

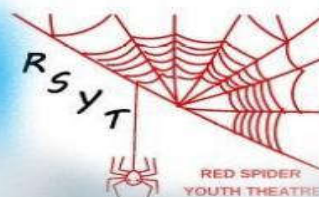
Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events February 2025 Edition 273

RED SPIDER YOUTH THEATRE

PRESENT:



The Magicians' Nephew

By C S Lewis

Adapted for the stage by Glyn Robbins

The first magic tale in the Chronicles of Narnia

LEWDOWN VICTORY HALL

Friday, 21 Feb – 7pm

Saturday, 22 Feb – 3pm

BOX OFFICE: 01409 221409

ONLINE: www.seaty.co.uk/RSYTFEB

ADULTS: £8

UNDER 12s £4

Tickets on the door subject to availability

Amateur performance rights courtesy of Concorde Theatricals.

Land Adjacent to the Cemetery - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Following its successful drop-in session last October, Baker Estates is holding a public exhibition on 26th February when it will share more detailed plans for land adjacent to the cemetery. Everyone is invited. For more information, see page 2.

The Vicar writes...

"Never trust a bull" they used to say on the farm. "Billy seems quiet enough" (all bulls were called Billy) we'd reply, to be answered with a deluge of stories about quiet bulls who suddenly and unexpectedly attacked someone. Once you were thoroughly frightened and never wanted to go near a bull again, you were instructed to be confident and assertive around them and never show any fear!

Not trusting bulls shows wisdom but in most areas of life we are taught to put our trust and faith in all sorts of things and people. We base our lives more on trust than fact. Take the modern adage "Trust the science" it sounds sensible enough but unless it was actually you who carried out the scientific procedure or made the discovery, you have to put your trust elsewhere. You trust the scientist carried out the experiment in the way he described, you trust the results were recorded accurately, you trust the results were communicated honestly. Was the research carried out impartially? After all most scientists agree with the people funding them. If someone tells you a story about your Grandad, unless you were there yourself, you trust the person telling you that the story is true. A lot of the time we aren't even aware of where we are placing our trust and faith. It's not uncommon for people to say they don't believe in God because of their experience with Christians or the church. An old Gypsy man said to me once "If being hurt by the Church causes someone to lose faith in God, then their faith was in people not God." My mate Ed ignored the advice and trusted Billy to the extent that he would go into the pen with him, until one day Billy shoved him up against the wall and broke his ribs. God forgives, nature doesn't. What I mean is, what the Bible calls sin is not moral finger wagging or ethics in the modern sense. The commandments and sin are descriptions of reality. No matter how much Ed thought the old boys were wrong and he was right, it didn't change the nature of the bull. We all know this. If you tell a lie, you then have to prop up the lie with lots of other lies and before long things are a mess, relationships break down, trust is destroyed, chaos reigns.

On the other hand you can choose to trust God. If you don't trust the evidence for God find out for yourself. Trust a little, pray a little and you see the result. Pray and see the changes, align the path of your life the right way and your reality transforms. Try it; it's not just bullocks.

Adrian Brook

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Baker Estates is holding a public exhibition where it will share its proposals for new homes and public open space on Land Adjacent to the Cemetery. A drop-in session was held last October, which was well-attended and at which early conceptual plans were shown; feedback from that event has informed the detailed plans.

Before submitting a planning application, Baker Estates would like to share these with the local community. Representatives from Baker Estates will be on hand to answer questions and listen to your feedback.

The exhibition is being held at The Ark, Old Launceston Road, Bridestowe, from 2pm to 7-30 pm on **Wednesday 26th February**. Everyone is welcome.

If you have any questions in the meantime, you can email us at consultation@bakerestatesltd.co.uk

MARK EDWARDS
Head Of Development
Tel: 01626 241404

Mobile: 07494180948
Email: Mark.Edwards@bakerestatesltd.co.uk

Baker Estates Ltd, Green Tree House,
Silverhills Road, Decoy Industrial Estate,
Newton Abbot TQ12 5LZ

www.bakerestatesltd.co.uk

Climate and Ecological Crisis? What's all the fuss about? is a 60-70 minute presentation by **David Ramsden MBE**, an experienced and many say "inspirational" speaker.

David, has been talking about and researching climate change for more than 36 years which has helped him to put together this informative talk which provides an easy-to-follow introduction to the whole subject and the solutions some people are proposing. It is aimed primarily at people who don't understand our global situation, and people who think they do, but have done little or nothing about it.

Want to know the answers to questions like;

"There's an awful lot of fuss being made about Climate Change and people are even talking about extinction.. surely things aren't that bad, are they?"

Or

"The easiest thing to do about climate change is ignore it. What's the big deal anyway? There's nothing new about extreme weather events. These things have always happened. Even if our climate is changing a bit, what does it matter (?) and how do we know it's man-made?"

