

Bridestowe & Sourton Extra

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year



Community News and Events December 2024

Edition 271

St Bridget's Church **Christmas Tree Festival & Carol Service** **15th December – 22nd December**



Please come and see our lovely display!

Opening Times:

Sunday, 15th December -11am – 7pm

Monday, 16th – Saturday, 21st December 10am – 7pm

Sunday, 22nd December 11am – 4.00pm

**All welcome to join us for mulled wine and mince pies at our
carol service on Sunday, 22nd December at 6.30pm**

The Vicar writes...

Christmas happens on 25th December every year. It's amazing how many times I don't realise this until it's too late. The mad rush for last minute Christmas presents from the Shell garage on Christmas Eve is now as traditional as turkey. On the whole I still enjoy Christmas, even though it's been swallowed up in a great consumer fest there's still a remnant of something important and magical.

A lot of people say Christmas is for the kids and once you stop believing in Father Christmas the magic goes. This year, in order to keep the magic, I've decided to show Father Christmas really does exist – prove me wrong.

Just because you can't see, touch, hear something doesn't mean it doesn't exist- love or the laws of mathematics. Some things cannot exist, like a square circle or dry water. Things like love can exert an influence over us, it has agency. The laws of a country are not physical but have agency. A policeman is an agent of the law, he represents the law. If you are arrested, he reads your rights, he is the law speaking. The policeman participates in the body of an agency.

Think of your own being. You are made of many parts, yet there is something that holds them altogether that allows other people to recognise you. You can add things to you that are an extension of who you are, tattoos, make-up, fashion clothing. They manifest an unseen part of who you are.

In a similar way Father Christmas exists but his body is not as contained as your body.

Someone dressed as Father Christmas is a representation of Father Christmas. When a child speaks to him, the child is speaking to Father Christmas not the man dressed as Father Christmas. The man replies as Father Christmas, "Have you been good?" etc. If he replies as himself, "I only do this because I need the money" the child stops recognising

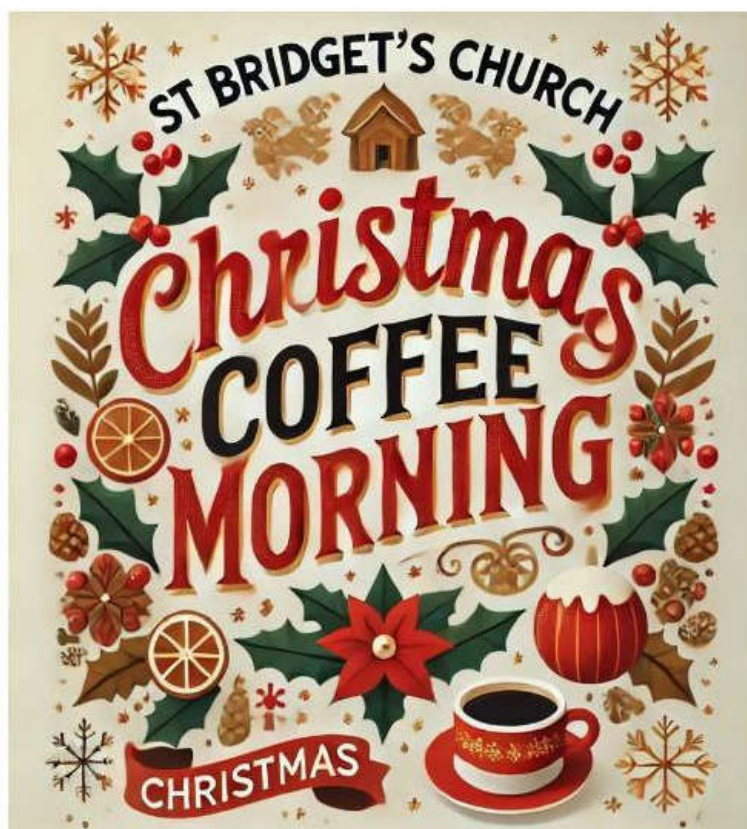
Father Christmas. The man participates in the agency of Father Christmas.

We know what Father Christmas looks like, what he does, we have pictures, songs and stories, people dress as Father Christmas, we can talk to him and hear him and he has agency over our lives. If that isn't true then there is a massive global conspiracy of parents all over the world to lie to their children about a person who comes into their house once a year and dumps a load of presents.

So, Father Christmas exists.

Have a thoughtful Advent, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Adrian Brook



Saturday, 7th December 10am–1pm in the church

Please join us for coffee and cake

There will also be a selection of cakes, chutneys & preserves, & festive gifts for you to purchase



Bridestowe Walking Nativity

Join in the fun! Dress up as one of the characters in the nativity story.

Monday 23rd December. Meet in the Sporting Green for a 2pm start. Refreshments in The Ark at the end with any money donated going to Children's Hospice Southwest.



Could you fill a shoebox to bring a bit of comfort to a homeless person in Devon?

We need a mixture of 'male' and 'female' shoeboxes but mainly male.

We ask for: hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries, deodorant, sweet treats, socks, underwear, wet wipes, and anything else you feel would be lovely to receive at Christmas in shoeboxes. We DONT allow sharp objects, medications or anything containing alcohol - any hand sanitizer is donated to volunteers and staff at the shelters.

We will also accept small gifts such as toiletry gift sets, etc for those that we support who have recently been housed. Tubs of sweets are always welcome.

Charley Jones, who lives locally, is the drop off contact. 07743 367 874

Riverside Stores has agreed kindly to be a drop of centre for filled boxes.

Last date is 13th December. Thank you

Appeal to local landowners

Bridestowe Parish Council is seeking a plot of land to purchase close to the village centre to provide allotments for the parishioners who have come forward requesting them. The plot would need to be roughly half an acre. Please contact the clerk if you can assist.

Royal British Legion 'Poppy Appeal'

St Bridget's Church was full for the Remembrance Day Service and there was a large gathering at the Memorial Cross for the laying of wreaths. Wreaths were laid on behalf of St Bridget's Church, the Methodist Chapel, the Parish Council and the Scouts. The Bridestowe Scout Group attended the service and paraded their standards. We are very fortunate that we were joined by Hazel to play the Last Post. The collection in Church amounted to £303.50



The quiz held in The White Hart to raise funds for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal raised £166.00

The sale of knitted poppies raised a further £27.00.

A total of £496.50 has been raised locally in Bridestowe, which will go to support our veteran service personnel and those who have served.

Jonathan and Georgina
Church Wardens
St Bridget's Church



EDWARDIAN EVENING

Okehampton

Light Switch on 18:00
Followed by Mayors Carol Service

Sponsored by:



Miss Ivy Events

Thursday
5th December
18:00 – 21:00

- 35 Gift & Food Stalls
- Bubble Show
- Live Music
- Late Night Shopping
- Rides

The young people at Room 13 and the Fairtrade Group invite you to share a cup of Fairtrade Hot Chocolate on the Edwardian Evening, Thursday 5th December from 6pm at Room 13, St James Street, Okehampton



Little ones will have a blast with various children's activities and rides.

Kick off your Christmas gift shopping with a bang, thanks to 35 fantastic gift stalls. Keep your shopping stamina up with delicious refreshments from a variety of street food vendors. What's more, local shops and businesses will stay open late, welcoming you to join in the festive spirit. Celebrate the joy and magic of the holiday season.

The community comes together for a night of yuletide joy and entertainment. The star of the evening, Father Christmas himself, will be eagerly waiting to greet you in The Museum Courtyard. But that's not all – enjoy carols with the Mayor at St. James Church, delightful songs from Alison Moyna, Oke Voices and Wren Music, and be amazed by the Festive Bubble Show and dance performances.

Edwardian Evening Okehampton

Father Christmas is coming to the Museum of Dartmoor Life

on Thursday 5
December
4.30 to 8.00pm
(time slots so you
don't have to hang
around)

Crafts to do and a
gift if you have
been good
All children £4.50



New Defibrillator Installed

A new defibrillator has been installed on the outside of Sourton Village

Hall. A training video is available on the Sourton Parish Council website to guide users.

Thanks go to:

The Village Hall Committee for providing the location and power supply.

WDBC Councillors Caroline Mott and Terry Southcott, and DCC Councillor

Louis Samuel, for contributing funding from their locality budgets.

Adrian Timms for installing the device promptly within the required time frame.

Firework Night Success

The firework night in Bridestowe raised £337.50 through donations for food and drink. These funds have been donated to Sourton Village Hall to help with repairs to a leaking water pipe.

Thanks go to:

David Pellow for allowing his field to be used for launching the fireworks. Jenny and Tony Batten for the use of the A Frame for advertising the change of location.

Ali Young and Esther Winter for their help on the night with serving food and tidying the hall afterwards.

Parish Council Update

Sourton Parish Council is currently without councillors, which has impacted operations: The meeting scheduled for 2nd December has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) has the legal authority to appoint three councillors to ensure the council can function.

