FLAX FORWARD

Flax Uncovered Exhibition	Bridport Arts Centre	**10th - 24th Oct** **Weds - Sat 10am-4pm**
Community Conversation 1 * Heritage research	Bridport Arts Centre	**19th Oct 5pm-7pm**
Flax Showcase [Day 1]	Oxenbury's Yard	**22nd Oct 10am-4pm**
Flax Showcase [Day 2]	Oxenbury's Yard	**23rd Oct 10am-4pm**
Community Conversation 2 * Growing & processing flax	Oxenbury's Yard	**23rd Oct 6pm-8pm**
Flax Showcase [Day 3]	Oxenbury's Yard	**24th Oct 10am-4pm**

All events free, all ages welcome. * *Booking advised*

Scan the QR code to book and find out more

Or visit wessexca.co.uk/flax-forward-project

Made possible with Heritage Fund

The Trellis Foundation

In partnership with

WESSEX COMMUNITY ASSETS

BRIDPORT ARTSCENTRE

Bridport School of Regenerative Futures

Bridport Museum

FLAX FORWARD

Showcase Programme

10-24th October 2026

Telling the story of a plant, a town and a landscape.

About

Flax Forward is a community-led project uncovering the lost heritage of flax and exploring its potential for a sustainable future. Working with local farmers, historians and makers, the project is helping to revive a craft at risk of disappearing altogether.

For more information and booking visit:
wessexca.co.uk/flax-forward-project

Flax Uncovered

Exhibition bringing together research from the project Free entry

With its pretty pale blue flower, the seemingly delicate flax plant has an incredible range of uses, from linen and canvas to linseed oil and lino. Grown here for its fibres, flax was once a defining part of the local economy, shaping the town's identity for over 1,000 years through generations of cultivation, processing and making. Yet while Bridport's hemp growing and ropemaking histories are well documented, the story of flax is less widely known.

During early summer 2026, community researchers have been searching archives and collections to explore the history of flax in this area, uncovering lost stories and knowledge. This exhibition shares what they have discovered so far and invites visitors to explore maps, documents and books and add their story to help tell the story of a plant, a town and a landscape.

Sat 10 - Sat 24 October, 10am-4pm Weds-Sat

Bridport Arts Centre
South Street

Note: opens 12.30pm on Sat 17 Oct

Flax Processing Showcase

Thu 22 - Sat 24 October, 10am-4pm

Oxenbury's Yard
Gundry lane

Three days exploring the stages in processing flax Free entry

Open sessions inviting the community to find out about flax growing and processing with hands on, practical sessions for all ages.

Community Conversations

Mon 19 October, 5pm - 7pm

Bridport Arts Centre
South Street

Flax Uncovered - join the conversation
Free entry, booking advised

Come and find out more about the historical research, hear from researchers and experts involved in the project and join the discussion.

Fri 23 October 6pm - 8pm

Oxenbury's Yard
Gundry lane

Join local farmers and processing experts in a conversation about future of flax in Bridport
Free entry, booking advised

This second community conversation is an oppertunity to meet, hear from and ask questions to a panel of flax farmers and processors, including: Ellen (Tamarisk farm), Jocelyn Bailey (BSRF), Nick Evans (Fantasy Fibre Mill) and Dave Dixon (WCA). The evening will conclude with performance of flax songs and stories gathered by Heritage Researchers.