In the words of Prof. Alasdair Skelton, Director of the Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Stockholm University, *"This is the best talk I have heard about the climate and ecological crisis. I warmly recommend this outstanding talk"*.

So, if you're not sure what climate change is, whether or not it's really happening, or whether anything really needs to be done about it, why not attend David's talk? It's a great way to find out.

This meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th February at Fairplace Church, 3 Fairplace Terrace, Okehampton, EX20 1DT starting at 2.30pm. Admission is £1.00 to help towards costs of venue and refreshments.

Please contact Dee McVey on 01837 658590 for more information.

Tavistock Comedy Club

Angelos Epithemiou

Thursday 27th February at 7:30pm



After two incredible sell-out shows, Tavistock Comedy Club is back with another unforgettable night of top-tier comedy at The Wharf!

Known for his iconic appearances on *Shooting Stars* with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, Angelos Epithemiou is a true comedy heavyweight. With his unique blend of absurdity, deadpan humour, and unforgettable persona, Angelos has become one of the most recognisable and celebrated comedians in the UK. Don't miss this chance to see a true comedy icon live on stage!

Joining Angelos is a carefully curated line-up of brilliant comedians delivering laugh-out-loud moments throughout the evening. With our last two shows selling out well in advance, we strongly recommend booking early to secure your seats for what promises to be another incredible night of laughter.

All Tickets £20.00

Bridestowe Parish Council report

A full meeting of Bridestowe Parish Council was held on Wednesday 15th January. The Council discussed how to respond to Leander Developments' latest application for the construction of 28 dwellings (single & two storey), with associated infrastructure, at Town Meadow.

The Council's response reflected the community's views. It will be available to read on the Bridestowe website.

Grants were awarded to Bridestowe Scout Group (£300) and to the Volunteer Group (£100). The latter is to fund some wild flower plugs that will be planted at appropriate spots around the village.

The parish council is keen to know exactly how many parishioners are interested in taking on an allotment. This would give an indication of how much land is needed. Names to the clerk please.

The council remains concerned about the volume of water that runs across the lower end of Station Road. When this freezes it becomes a lethal sheet of ice. Our local Highways Officer has been contacted and the problem highlighted once again.

The next full parish council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 5th March** 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

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.

Better late than never. Apologies, this should have appeared in January's BaSE. AY
Mark Catchpole who owns Elite Southwest has done an absolutely tremendous job, donating his time and materials to ensure that we now have a permanent home for the Christmas tree in the village, it's been fantastic and we wouldn't have been able to do it without him. Chris Proctor

Sourton Hall Big Quiz

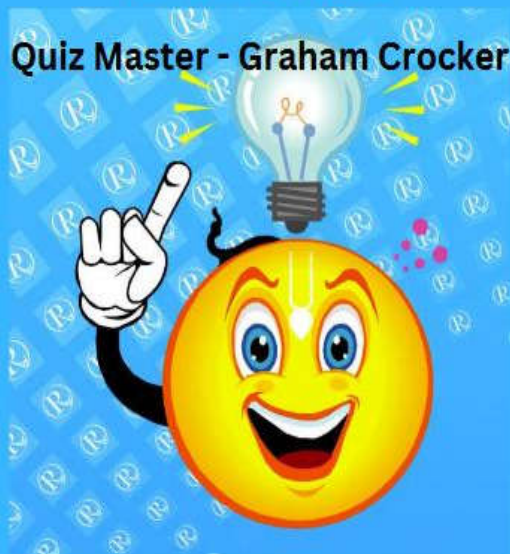
Friday 7th February 2025

7.30pm start

£12 for a team of 4 (Max 6)

£4.00 for extra team member
(to include nibbles)

Quiz Master - Graham Crocker



email: sourtonvh@gmail.com for an entry form

Bar and Food available

NICHOLLS HALL LYDFORD
**BACON BUTTY, CAKE AND COFFEE
MORNING**

Last Saturday of each month
10am -12.30pm
Well behaved dogs welcome
Card payments accepted

Fernworthy Down

by Howard Barkell

I know that plenty of locals, as well as visitors, enjoy walking or cycling along the Granite Way and that it is well used as an area to exercise dogs. I wonder if anybody stops in the gateway to the Down and asks themselves why that remnant of open moor has survived when all the land around it has been enclosed for many years.

It is well nigh impossible to imagine how it would have looked when it was just part of that great open space we know as Dartmoor. The tumulus in Lydford shows that the area was thinly populated in Bronze Age times and the name Fernworthy itself is of Anglo Saxon origin, meaning a home or enclosure, so it is likely that some of the moorland had already started to be taken in by then. Other local places with names ending in ton or ham or ley, even stow date from those times as well.