The election notice for five vacant seats expires on **5th December**. If no election is called, the appointed WDBC councillors will co-opt new members.

A co-option form is available on the website or by contacting parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk. For updates, please visit the Sourton Parish Council website.

This is a personal message from all the former Councillors of Sourton Parish Council

Fireworks night

A very big thank you to everyone who came along to the free fireworks, which were held at Bridestowe Hall (because a water leak at Sourton Village Hall meant that the venue couldn't be used for an event). The weather was kind and it was a very good night, the fireworks were great and we raised over £330 in donations for Sourton Village Hall to go towards the costs of repairing the water leak.

Warm Spaces

As Councillors have put on a whole series of events under the Warm Spaces Initiative as a means of bringing the community together, provide free food and particularly for those that live alone, provide a chance to meet up with others. We have really enjoyed putting on these events and the fireworks were no exception.

Resignation

Sadly though, this is the last event we will put on as Sourton Councillors. We all reached a point where we decided the best option for all was that we resign. The Clerk remains in post. A new Council will need to be formed. Good luck to our new councillors.

Former Councillors:

John Leonard, Chair - 4 November to 14 November '24

Sam Firth, Chair - 13 May to 17th October '24

Sue Eberle, Vice Chair

Danielle Firth

Kate Jefferies

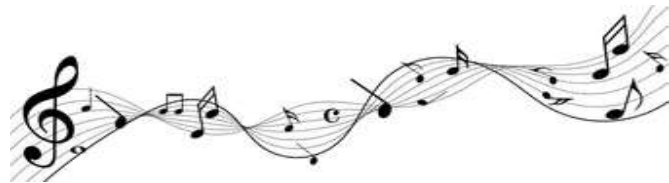
Alan Jewell

Cleaner required for a few weeks to cover planned surgery.

3 hours on Monday or Wednesday or Friday in Bridestowe Village.

Please contact Julia **07715 809195**

(In November's BaSE I omitted a digit from the phone number. Apologies all round)



Mount Kelly Choral Society Christmas Concert

Saturday 14th December 19.30

Tavistock Methodist Church

Mozart "Coronation" Mass, and highlights from Handel's Messiah

Divertimento Ensemble

Soloists: Bianca Phillips (soprano); India Lord (alto); Harry Tabb (tenor); Marcus Coleridge (bass)

Director: Dan Robson

Scored for soloists and a mixed choir with orchestra, the Mass in C (K.317) is one of Mozart's most popular and enduring works. Written in 1779, probably commissioned by the Archbishop of Salzburg for performance on Easter Sunday, its nickname derives from its first documented performance at the coronation of Holy Roman Emperor Francis I in 1792, though it may also have been performed at the coronation of Leopold II the previous year. Celebratory in nature, the Mass would have been perfectly fitting for either a coronation or an Easter Day service. Tickets £14 in advance from TicketSource (www.ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society) or Bookstop in Tavistock; £15 on the door. Under-18s free.

Okehampton Community Christmas & Food Bank

Saturday 14th December

9am - 12pm

Coffee Morning

Christmas Fayre stalls

Raffle

Charter Hall, Market Street

Okehampton

Pop along and grab some lovely locally made gifts, produce and a cuppa! Funds for Okehampton Community Christmas and Christmas Food Bank

Bridestowe Parish Council report

At the full meeting of the Parish Council on 2nd November the following matters were discussed.

The variegated sycamore in the centre of the village behind the bus shelter is to be reduced in size.

The multi play equipment and the surface beneath it is to be brushed regularly in an attempt to reduce its slipperiness.

Councillors gave permission for the installation of a galvanised holder in the ground that will support the Christmas tree each year. (See update below)

The '20 is Plenty' signs have been given a stay of execution. As long as they are not "impacting the highway user on safety grounds" and are on private land, they can remain.

The Council is seeking to purchase a plot of land for allotments. Seven parishioners have submitted requests so far. If there are other people interested in having an allotment, please contact the clerk.

And....talking of the clerk, Kayleigh Walker has successfully completed her six months' probationary period and the Council is delighted to welcome her on board in a permanent role.

The next full meeting of Bridestowe Parish Council will be on **Wednesday 15th January** at 7.30pm in The Ark (Methodist Chapel) Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Clerk's contact details: Kayleigh Walker
Little Kellacott Farm, St Giles on the Heath,
Launceston PL15 9SW

Tel: **07854 275 955**

Email: clerk@bridestowe.org.uk

A message from Chris and Helen Proctor and team..

Bridestowe's Christmas tree will be going up this year, however, due to the unseasonably warm/wet weather last year, a more permanent structure is needed in place to support the tree not only for this year but for many years to come. The tube for the tree is with the fabricators and needs to be galvanised and we'll need a small window of dry weather to get the post sunk and the concrete to set, However, this will mean that it'll be going up at short notice and later than it would otherwise. We'll be using Facebook when we have more information to let people know.

An Amazing Achievement by Howard Barkell

A few weeks ago, on one of those mild still afternoons, we decided to take a walk from that pull-in on the left hand side going towards Mary Tavy half way across Blackdown by Barrett's Bridge on the A386 to the Wheal Jewell Reservoir and back. The most direct route is to follow the dry bed of the Reddafford leat. It is not that comfortable a walk because of the overgrown nature of the tussocky grass and the narrowness of the sheep tracks, but it is mostly flat and, on this occasion was remarkably dry underfoot. The word wheal gives the clue to the leat's original purpose. Derived from the Cornish (many miners migrated from Cornwall to Devon at the end of the 1700s) wheal means a place of work and many tin and copper mine names were preceded by the word, so locally we have Wheal Betsy, Wheal Friendship and Wheal Jewell to name but three.

One of the most important issues to face the early underground miners was water. A regular flow above ground was needed to power the waterwheels which worked the machinery to raise and crush the ore, the natural ingress of water into the underground workings had to be constantly pumped out, ironically by the use of waterwheels. The three mines previously mentioned could not develop by relying on the often meagre flow of the Cholwell Brook. The alternative use of steam power still needed water and even with the early use of peat as a fuel the added cost often made the extraction of ore unprofitable. The nearest source of a reliable supply of water was the River Tavy and the lowest point on the river to enable a flow to reach the mines was in Tavy Cleave, but there were formidable engineering obstacles in between. Possibly surveyed by John Taylor, the manager at Wheal Friendship, the leat, sometimes called the Reddafford Leat, was opened by the early years of the nineteenth century. The intake is guarded by a strong grille to catch debris flowing downstream. The adjoining small building presumably still has some useful purpose. The leat then curves around the hillside under Ger Tor and Nat Tor until it reaches the site of Reddafford Farm,

abandoned when The War Department bought the Willsworthy Manor estate from the Calmady-Hamlyn family in 1905 to form a live firing small arms range. The Palmer children who lived there would walk in to Lydford School except during the hardest weather.

At Reddafford a low weir across the Willsworthy Brook enables the leat to cross and, via a sharp left turn, to continue its course. Originally much of its water entered the Cholwell Brook and continued downstream to Mary Tavy and Wheal Friendship. Another leat took water to Wheal Betsy and then to the Cholwell Brook. An extension to the Reddafford Leat brought water under Barrett's Bridge and then along the lower slopes of Gibbet Hill parallel to the A386 to work waterwheels at Black Down, also known as North Wheal Friendship Mine. Some lead ore was sold from there in 1850, but it ceased production soon after. Betsy was worked intermittently for lead and some zinc and silver ore, but finally closed in 1877. The present engine house probably dates from 1865 when a 12 inch pumping engine was installed. It is suggested that peat was brought from the beds at Walkham Head for use as fuel. When copper could be obtained more cheaply from abroad Friendship turned to producing arsenic which was widely used as an insecticide against the boll weevil in the cotton plantations in America.

When Betsy and North Friendship closed presumably the parts of the leat serving them became redundant and that water was diverted into the Cholwell Brook. Friendship worked on until 1924, but Pelton Wheels had replaced the waterwheels in 1912. The later years were spent picking over the dumps for tin and arsenic and treating tin ore from Wheal Jewell. At their busiest the mines needed water for 17 waterwheels of varying sizes, 8 for pumping, four for hoisting and 5 for crushing and grinding.

Like the other mines Wheal Jewell had a chequered history, opening when the price of tin was high, closing when the price fell. It, too, finally closed in 1924. It did not use water from the Reddafford Leat, but had its own supply sourced from the Walla

Brook between Doe Tor and Barewalls. It originally crossed the larger leat on an aqueduct. Sydney Davey, a native of Horndon, who later lived in Bridestowe for many years, worked at the mine as a millman before joining 9th Devons in late 1915. A year later he was hit by a shrapnel shell when 'going over the top' at Ginchy and wounded in the left shoulder, leg and buttock. As a result of his injuries his left leg was amputated below the knee and he was later fitted with an artificial limb at Roehampton. His initial pension was 27 shillings and 6 pence a week. Another who worked there was Fred Screech. He lived on Vale Down and later at Southerly. He was discharged from the army suffering from serious deafness, attributed to by being an artilleryman.

