

Bridport Hat Festival 2011

Bridport, a seaside town on the South Coast of England, was the place to be for hat lovers last weekend. For the second year in a row, the town hosted the Bridport Hat Festival - a wonderful opportunity to remember just how much fun wearing a hat can be...

The festival, which was the brainchild of Roger Snook from [Snooks the Hatters](#), was even bigger and better than last year. There were more hat stalls, fascinator workshops, millinery talks and other hat related music and entertainment.

People all over town were wearing hats - some bizarre, others elegantly chic - and everyone gathered together in the town square to have a mass hat photo taken at mid-day on Saturday. The shortlisted millinery competition entries were on display at the Bull Hotel until late Saturday afternoon, where an eager crowd awaited the much anticipated results.



The first prize winner was Alison Lang, who recently moved to Bridport. Her hat, pictured to the far left, was made of Bridport rope, and the judges felt it captured the essence of the town, which has a rope making history. The second prize was given to Tess Piggott, of [Anna Dominoes Millinery](#) in London. Her hat (near right) was inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Paper roses, playing cards, a paint brush and ostrich quills are set on a heart shaped sinamay base in a reference to the Queen of Hearts' crazy edict demanding that all of her white roses be painted red.

The hat stalls were located in two separate venues. Milliners had travelled from across the Southwest and further afield to show off their creations. The Festival attracted both veteran and new generation hat makers, and we enjoyed putting faces to some familiar names as well as meeting some of the rising stars of the millinery world. The next two pages picture a few of the milliners who were present. Website links are included wherever possible.



Fern Berreen



Rachel Drewer & Sophie Beale



Victoria Smith



Izzy Mazz



Mandy McGregor



Catherine Povey



Tamsin Armstrong



Lucy Fosh



Lisa Jones



Kee Wilkinson



Miriam Millinery



Maggie Whiteman

The success of the second year of this hatty event is sure to inspire plans for a third and will hopefully set a precedent for similar hat festivals to begin in other places. To see more photos from the weekend, have a look at the official [Bridport Hat Festival website](#) and their [Facebook page](#).