Incidentally these days we tend to think of bracken as an ever encroaching nuisance, but it must have been common that long ago to have a place named after it. The Devon vernacular for bracken would have it pronounced something like veerd'ns or ferns. The so called King Wall was what eventually divided Fernworthy Down from Dartmoor. It is difficult to know when it was built, but unlikely to have been quite as long ago as 1240 when the king declared Dartmoor to be a Royal Chase or hunting ground. The perambulation in that year decided the boundaries between the Chase and the Commons which surround it. Locally the boundary follows the Rattlebrook from foot to head. Edward, the Black Prince, was created Duke of Cornwall in 1337. He was granted the Forest or Chase and it has been Duchy land ever since.

The King Way was once a route between Tavistock and Okehampton, supposedly used on horseback or on foot particularly to deliver local mail between the towns or that dropped off by mail coach at Okehampton from London. It has been suggested that the route either entered the moor at the end of Skitt Lane or at High Down Gate and followed the wall before rising to the higher ground near Points and crossing the head of Deep Valley to pass behind Sourton Tor to Vellake Corner. The route is now interrupted by the newtake

walls which were built after the way was abandoned.

The first known encroachment on Fernworthy Down itself was a medieval field system characterised by the enclosure banks and the typical ridge and furrow plough patterns. After many centuries of abandonment and rough grazing these are now partially covered by gorse and scrub and are only visible to the trained eye or from an aerial photograph. The ancient track across the west of the down ran roughly parallel a few metres from the present track. It seems likely that the track was used as a guide for the later hedge builders. As wheeled transport replaced pack horses the King Way became redundant and paths became wider tracks. These dirt tracks became quagmires in wet weather as the wide wheels sank into the muddy surface. In 1760 local turnpike trusts were formed. They were responsible for making new roads where necessary and for their upkeep. Travellers had to pay a toll for the privilege of using them. The Okehampton Trust was responsible for the piece from Haly's House (Sourton Down) to Downtown Gate where there was a Toll House. The stretches across Fernworthy Down and Prewley Moor were unfenced. Tolls barely covered expenses and in 1834 the Trustees held a meeting to discuss the necessity of erecting stop-gates, toll gates or side-bars. Possible sites mentioned were at Down Town Corner, Veal Down, Pigs Leg and Haley's House. In 1851 the peaceful nature of the Down was further disturbed when shares for a mine called Wheal Mary were put on sale. It was reported that a shaft was being sunk by six miners. It had reached a depth of eight and a half fathoms (about 15 metres) and some lead and good quality copper had been found. As with most of the local mines at that time expectation always exceeded reality, the shareholders were always being asked for more money. All the mines were eventually amalgamated as Lydford Consols, small quantities of ore were sold, but by 1854 the enterprise had ceased trading. All that was left was a big hole, a few waste dumps and the site of a horse whim which had been used to raise spoil from the shaft. In the 1870's the mine was briefly re-examined as Battishill Down Mine, but it never went into production. The remains are now just a stain on

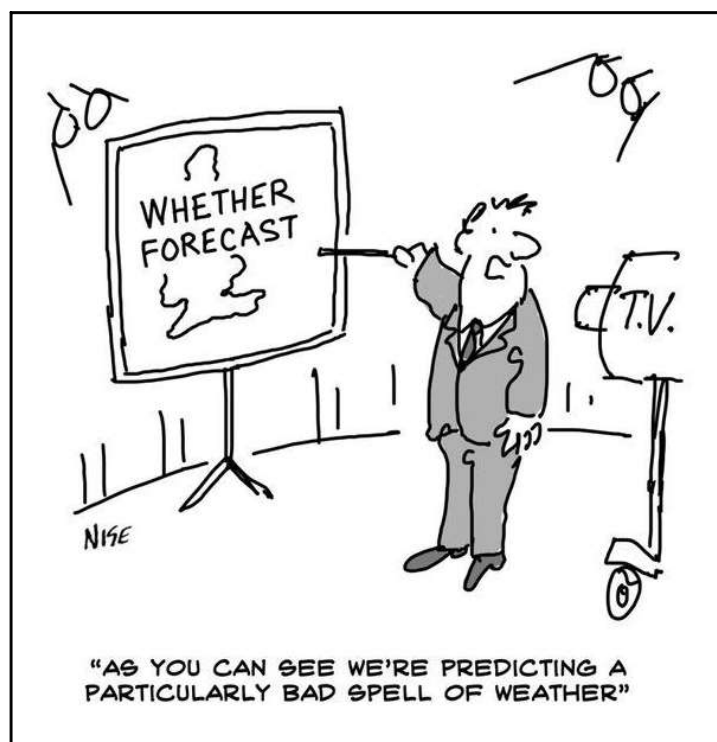
the hillside and much of the site is covered by gorse.