In 1932 the privately owned West Devon Mining and Power Company opened a hydro electric power station at Mary Tavy. The water came from the Hill Bridge Leat which had previously served Wheal Friendship. The demand for electricity was so great that in 1936 the size of the power station was increased. Fortunately, the two leats were still running. The water for the new scheme was taken from them. Their courses were joined together and impounded in the concrete lined reservoir which covered the site of much of the Wheal Jewell mine workings. From the reservoir the water is piped downhill to the power station. From 1942 power was supplied to the National Grid. The facility is now owned by South West Water.

It sometimes appears that the water in the Reddaford Leat is running uphill. This is not the case, of course, but in the four and a half miles from source to end the level only drops twenty six feet, a remarkable feat of surveying and building over tortuous, difficult terrain without the aid of modern equipment and machinery.

The Bridestowe Volunteer Group

are putting their feet up in December and will meet again in the new year on Saturday 25th January.

Usual assembly time - 9.30am at the cemetery gates.

New recruits are always welcome.



"Mrs Claus bought me a smartwatch! It knows when you are sleeping, it knows when you're awake, it knows if you've been bad or good..."

For Sale

'Pets at Home' pet crate

53 cm high x 77.5 cm long and 49cm deep with door and tray.

Hardly ever used,

£20

01837 861287



NICHOLLS HALL LYDFORD BACON BUTTY, CAKE AND COFFEE MORNING

Last Saturday of each month

10am -12.30pm

Well behaved dogs welcome

Card payments accepted



ST THOMAS À BECKET CHURCH

December

We wish all our readers a Joyful Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

SOUP LUNCHES

Sunday 8th December from 12-2pm .

We are happy to report the water problems at the Hall have now been resolved. It has been a difficult time for the Hall Committee. It will be great to be able to use the hall again.

A variety of home made soups with bread and cheese , fruit and tea or coffee will be served.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTINGLE 4p.m. on Sunday 1st December

Treetops Pre-School will be performing their Nativity Play.

Refreshments in the HALL afterwards

CAROL SERVICE at 4 p,m, on Sunday 22nd December

Service of Carols and Readings

CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

December 1st Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

Christingle 4 p.m.

December 8th Service at Bridestowe

December 15th Service at Bridestowe

December 22nd CAROL SERVICE 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Jenny Batten



Bridestowe Cricket Club Extraordinary General Meeting Monday 2nd December, 7pm at The Fox and Hounds

Apologies and comments to the Secretary by
1st December - jcw_101@hotmail.com

Thank you to everyone who supported the bingo, we raised an amazing £750 toward the improvements of the pavilion.

Next event is the Quiz on **Wednesday 11th December** at The White Hart, always a fun and festive evening, all welcome!

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP

Our meeting this month will be the Christmas lunch at Bow Garden Centre on **Thursday December 5th**. The table is booked for 12.30. Please don't be the person who forgets to bring her " secret Santa" gift - there's always one !

Contact person Ann Allan on 861551

59 Lottery Club - raising funds for Bridestowe Village Hall



The rollover prize in September was won by Geoff Allan.

As no number matched the bonus ball on Saturday October 26th, there will be another rollover prize of £200 up for grabs at the end of November but sadly too late to announce in BaSE.

Movie Watch October 2024

I'd love to report that we stumbled across a hidden, unexpected gem at the New Carlton last month, but those remain elusive. We've seen eight films at the cinema this year while pre-Covid our equivalent figure was up around 20.

However, as I write, with the snow fluttering down, we've arranged to see **Gladiator II** in Okehampton next week. To be honest, this would not normally feature on my radar but needs must and I am told that one should occasionally try new things.

The reviews have been mixed but the Guardian gave it four stars, promising a thrilling spectacle featuring a formidable performance, in the old Russell Crowe role, from Paul Mescal, who seems to be in just about everything these days.

The paper breathlessly reports, *'This is a sequel that isn't afraid to get its hands dirty - it delivers the keynote scenes and moments for the fanbase (which is all of us) and the all-important gladiator setpieces have the right hallucinatory quality.'*

Bring it on. Rest assured one of your dedicated Movie Watch team will report back, although possibly not me.

The other New Carlton options are, to put it mildly, less than compelling. As I write, we have **Wicked**, *'making its long-awaited journey to the big screen'* (Jeff Goldblum, Ariana Grande etc), alongside **Paddington in Peru**, *'the world's most beloved bear returns to his roots, his homeland Peru.'*

This one features a very decent cast (Olivia Colman, Ben Whishaw, Antonio Banderas) in what is billed as *'a live-action animated adventure comedy film,'* thereby sweeping the board with potential film descriptors. To be fair, the reviews are mostly positive so if you can find a suitable companion, why not give it a try?

Coming soon? Well, not much, to be honest. Certainly not this side of Christmas. **We Live in Time** (Andrew Garfield, Florence Pugh)

could be worth checking out. **Maria**, the Maria Callas biopic, tells the ultimately tragic story of the world's greatest female opera singer, but that doesn't open until early in the New Year.

So we're left with television options to ponder. Luckily there are quite a few.

The big November broadcast topic was the US Election, although as a TV event it fell a bit flat. In fact the result was pretty much confirmed before we all retired for the night. Maybe US political polls are more accurate than their UK equivalent?

Clive Myrie anchored the BBC coverage without ever achieving the required Dimpleby-level gravitas, Mark Austin was rock-solid in heading up the Sky News coverage, Tom Bradby was fine on ITV, while Channel 4 led with a very Channel 4 pairing of Boris Johnson and Stormy Daniels. No comment necessary.

On the domestic TV front, many column inches (more than it deserves) have been devoted to Gary Lineker's impending departure from Match of the Day. The BBC are in the fortunate position of having a ready-made replacement for their highest-paid presenter.

The excellent Mark Chapman joined the Corporation as a Continuity Announcer in 1996 and has progressed through the ranks. He knows the game inside out, is likeable, fluent, popular with both colleagues and viewers, making him clearly the right man for the job.

So I doubt it'll be him.

There's been a massive PR drive to appoint a woman to the role. Gabby Logan is a consummate presenter, filling in seamlessly for Lineker on occasions. Her father, Terry Yorath, was a Welsh international footballer, winning 59 caps for his country.

I don't suppose it'll be Gabby either.

The BBC will no doubt look to unearth a candidate who ticks all the necessary boxes. Their last attempt at such a manoeuvre saw Dan Walker replaced by the politically acceptable (but hopeless) Alex Scott as presenter of their Saturday lunchtime preview show. She has overseen a fall in average weekly audiences of almost 50%. Whatever, it should be worth keeping an eye open for the announcement.

A few programmes for which we have received recommendations,

The Day of the Jackal (Sky Atlantic)

Lucan (BBC iPlayer)

Apples Never Fall (BBC iPlayer)

The Diplomat, Season 2 (Netflix)

Shetland (BBC and iPlayer)

Rivals (Disney+)

Return of the King – the Fall and Rise of Elvis Presley (Netflix)

The Frost Interview – Brian Clough (BBC iPlayer)

Her Majesty the Queen – Behind Closed Doors (ITV)

Wolf Hall (BBC1)

Slow Horses (Apple TV+)

Elton John: Never Too Late (cinemas now and Disney+)

The Lincoln Lawyer (Netflix)

Finally, and nothing to do with the increasingly misleading title of this page, I was taken by a suggestion in one of the broadsheets, aimed at those intending to defy commercial logic and post Christmas cards again this year.

Given the eye-watering £1-65 now required to send a greetings card (or anything else for that matter) by First Class post, one enterprising journalist calculated the cost of purchasing a return airline ticket to various European destinations and mailing your cards back to the UK from abroad.

The most cost-effective option appeared to be Portugal. The cheapest same-day return flight to Lisbon in early-December was quoted as £62, with postage at 73p per item. On that basis you would 'only' need to send

70 cards to move into virtual profit.

You'd need to do some internet research but same-day return flights from Bristol to Lisbon do exist and you could have a nice lunch on the savings.

Don't blame me. Anything half-decent at the cinema and I'd have written about it.

Merry Christmas and Happy Viewing from us both.

Fiona and David Harrison

Bacon Baps will be served on
Saturday 28th December, 10am - 12 noon.

After all the festive fare, a simple bacon butty will go down a treat. Gill will be there with her honey and there will be a range of secondhand books to browse.

Apologies for the late cancellation of our November 16th session. Ali had a painful knee and has been quite grumpy so at least you were spared that.



**FESTIVE FAVOURITES with the
OKEHAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY**

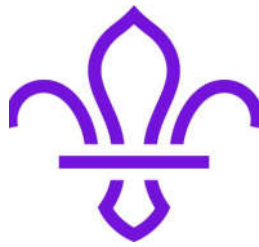
Come and enjoy an evening with us!

Featuring a variety of choral music to include pieces by Tchaikovsky, Britten and John Rutter and of course plenty of well loved Christmas Carols suitable for all the family to join in.

