave village of Cheddar through an imposing Gorge with a range of wildlife including birds of prey and wild mountain goats and sheep.

A short drive across the moors brings you to the cathedral city of Wells with its medieval market square, its moated Bishop's Palace and the charming 12th century Vicars' Close.

Bridgwater is the ideal base for checking-out not only a snapshot of British history but a wide variety of the country's most beautiful scenery.



Bridgwater Events 2019 - 2020

BRIDGWATER EVENTS 2019

SATURDAY 2 ND NOVEMBER	Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival 7pm
SATURDAY 23 RD NOVEMBER	Bridgwater History Day at the Arts Centre 10-5pm

BRIDGWATER EVENTS 2020

FRI 24 TH JANUARY – SAT 1 ST FEBRUARY (NO SHOW ON MON 27 JANUARY)	Jack and the Beanstalk Bridgwater Pantomime Society at Bridgwater Town Hall
THURS 26 TH – SAT 28 TH MARCH	Old Folks Show at Bridgwater Town Hall
TUESDAY 7 TH APRIL	Blake Museum Summer Opening
SATURDAY 25 TH APRIL	Bridgwater Food & Drink Festival at Bridgwater Town Hall
SATURDAY 7 TH JUNE	Victoria Park Community Centre Summer Fayre
WED 24 TH – SAT 28 TH JUNE	Glastonbury Festival (50 th Birthday)
SUNDAY 12 TH JULY	Bridgwater Docks Gala
FRIDAY 17 TH JULY	Twinning Event at Art Centre
SATURDAY 18 TH JULY	Bridgwater Quayside Festival
FRI 28 TH – SAT 29 TH AUGUST	Bridgwater Flower Show
SUNDAY 6 TH SEPTEMBER	Bridgwater Marathon
SATURDAY 12 TH SEPTEMBER	SEED THE DAY including Vegan Fair in Castle Street 10-5pm
WED 30 TH SEPTEMBER – SAT 3 RD OCT	St Matthews Fair – Bridgwater
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER	Bridgwater Carnival concerts at Bridgwater Town Hall
SATURDAY 17 TH OCTOBER	Bridgwater Together celebrating cultural diversity at The Engine Room
SATURDAY 31 ST OCTOBER	Halloween event at Bridgwater Town hall & Blake Museum
FRIDAY 6 TH NOVEMBER	BTC sponsor grand firework display at St Matthews field
SATURDAY 7 TH NOVEMBER	Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival
FRIDAY 20 TH NOVEMBER	Snowflakes & Shopping and Christmas Lights Switch On
SATURDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER	Bridgwater History Day at the Arts Centre 10-5pm
SATURDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER	Xmas Fayre at Victoria Park Community Centre



Bridgwater Quayside Festival

SAT 18th JULY
11am – 5pm

Celebrating Sedgemoor Culture & Diversity

**Street Theatre, Outdoor Arts,
Live Music, Family Activities,
Circus, Street Bands, Food & Drink**

**Blake Garden, West Quay, Fore Street,
Eastover, Angel Place, King Square**

FREE SHOWS

Logos: Bridgwater Arts Council England, Sedgemoor, Fuse, Angel Place, Bridgwater Cultural Partnership.

Social media handles: BQuaysideFest, BQuaysideFest, fuseperformance

www.bridgwaterquaysidefestival.co.uk