**Monday 16th December 7:30pm -
Fairplace Church, Okehampton**

Admission free - there will be a retiring
collection

Bridestowe Scout Group news



We hope you are all doing well. The Scout group has been busy and here's what we were up to in November.

Beavers (6 -8)

This month the Beavers went on an awesome sleepover at the Plymouth Aquarium. The Beavers joined 45 other Beavers from the West Devon district. They all enjoyed a fish and chip supper before going on a tour of the aquarium. They then settled down to watch a film under the main tank.

The Beavers have also been working on their faith badges, creative badges and remembrance reflection.

Cubs (8 - 10)

The Cubs have been working on their Chef activity badges, learned about Islamophobia month and made bamboo catapults. The Cubs also took time to reflect on the Act of Remembrance by making wreaths.

Scouts (10 - 14)

The Scouts enjoyed board game night, have been working on their communications badge and visited black rock to reflect on the Act of Remembrance.

Explorers (14 - 18)

The Explorer silver DofE team completed their Silver qualifier on Exmouth in November and they will be presented their certificates in the new year once their activities have been signed off.

The Explorers have entered three teams into Ten Tors 25. We have two 35 and one 45 team confirmed and training has started with build up walks. We will keep you posted on progress.

All three sections were pleased to support the Service of Remembrance at St Bridget's Church. We are very proud to be a part of the community. If you would like more information on the Scout Group activities, discuss how we could get involved in community events or would like to discuss a

volunteer role with us, please contact:

gsl@bridestowescouts.org.uk

If you would like to enrol your young people in any section please contact us at:

membership@bridestowescouts.org.uk

The Scout movement exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. But above all it is great fun, Young people get to take part in activities and camps creating memories and developing skills.

Yours in Scouting

Bridestowe Scout Leaders



A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who attended our Wine and Wisdom evening last month. We raised a Whopping £1,300 for Bridestowe School. These funds will help support the School in 2025.

Thank you to all the local suppliers and parents who donated a raffle prize.

We have 3 fabulous Christmas Hampers full of goodies to win!

The raffle will be drawn on **Monday 16th December.**

It's £1 a square.

Payment using the following methods:

PayPal - @fobspp@gmail.com

Friends of Bridestowe School. (Please choose family and friends option when sending funds).

Cash - please see a member of FoBs Team or the school along with your contact details.

The shop are kindly accepting £1 donations on FoBS behalf. You can pay your £1 and leave your contact details at the shop. This will then be passed on to us.

BACS transfer - please ask for bank details.

ACE Archaeology Club

One minute it is August and then it is Christmas.

ACE has been busy in the intervening time. ACE and ACE members have been involved in a few things organised by other people in the last few months. Including some test pitting at Wrangworthy Barrows as support to the Monument Management Scheme (MMS). The MMS looks after sites that are scheduled monuments and tries to keep them in good condition. They have been doing some work in the ACE "area" and some ACE members went to help with the test pitting* at Wrangworthy Barrows.

**Test-pitting is used to assess the archaeological potential of a site and is a suitable when a rapid form of minimally intrusive evaluation is required. It is designed to recover a sample of artefacts from topsoil and subsoil deposits, with the bonus of providing a "snapshot" of any buried archaeological remains.*

On our own ACE Day in October, we repeated a visit to Winkleigh for a tour of the village focusing on its long and varied history. Although it hasn't been long since we did this it was decided that we should do it again as we have had so many new members this year. Included in the tour was a visit to Heywood Castle, a Motte and Bailey castle overlooking Eggesford. There is a surprising number of such castles in the area, not far from Haywood is Eggesford Castle, not accessible as on private property, and Winkleigh has two such mounds; one on private property and one under the village hall!!! There must have been a lot of trouble from the inhabitants of the area.



Winkleigh Village Hall on its Motte and Bailey.
If you would like to find out more about any of

these sites, or indeed any sites at all, I suggest Devon County Council Environment Viewer <https://map.devon.gov.uk/dccviewer/>
As mentioned in the last edition we hope to be doing some work with MMS in Winkleigh in 2025.

Our next event is our AGM in November . Apart from the business of the AGM we will also have updates on various digs from Andy Crabb our Archaeology Adviser and Dartmoor archaeologist, amongst other roles. December sees us sharpening our quills to do some writing, literally. Sharpening the quills and using homemade ink. May be messy but will be interesting. More about this next year.

Erica Williamson

October 2024

<https://acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com>
Facebook

Help Wanted

By Timothy Tocher

Santa needs new reindeer.
The first bunch has grown old.
Dasher has arthritis;
Comet hates the cold.
Prancer's sick of staring
at Dancer's big behind.
Cupid married Blitzen
and Donner lost his mind.
Dancer's mad at Vixen
for stepping on his toes.
Vixen's being thrown out—
she laughed at Rudolph's nose.
If you are a reindeer
we hope you will apply.
There is just one tricky part:
You must know how to fly.



Friends of St Bridget's update - The Tumbling Tower and Perilous Pinnacles

You may have been wondering what FOSB have been doing over the last few years - apart from the regular Clean-up Days. The simple answer is collecting money for a big project, so those £6 per year some people have been contributing as members, has been quietly adding up!

To take on a big project, grant money is required, and most grants ask for match funding.

A few years ago, FOSB was successful in obtaining money to tackle part of the roof and the gutters and re-leading the tower roof. Sadly, the tower needs a much bigger renovation. Despite the re-leading being able to reduce water entering the tower from the roof, it has by no means stopped water getting in elsewhere and as the walls have been treated over the years with non-porous materials, significant damp has been collecting resulting in rotting joists and floorboards and crumbling masonry. The pinnacles have continued to deteriorate, and stone falls off intermittently - some to the ground and some onto the new roof damaging the lead.

After the recent Quinquennial inspection (a five yearly inspection by a surveyor - paid for by the parish but insisted upon by the diocese), it became clear that the tower was a huge project needing to be tackled - and tackled fairly urgently! FOSB has set up a subgroup from the committee to try and raise funds and deal with the multiple issues in the tower. It has also been agreed that repairs to the stained-glass windows also need addressing - another expensive job. The need to get diocese agreement to the plans is in the form of a Faculty, which is required and for which the diocese will charge us, but there is no funding likely to be offered from the diocese for any of the work.

This is a very ambitious undertaking. We feel the tower repairs alone are likely to be over £100,000 - possibly even multiples of this amount. Before any grants are applied for specialists need to define what works are needed, quotes from appropriate building firms need to be obtained and this all presented to the diocese with a statement regarding the relevance of the church building in the community. If the plans are approved there is usually a time limit on the Faculty approval. It is only at this stage that grants can then be applied for.

FOSB will need to finance the specialist reports with no guarantee that the work can be undertaken - either because the diocese refuses a Faculty or the grant application is not successful. We are hoping this will not be the case and look forward to a dry, safe and renovated tower, and restored windows being the outcome.

We are launching our appeals for new members (at £6 a year -as the numbers of members will help confirm that the church is important to the community - and you don't have to be a regular churchgoer to want the building to remain as a church), and donations for any amount at the Christmas tree festival.

Come and see our tree and help us get this project moving!



A 1960s Christmas

Ellen Castelow

www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/A-1960s-Christmas

Christmas in the 1960s was in many respects quite similar to Christmas celebrations in the 21st century: family gatherings, laughter and fun. But whereas today the celebrations are often centred around the presents and multimedia, in the 1960s Christmas was much more homespun.

The days of post war rationing and austerity were still recent memories so, especially in the early years of the decade, 1960s Christmases still had a feeling of frugality when compared to those of today.

Paper Chains



Making paper chains for Christmas at school

Take the decorations, for example. Today, we are used to homes decorated both indoors and out with lights, animated figures and all manner of festive adornments. In the 1960s, things were much simpler. Brightly coloured paper chains were made by the family and looped across the walls of the living room. If money was scarce the chains would be made from strips of newspaper. These chains would be finished off with honeycomb-like paper or foil decorations shaped like bells and stars. There would also be holly sprigs pushed behind the pictures on the wall. The tree would be covered in tinsel and glass baubles and often topped with a Christmas fairy. Quite often there would also be a nativity scene, either bought or homemade. Indeed, most years the children's TV programme Blue Peter gave instructions on how to make your own. Blue Peter, always inventive and often defying health and safety, even taught small children

how to make an advent crown from wire coat hangers, with a lit candle at each corner!

Food preparations began with the making of the Christmas cake and Christmas puddings. This was usually three or four weeks before the day itself: a sixpence might be stirred into the pudding batter for luck.

Christmas began for many families on Christmas Eve. Most shops and businesses worked until at least lunchtime on Christmas Eve: this was also the day when the festive food and drink was bought. There were few home freezers so all the produce for Christmas lunch had to be bought as close as possible to the day itself. Orders were taken by the butcher, greengrocer and baker as supermarkets were only just beginning to open in the high street. The whole family, except those working, would be needed to collect the food, as there was a great deal to be carried home.

All over the country, pots and bottles of loose change, collected over the year, would be emptied in order to pay for the Christmas drinks. Alcohol was purchased from the off licence – often a section of the local pub. All shops would be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, so if something was forgotten, it was too late – which could be a catastrophe, if batteries for the longed-for Christmas toy had been forgotten!

On Christmas Eve at bedtime, parents would ceremoniously lay out a plate with a mince pie and a glass of sherry (Harvey's Bristol Cream, of course) for Father Christmas, by the Christmas tree. Sometimes a carrot would also be left for Rudolph.

Stockings or pillow cases were left by the beds upstairs, ready to be filled with gifts – if the child had been good, of course!

Every year the stocking would contain a satsuma or mandarin orange, a walnut and a coin. Often there were also chocolate coins, a chocolate selection box, puzzle books, small toys, crayons and an annual, often Beano or Dandy: the main present would have been wrapped and placed under the tree downstairs.

Main presents were opened after breakfast: for children these might be a watch (perhaps a Tic-a-Tic-a-Timex), Scalextric or a Sindy doll. Other favourite gifts included Etch-a-Sketch, Meccano, 3D View Master and the Amazing Magic Robot that

answered questions. Relatives might also bring homemade gifts, such as hand knitted jumpers and scarves.

The main event at Christmas lunch was not always turkey: the meat of choice might be chicken, capon or goose. Chicken in the early 1960s was an expensive meat, as this was before factory farming. The Christmas table was not decorated with special Christmas-themed items as it might be today: this was the occasion for the 'best' tablecloth, china, glass and silver, brought out just for special occasions and packed away safely through the rest of the year. Christmas crackers would be laid out by the place settings at the table: it was obligatory to wear the paper hats throughout the meal!

The meal began with soup, often Baxters rather than homemade and usually something gamey like 'Highland Broth', which in those days tasted a little like dishwater with small pieces of gristle, but was part of the Christmas tradition and so appeared ever year!

The turkey came with all the trimmings: chipolatas or pigs in blankets, bread sauce and stuffing. The stuffing was sometimes sausagemeat and sometimes chestnut, a little more luxurious than the usual sage and onion. Roast potatoes, mashed potatoes, carrots, parsnips and of course, sprouts accompanied the meat.

The Christmas pudding then made a very special, theatrical entrance, wreathed in flame from the brandy that had been poured over it and lit.

After the washing up, the family would gather around the one TV in the house or if there was no TV, around the wireless. All would stop at 3pm for the Queen's Christmas broadcast.

There were just two TV channels in the early 1960s: the BBC and ITV, the commercial channel. These were joined in 1964 by BBC2. For some inexplicable reason, quite often through the 1960s the main two TV companies would both schedule a circus on Christmas afternoon: Billy Smart's Circus on the BBC and another on ITV!

The evening meal on Christmas Day was always the same every year: cold cuts of meat, usually ham and leftover turkey from lunch, pork pie, bread rolls, tomatoes, pickles and crisps, trifle, mince pies and chocolate log. Pride of place on the table would be the Christmas cake, covered in white icing and decorated with a Father Christmas figure, some reindeer perhaps, a robin or two and maybe a sprig of plastic holly. These wonderful if mismatched cake decorations were added to over the years, so quite often the robin might end up towering over both Father Christmas and the reindeer!

Boxing Day was the day for visiting family. Car ownership was becoming more common, making family get-togethers easier. Lunch might be roast beef or lamb, or leftover roast turkey.

And then the Christmas festivities were over for another year!

Lois Samuel, your Devon County Councillor

Contact details: Risdon Farm, Jacobstowe, Okehampton EX20 3AJ

Tel: 01837 851240

Email: Lois.Samuel@devon.gov.uk



Caroline Mott, your West Devon Borough Councillor(and Mayor of West Devon)

Contact details: Great Close Farm, Bridestowe, Devon, EX20 4NT

Tel: 01837 861212

Email: cmott@westdevon.gov.uk



Terry Southcott, your other West Devon Borough Councillor

Contact details: Tel:01566 783079

Email: Cllr.Terry.Southcott@westdevon.gov.uk .



Boasley Chapel's **December Happenings**

Advent Course 'Meekness and Majesty' with Angela Banfield starting Friday November 29th, then Fridays 6th and 13th, culminating on Wednesday 18th December, 6.30pm at Boasley Chapel.



Sunday December 1st Afternoon Tea 2.30 - 4.30pm

Sunday December 8th Service 11am with Maggie Whitehouse

Sunday December 8th, Forest Church Walk 2-3pm, with Angela Banfield.
Meet at Evergreen Farm, Ashwater EX21 5HE

Thursday December 19th Christmas Soup and Sweet
12-2pm Very popular! Wide choice of homemade soups and puddings. Everyone very welcome.

Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm with Angela Banfield

Forest Church - exploring God's creation -

Join us every 2nd Sunday, to meet,
explore and worship in God's
Creation,

2 - 3pm

Meet at Evergreen Farm,
Beckett, Ashwater, Devon EX21 5HE
Come prepared for whatever the

weather

Hot chocolate at the end

Dogs on leads, welcome

Suitable for all ages

Toilets available at the meeting point

LAUNCH SESSION **8th December 2024**

DATES FOR 2025

12th Jan	9th Feb
9th Mar	13th April
11th May	8th June
13th July	14th Sept
12th Oct	9th Nov
14th Dec	

*The heavens declare the glory of
God, and the sky above
proclaims his handiwork. Psalm
19:1*



Tavistock Memory Cafe provides locally based support and information to those living with dementia, their family, carers and friends. Memory Cafe runs two bookable meetings on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month.

AM session 11.00-12.30

PM session 14.00-15.30

Trained volunteers greet members old & new, after an initial chance to chat over tea & biscuits/cake, carers can join a peer support group in a separate room, to share experiences, exchange information or hear from a guest professional, always in strict confidence. Meanwhile those living with dementia get involved in a variety of stimulating activities supported by our volunteers, quizzes, art & craft, live music, singing & celebratory events are often in the programme.

Care & Share sessions are on the 3rd Thursday of each month providing carers & family a spell of time for themselves for 1-4 hours from 10.30-14.30. Those living with dementia & attending will be involved in a variety of stimulating activities.

Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) is a course of structured therapeutic sessions that are based around a topic with talking, music & pictures, all leading to a stimulating, fun & beneficial experience. Run by trained facilitators. The sessions are for an hour, once a week over 12 weeks.

For more information visit our website:-

tavistockmemorycafe.co.uk

or our Facebook page

or contact Heather on

07436 008 281 or email

info@tavistockmemorycafe.co.uk.



Do you enjoy Alpine Skiing and prefer a small social group of 8-10? Then the Random Schusser wants you! For 2 or 3 fully organised all inclusive packages using mainstream providers, so

ABTA/ATOL protected.

Group bookings share discounts, why pay full price?

2025 Season- January is probably the La Rosiere & Thuille area, February the Silvretta Montafon area, March definitely the Sella Ronda, if not before!

Information: Gerald@jacksmeadow.co.uk

Lunar cycle for December



New moon 1st & 30th

First quarter 8th

Full moon 15th

Last quarter 22nd

The full moon in December is named Cold Moon. The Old English and Anglo-Saxon names are the Moon Before Yule or the Long Night Moon, referring to the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere: the December solstice. The Celts called it the Oak Moon or the Full Cold Moon.

What about stars? Vega is the fifth-brightest star in the whole night sky. You'll find it shining low in the west as the sky grows dark, a beautiful blue-white spark of light. By midnight it will be almost scraping the horizon, but then it will start to climb higher again, never quite setting.

Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010

Winter opening times

October to March

Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4.30pm



Pull out and keep



The winter months can be difficult for many of us, with the colder weather and shorter daylight hours affecting everything from our finances to our feelings.

We've put together a series of special edition 'winter support and wellbeing' newsletters to share information and advice to help you and your families to stay well, warm, happy and safe this winter. This one is about help with the cost of living, because if you don't have enough money to live on, it's important to make sure you know what support is available.

Household Support Fund

The Government has made funding available to local councils so that they can offer direct support to those most in need in their area. It's called the Household Support Fund.

It must be used to help people who are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials, and specifically those households that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the Government.

This year, Devon has been allocated a little over £5 million, and we are working closely with Devon's eight District, City and Borough councils as well as voluntary and community partners on several schemes that will support our most vulnerable residents over the coming months. Please visit your local council's website for details of what support is available in your area:-

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/other-available-support/household-support-fund>

Citizens Advice Devon energy vouchers

If you're struggling to pay your energy bill or have a prepay meter and can't afford to top it up, Citizens Advice Devon can help.

We've given Citizens Advice Devon money from the Government's Household Support Fund to provide fuel vouchers for electricity and gas to anyone struggling to meet their household bills, whether it's by prepayment meter, on receipt of a bill or by direct debit.

Citizens Advice Devon also provide longer-term support through initiatives that help homes become more energy efficient, as well as 'warmth bundles' to help people stay warm at home. These bundles include things like heated throws, body warmers or rechargeable hot water bottles.

Contact your local Citizens Advice office for more information:- www.cabdevon.org.uk/advice/

Extra support for households in receipt of benefits

Our Team Devon partners at district, borough and city councils have been given a share of the Household Support Fund to enable them to provide 'one off' financial help to households who are vulnerable and struggling financially to secure food, water, energy and other essentials.

They will look to identify, contact and help those who may not be eligible for the other support the Government has recently made available, but who are nevertheless in need.

Details of what is on offer in each area is available on your local council's website

Food, Fuel and More from The Devon Community Foundation

We are continuing to work with the Devon Community Foundation, sharing some of the Household Support Fund with them so that they can help communities that are under-served by other support programmes, and are likely therefore to be impacted more severely by the cost of living crisis. The Foundation's 'Food, Fuel and More' programme has so far distributed more than £1.3 million in grants to voluntary and community groups. Their work supports households with disabled residents or those suffering ill-health, which has a direct impact on household income and their ability to meet food and energy bills. This also includes people experiencing homelessness and those in temporary or insecure housing; and minority ethnic communities who are not accessing support through other channels; and Traveller, Gypsy and Roma communities.

A total of £200,000 funding is available through this latest round. Small grants of up to £5,000 are available for voluntary and community groups working with people from under-served communities who are struggling to afford food, utility bills and other related essentials. Find out more on the Devon Community Foundation website:- <https://devoncf.com/fund/food-fuel-and-more/>

Growing Communities Fund

Many local groups and organisations support their community over winter, and we support them through our Growing Communities Fund.

We set up the fund to support proactive, effective, measurable and sustainable actions to help people and communities build self-reliance and resilience, reduce loneliness and isolation, improve local people's mental health and wellbeing and reduce food and fuel inequalities.

Grants of between £500 and £1,000 are available for projects that, for example, offer communities a warm welcome and a safe space, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity and address hardship. There's also support for the recruitment, training and retention of volunteers.

For more information and to apply for a grant, please visit our website.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/growing-communities-fund>

Free school meals

If you're struggling to pay food bills, we encourage you to check your eligibility and apply for free school meals for your child.

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. From year 3 onwards, just children whose parents are receiving certain benefits are entitled to free school meals during term time. However, parents are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support their learning.

Some children whose parents meet the eligibility criteria and whose child attends a school nursery all day can also get a free school meal when they are two, three or four years old.

You can apply for free school meals for your child on our website,

(<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/>) and you'll get an instant decision. Or you can call our education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

If you have applied unsuccessfully before and your financial circumstances have since changed, please apply again.

Supermarket vouchers for the school holidays

The financial challenges faced by some families can be intensified during school holidays because of increased costs such as food, especially with the current cost of living, and reduced incomes due to childcare.

We want to make sure that no child in Devon goes hungry in the school holidays, when free school meals are unavailable. We can only do that by using some of the Government's Household Support Fund to help families who receive benefits-related free school meals during term time, to purchase food over the holidays.

Supermarket vouchers worth £45 will be sent to each child currently eligible for free school meals during term time, to spend during the Christmas holiday and February half-term break to replace the meals they would have had at school during the day. More detailed information about our free school meals holiday voucher scheme is available on our website.
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme/>

Free school holiday activities

Children aged five to 16-years-old who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are invited to take part in our action-packed Holiday Activities and Food programme. We've teamed up with over 60 different providers across Devon to offer a great range of free physical activities and healthy, nutritional, hot meals during the school holidays. Activities including a range of sports and coaching opportunities, indoor and outdoor play activities; magic and circus skills; film making; arts and crafts; music; cooking; theatre workshops; yoga and mindfulness; and a lot more! Some schemes are also offering hampers for the holidays. Bookings are now open, and details of activities can be found on our interactive map. (<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/family-support/haf-programme/>) If your child is eligible to access the programme, simply search for a provider in your area, have a look at their listing to see what they're offering, then when you're ready, book a place with them directly.

Save on childcare costs

Childcare is one of the biggest costs facing working families today. The Government wants to make childcare more affordable and accessible to reduce the barriers that may be preventing some parents from working. The Childcare Choices website brings together all of the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax Free Childcare, 30 Hours Funded Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare scheme together to get the most out of it. There's also a 'Childcare Calculator' to add up all the help you can get.
<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator?>

Get a healthy start

If you're more than ten weeks pregnant or have a child under four-years-old, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food, such as fresh, frozen and tinned fruit and vegetables, fresh, dried, and tinned pulses and cow's milk. If you're eligible, you'll be sent a Healthy Start card with money added to it every four weeks. You can also use your card for infant formula milk based on cow's milk and to collect vitamins for you and vitamin drops for babies and young children:- <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>
To find out more, visit the NHS website.

Are you missing out on Pension Credit?

The Government is encouraging pensioners to check if they qualify for pension credit, and if so, to apply for it in order to receive the winter fuel payment, and other benefits. You'll need to apply by Saturday 21 December to get the winter fuel payment though, as that's the final date for making a backdated claim for pension credit. Pension Credit tops up your weekly income to £218.15 if you're single; or your joint weekly income to £332.95 if you have a partner. You can apply for Pension Credit up to four months before you reach State Pension age, or any time after you reach State Pension age, but your application can only be backdated by three months. You can apply online, over the telephone, or by post. To find out if you are eligible for Pension Credit, visit the Government's website.

Cold days, warm libraries

Libraries across Devon are continuing to throw their doors open to help communities find warmth and stay well this winter.

Staff and volunteers are pulling out all the stops to make sure people feel welcomed and supported with a range of activities and offers such as community events, free hot drinks and rails full of warm coats for anyone who needs one.

Library teams have devised their own programmes of services for individual communities, considering customer need for their particular location. To find out what Libraries Unlimited is planning as part of their Cold Days, Warm Libraries campaign, keep an eye on their website or visit your nearest library's website. You can join any of the Devon libraries for free by visiting Libraries Unlimited's Devon website. <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>

Don't fall for a loan shark. They're not your friend

With energy prices set to rise and people on lower incomes possibly worrying about their finances this winter, Trading Standards is reminding people not to be tempted by 'loan sharks'.

Loan sharks target vulnerable people who may not be able to obtain credit through mainstream providers. They may appear to be a friendly face offering a favour but can end up trapping borrowers into a cycle of debt with high interest rates. Some may use threats, intimidation, or violence if repayments cannot be met.

Read our full story for safety tips to protect you and your loved ones from loan sharks.

If it looks too good to be true, it probably is

With the cost of living crisis and particularly before Christmas people are on the lookout for a bargain. Fraudsters are aware of this and waiting to exploit you.

Research shows more than one in four people have been tricked by purchase scams, which is where a person makes a payment for goods or services online that never turn up.

Criminals often advertise technology products like phones or computers at low prices to attract buyers, persuading them to make bank transfers, then disappearing once the payment is made. They generally do this either through fake websites or fake ads on social media as well as auction sites.

Check website links to make sure they are genuine. They should start with 'https' and have a padlock in the address bar which you can click on for more information about the website's security. Also read reviews online across a range of sources, such as Trustpilot or Feefo.

Never be rushed into making a purchase. Always take five to stop fraud.

Money worries and mental health

Worrying about money can have a big impact on your mental health and wellbeing, and in turn, having poor mental health can make managing your finances harder.

So it's important to do things that help you feel more in control and get support if you need it.

The NHS Every Mind Matters website has lots of support and information that can help if you're facing money worries, including helping you manage your debt, which can help reduce the immediate stress.

Cheaper broadband and phone packages

Some broadband and phone providers offer cheaper packages to help customers on low incomes.

They're called 'social tariffs', although some providers call them 'essential' or 'basic' broadband.

They're delivered in the same way as normal packages, just at a lower price.

Most providers require you to be in receipt of certain benefits to qualify. You can check if your current provider offers a social tariff on the Ofcom website, and if they do you can contact them and ask to switch.

BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP



Our next meeting will be on
Thursday 5th December at
7pm at Millaton Cottage.

Thanks to David and Rosemarie for
volunteering to host it. We will be discussing
The Gallows Pole by Benjamin Myers
This is our Christmas social and, as is the
tradition, we all bring along a book bought
from a charity shop for our 'Secret Santa.'

01566 783529

email: neil@neiledgson.com

About the book

*A dark, primal story of smuggling, suppression
and retribution set in eighteenth-century
Yorkshire, The Gallows Pole's stygian murk
borders on folk horror. A fictionalised retelling of
the outlaw Cragg Vale Coiners and the brutality
they trailed in their wake, it is a novel that
bubbles with uncanny local myth and parochial
terrors.*

*From his remote moorland home, David Hartley
assembles a gang of weavers and land-workers
to embark upon a criminal enterprise that will
capsize the economy and become the biggest
fraud in British history.*

*They are the Cragg Vale Coiners and their
business is 'clipping' - the forging of coins, a
treasonous offence punishable by death. When
an excise officer vows to bring them down and
with the industrial age set to change the face of
England forever, Hartley's empire begins to
crumble.*

*Forensically assembled, The Gallows Pole is a
true story of resistance and a rarely told
alternative history of the North.*
[www.waterstones.com/book/the-gallows-pole/
benjamin-myer](http://www.waterstones.com/book/the-gallows-pole/benjamin-myer)

Shane Meadows directed a serialisation of the
novel which was aired on BBC Two in 2023
and is, apparently, a must-see.

Live music at The Wharf, Tavistock ...

Saturday 14th December

Sanctum Sanctorium – The Darkside of The 80s

In the dimly lit corridors of musical nostalgia,
emerge *Sanctum Sanctorium*, a band that defies
the boundaries of time to resurrect the haunting
melodies and enigmatic spirit of The Darkside of
The 80s. With an unwavering commitment to
capturing the essence of that era's shadowy
allure, *Sanctum Sanctorium* transports audiences
to a realm where synthesizers pulse like
heartbeat echoes through fog-laden streets, and
electric guitars wield the power to cast sonic
spells.

Performing as a full live band – Expect to hear:
The Cult // Bauhaus // Killing Joke // Sisters Of
Mercy // The Mission // Siouxsie & The Banshees
// The Cure & More...

Sanctum Sanctorium is a collective of seasoned
musicians who share a deep-seated passion for
the brooding atmospheres, post-punk rhythms,
and new wave anthems that characterized the
musical landscape of the 1980s. Each member,
drawn together by a magnetic pull towards the
mysterious and the melancholic, contributes
their unique talents to conjure a sonic tapestry
that pays homage to the dark corners of a
bygone era.

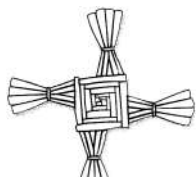
Sanctum Sanctorium's performances are
immersive experiences, transporting fans to a
time when the nightlife was drenched in neon
and the air was thick with mystique. Whether it's
the pulsating rhythms of "She Sells Sanctuary" or
the hypnotic melodies of "House Of Love" each
song is a sonic séance, invoking the spirits of the
80s to weave their enchantment once more.

As guardians of The Darkside of The 80s,
Sanctum Sanctorium invites you to join them on a
journey through time, where shadows dance and
music speaks the language of the enigmatic.
Enter the sanctum, and let the haunting
melodies of *Sanctum Sanctorium* cast their spell
upon you.

Ticket prices:

From 6pm on the night	£20.00
Adult in Advance	£18.00
Seated+Standing	

Bridestowe Churches Partnership



of Christmas, Lord and Saviour, Guide and Friend. Jesus is the heart of Christmas, Find his peace on busy days. May the messages of Advent Guide us through the Christmas maze. Jesus is the heart of Christmas, Sing each carol in his praise!

Sunday Worship for December

Sunday 1st

9.30am See Sourton BaSe entry for details
10.30am to 12.30pm Cafe Church in The Ark
(Worship, Coffee, Tea, Chat, Children's activities)

Sunday 8th

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Bridget's.
11.00am Morning service at the Methodist Church led by D Sutcliffe.

Sunday 15th to Sunday 22nd

Christmas Tree Festival in St Bridget's.
Opening times:

Sunday 15th 11.00am to 7.00pm
Monday 16th to Saturday 21st 10.00am to 7.00pm
Sunday 22nd 11.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday 15th

11.00am Joint service at the Methodist Chapel with M Cooke.

Sunday 22nd

11.00am Bridestowe Worship Group
6.30pm Joint Carol service at St Bridget's to close the Christmas Tree Festival.
Monday 23rd
2.00pm Walking Nativity. Start at the Sporting Green.

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Bridget's.

Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas morning service at the Methodist Chapel.

Sunday 29th

11.00am Morning service at the Methodist Church led by D A Banfield. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

4.00pm Evening Prayer at St Bridget's

Jesus is the heart of Christmas, Give the Lord his rightful place! Garlands gleam with his charisma, Tinsel, glisten with his grace! Jesus is the heart of Christmas Welcome him with love and praise! Jesus is the heart of Christmas, Share him in each card you send. Give each gift in love and friendship, Share his gifts which have no end. Jesus is the heart



The Ark

The Coffee Morning held in November raised £205 for DEC Middle East Appeal. Many thanks to all who contributed. The December Coffee Morning on **Saturday 14th December** will be for The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Do come along. Coffee / tea / biscuits and of course a warm room. Sorry that we had to close the Ark on Thursday 21st November but neither Sylvia or I could get down to the village.

Do remember that the Ark is a warm space to meet friends. The Tuesday Whist afternoon has been well attended in recent weeks. It is always good fun and there will be someone ready to give a helping hand.

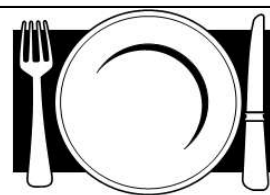
Opening times

Tuesdays 10 - 12 with coffee, cake and a friendly chat, and 2 - 4, when you can play whist. Thursday 10 - 12. Laugh and Craft or just pop in for a chat.

The Over 60's Lunch Club is out to lunch on **Tuesday 10th December.**

Bookings should already have been made with Jennifer 861592.

Meet at 12.15 for lunch at 12.30



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Do you need to make any changes to your deliveries over the Christmas and New Year holiday?

If you need any changes to your deliveries from 20th December to 2nd January, please let us know by Wednesday 18th December, as we will not be able to make any changes from then until 3rd January.

This is to allow us to pre order with our suppliers who need advance notification of any changes over the holiday period.

This only applies to holidays, papers, and Trewithen Milk as we will not be delivering, Taw River bottled milk and other services such as vegetable boxes, bread and groceries.

These will resume from Thursday 2nd January 2025.

Christmas Order Forms

The last date for submission to guarantee your order is Monday 25th November. If you would like to order anything and haven't yet done so, please call Michaela and we will do our best to try and get your order placed.

Gift Cards now include a new addition - John Lewis

New to our gift card offering via the Post Office is John Lewis. This is in addition to the gift cards we also offer from, 'All for One' & Amazon.

The Post Office have updated our telephone systems to digital and as such the new telephone they have supplied us, doesn't support an answer machine, so our customers are not able to leave any messages. If you don't get through to us please try again or email us on riversidestores@hotmail.com

OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2024/25

Friday 20th December 9am – 6pm

Saturday 21st December - 9am - 12noon

Sunday 22nd December to Sunday 29th December - Closed

Monday 30th December - 9am - 6pm

Tuesday 31st December - 9am - 6pm

Wednesday 1st January 2025 - Closed

Thursday 2nd January onwards - Normal Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturday 9am – 12 noon, Sunday Closed.

Thank you. Michaela, Colin and our valued team of drivers.

Okehampton

Library

offers so much more than books.

It's a warm,

welcoming space

with free WiFi and computer access, people to chat to, groups and activities. Enjoy a natter with other customers or have a go at our community puzzle.

EVENTS

DECEMBER

Christmas Raffle: Tickets £1 each - available from Okehampton Library.

Support your local library with a chance to win the contents of our luxurious CHRISTMAS HAMPER. One winner will be drawn on Saturday 21st December 2024.

This draw has been organised by our Friends of Okehampton Library and all proceeds will go to the group to fund future events and activities at the library.

Festive Quiz sheets: £1 each - available from Okehampton Library.

Bored over Christmas? Pick up a copy of our Friends of Okehampton Library quiz to test your festive knowledge. Fun for all the family! Closing date 3rd January 2025. Prize: 2 cinema tickets, kindly donated by The New Carlton Cinema, Okehampton.

Surprise wrapped books

Give yourself or a loved one the gift of a surprise read!

Suggested donations:

Adult books – 50p each. Young adult and children's books – 50p a bundle.

Each book was kindly donated by our customers, selected by staff, and wrapped by our Friends of Okehampton Library.

Police Community drop in: Tuesday 3 December, 15:30-16:30

Police Community Support Officer, Sean Jones, will be here if you would like to come in and chat. He said: "It will be a good chance for us to engage with the community and answer any questions or concerns people have, as well as passing on advice if they would like it. I will also bring along some finger printing kits for any children to take part in."



Christmas Craft Table for all ages: 16-21

December during library opening hours

Enjoy some festive crafting using the materials provided. Free drop-in activity, donations welcome.

Libraries Unlimited Book Awards: voting closes 17 January 2025

Explore our short list of the most-read books from libraries across Devon and Torbay! From bestsellers to hidden gems, these are the books that have captured the hearts of our readers. Now it's your turn to vote for your favourite!

Cast your Vote via our website
discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Alternatively, you can vote in person in your local library. You will be automatically entered into a prize draw!

Keep an eye out for more events and activities at Okehampton Library. Visit our website:
www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/okehamptonlibrary

Opening Hours

Monday 09:00-17:00

Tuesday 09:00-18:00

Wednesday 09:00-13:00

Thursday 09:00-17:00

Friday 09:00-18:00

Saturday 09:00-13:00

The Glebe Park

laundrette is in operation.

Wash £6

Dry £1.50 (for 20 mins)

Open 8am - 8pm

You will need tokens for both machines which you can buy from Reception.



BaSE We received a very generous donation from Bakers Building recently which will help to meet the cost of toner and paper. Thank you.

Also many thanks for to those unsung heroes who deliver the newsletter every month. What would we do without you.

Martin and Alison

News from Lydford Gorge

National Trust

Rose Cooke, Visitor Experience Officer



Well, the experts predicted autumn colour would be better than last year, and last longer. And as I write this in November we've still got a lot of colour around to enjoy and the temperature has been unseasonably warm. But I'm looking forward to a few crisp mornings as we head into December.

The ranger team, with help from the rope access specialists, Rope Geeks, took up the platform in the Devil's Cauldron in November. This will prevent it being damaged by debris brought down in winter floods. They are also once again busy with tree safety work, as this all needs to be completed before reopening in March.

If you're looking for something to get you in the Christmas spirit...

Step back in time and get into the festive spirit as we celebrate Viking Yule at Buckland Abbey. Running 10am-4pm every day until Tue 31 Dec, excluding 25 and 26 Dec.

Castle Drogo will be traditionally dressed with trees, garlands and of course lights to give that feel-good glow of Christmas. Running 10.30am-3.30pm every day from Fri 6 to Mon 30 Dec, excluding 24, 25 and 26 Dec.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the whole team at Lydford Gorge. We hope you get to spend time with friends and family, eat some good food, and get a chance to enjoy the benefits of being out in nature too.

Opening Times until Friday 28 February 2024

The waterfall trail and railway path will be open for walks during daylight hours.

All other facilities, including the toilets, will be closed.

We plan to reopen from Saturday 1 March 2025

The rest of the gorge trails are closed over winter for safety and essential maintenance work. This can include tree work, path work and rock face inspections, so please do not pass any locked gates. Please check the

website - nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge
Email: lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk Tel: 01822 820320

Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: [lydford.gorge.nt](https://www.instagram.com/lydford.gorge.nt)

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A quirky poem from our poet at Glebe Park

A Fun Poem for Christmas

You may have a few drinks
On Christmas Eve night
A pizza or two will be alright
In the morning, after a sleep
Pull back the curtains
And have a quick peep
Outside is devastation!
In the night our planet
Has been taken over
By an alien nation!

Merry Christmas!

Dan



Plan Ahead for a Magical Christmas at Bearslake Inn

Whether you're planning a cosy get-together with friends or an unforgettable Christmas Day feast, Bearslake Inn offers the perfect setting for all your holiday gatherings.

Festive Dining at Bearslake

Looking for the perfect place to host your festive party? Our Festive Party Menu is ideal for groups of six or more, offering a delicious selection of dishes made with the finest local, seasonal produce. Choose between two courses for £29 per person or three courses for £36 per person. Pre-booking is essential to secure your spot! *Available between 25th November and 23rd December.*

Book Your Festive Party Now Christmas Day Dining

Join us on Christmas Day for a magical experience complete with roaring fires, twinkling lights, and a warm welcome in our historic inn. Enjoy a sumptuous spread featuring traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings, indulgent Christmas desserts, and a carefully selected wine list. Pair your meal with one of our festive cocktails, perfectly crafted to complement your dining experience.

Available on Wednesday, 25th December only.

Reserve Your Christmas Day Table Cosy Festive Afternoon Teas

Indulge in Chef Dolton's selection of seasonal treats and traditional favourites with our Festive Afternoon Tea, available every Friday and Saturday between 2:30 pm and 4 pm. For a little extra sparkle, why not add a glass of Prosecco or mulled wine? Priced at £24.95 per person, these delightful teas must be pre-booked at least 12 hours in advance.

Available Fridays & Saturdays from 22nd November to 21st December.

Book Your Festive Afternoon Tea

We look forward to welcoming you to a season of warmth, joy, and unforgettable dining!

Your team at Bearslake Inn



Mae Greenaway, one of our Sourton readers, has a message for certain dog owners.

Sourton Village Hall - a venue for all occasions



Sourton Village Hall is a popular venue for special events such as wedding receptions, birthday parties, concerts, family parties and wakes following funerals. It is also an ideal function venue for conferences, meetings, training seminars and exercise classes. The hall has good facilities; it offers a large hall that can seat 120 and 220 standing comfortably; a well appointed kitchen and a small meeting room. There is a male, female and disabled toilet off the main hall. Outside there is a patio to the right hand side of the hall and this is often used to have a covered bar. The hall has disabled /wheelchair access with ramped entrances. There is a small area to the front of the village hall for parking but often extra parking can be made available for a large function on request.

For prices and to book, contact

Paul Alford 07799 778 779

Sally Gibson 07305 112586

Visit the website to see prices and view the calendar for availability

www.sourtonvillagehall.or



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Clothing repairs and alterations • Curtain making and alterations • Soft furnishings, cushions, throws, etc • Pet beds • Upholstery and furniture recovering. I am also happy to discuss bespoke requests. If you have any projects or requirements you need looked at, please feel free to contact me. **Wendy Hannaford** on **07960 026385** or via email **wendyhannaford@yahoo.co.uk**



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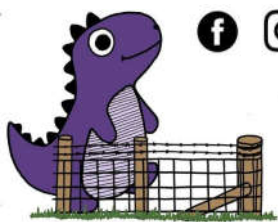
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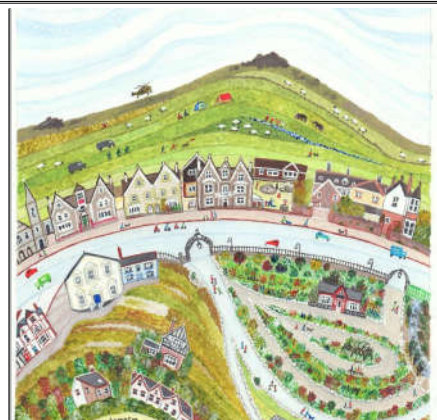
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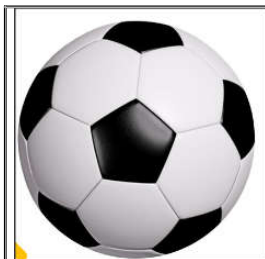
Forthcoming Events in December

Sunday 1st	2.30pm - 4.30pm, Boasley Chapel, Afternoon Tea
Monday 2nd	7pm, Fox & Hounds, BCC Extraordinary General Meeting
Thursday 5th	12.30pm, Bow Garden Centre, Thursday Morning Group 6pm - 9pm EDWARDIAN EVENING, OKEHAMPTON 7pm, Millaton Cottage, Reading Group
Saturday 7th	10am - 1pm, St Bridget's Church, Coffee morning
Sunday 8th	12 - 2pm, Sourton Village Hall, Soup lunches
Tuesday 10th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Christmas lunch
Wednesday 11th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of Bridestowe Cricket Club
Saturday 14th	9am - 12pm, Charter Hall, Coffee Morning + stalls 10 - 12noon, The Ark, Coffee Morning in aid of Salvation Army 5.30pm - 8pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Family Christmas Party 7.30pm, Tavistock Methodist Church, Concert 7.30pm, The Wharf, Tavistock, live music
Sunday 15th	St Bridget's Church, Christmas Tree Festival begins
Monday 16th	7.30pm, Fairplace Church, Okehampton, Festive Favourites
Thursday 19th	12pm - 2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Monday 23rd	2pm, Sporting Green, Walking Nativity
Saturday 28th	10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps

Midnight Mass at St Bridget's Church on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm



LYDFORD FOXES F.C.



LYDFORD FOXES AFC

Sessions for children in Years 2, 3 and 4.

Our fun and exciting session for our popular "Fox Cubs" is back on Saturday mornings from 09.00 - 10.00 at Lydford Sports Field

Established in 2016 this small, friendly local youth football club with a strong family feel, offers fun training sessions to focus on the development of skills for the game of football.

Sessions run at Lydford Sports Field, EX20 4BE every Saturday and on Tuesday evenings at Ashbury all-weather pitch. To register your interest, please contact us: play@lydfordfoxes.com or www.lydfordfoxes.com or call 07792 906 608
Lydford Foxes also currently have an U12s team playing in the Adrenalin Devon Junior & Minor League and the U18s that are focusing on a pathway to lead into training and playing with nearby local adult team, FC Tavyside.

Contact details for BaSE:- Alison Young, Glebe Park, Pig's Leg Lane, Bridestowe, Okehampton, Devon EX20 4ER Tel: (01837)861157 or ali.young53@btinternet.com (please put BaSE in the subjectline)

Deadline around 25th of the month but can be flexible. It's always worth getting in contact after the date. The newsletter can be read online via the Bridestowe website, just follow the link for BaSE.