By 1870 the proposed London and South Western Railway line from Waterloo Station in London to Plymouth had reached Okehampton and work had started towards Meldon. The route chosen to Lydford would go right across Fernworthy Down, first through a deep cutting then across a level section on what had been Battishill Down to the parish boundary before another cutting would take the line to Lydford. In 1873 a meeting was held at the Royal Oak, Bridestowe between landowners and tenants and the railway company over compensation for the loss of commonable rights across the Down when the line was fenced on either side. The level crossing where the public entrance gate now is gave farmers access to both sides of the Down. In those days Battishill and Fernworthy belonged to the Millaton Estate and Blackabroom to Leawood. Initially single track the line opened on 12th October 1874. In the blizzard of 1881 an open horse-drawn wagonette with six passengers on its way back to Okehampton got stuck in the snow on Veale Down. The pole between the horses broke and the passengers, driver and two horses managed to struggle to the nearest building at the Fox and Hounds. Perhaps because of this, or because of straying animals or increased traffic the landowners decided to build a hedge along the west side of the road. This enclosure caused a long running battle with a couple smallholders and ended in an acrimonious court case at Exeter. As soon as the landowners built the hedge the smallholders pulled it down overnight. The court's verdict was that the smallholders didn't have the rights of common which they claimed. That part of the down remained as moorland until about 1970 when the scrub was cleared and the ground cultivated, re-seeded and rolled to make the enclosures used for sheep grazing today. A pair of heavy rollers manufactured by Twose of Tiverton used in the reclamation lie rusting away by the remains of an old mineshaft. That probably dates from the abortive workings of the Battishill Down mine a hundred years previously.

The piece of land nearest Dartmoor, now

more likely known as Vale Down has always been rough grazed, even when it was part of Bridestowe Golf Course between the wars. The exception was during World War Two when the Devon War Agricultural Executive Committee ordered it to be ploughed and planted with potatoes. Since then it has returned to typical moorland.

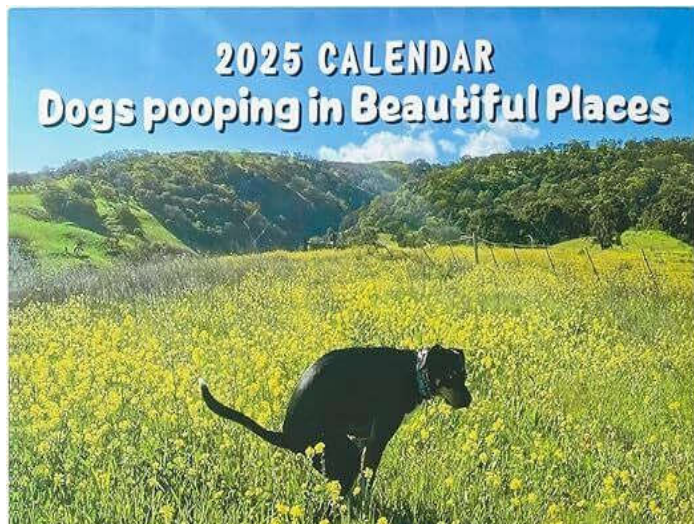
There are probably a number of reasons why the lower part of the down has been very lightly grazed in recent years. This has led to an increase in the growth of gorse and scrub, good for wildlife at least. Perhaps that is the aim of owners and the architects of the current management plan.



The Bridestowe Volunteer Group was kept busy at the January session. While one volunteer tidied the village centre, others carried out a litter pick down along the old A30 collecting six black bags of rubbish. The inside edge of the cemetery hedge has been cut back; the hedge is encroaching on the first row of gravestones. The group will meet again on **Saturday 22nd February** and then retreat to the hall for a bacon bap.

Usual assembly time - 9.30am at the cemetery gates.

New recruits are always welcome.



I saw this calendar for sale in Sidmouth the other day. Charming. However it it does lead neatly on to the following email received last month from a concerned resident.

I have noted that some people are not being considerate to others recently. In the memorial garden of the Church I have noticed an increased amount of dog mess. Unfortunately, I was a victim of stepping into said mess and, as it was dark, transferred this onto my boots and into my house. I love all dogs, it's just the completely irresponsible owners that left me having to clean up said mess after being at work all day - fortunately I have a carpet cleaner but it's just not the point !! Today, while taking my pooch for a quick stroll in the rain, I also noted another "pile" within the Church grounds.

This is completely unacceptable and needs to stop immediately. There are plenty of general waste bins to use, if people forget to take necessary bags, they should return to collect later, or, just get bigger pockets and a torch so they can see what their beloved dog is doing !!!

It gives responsible owners a very bad name. Also it took an extra hour of my life to clean boots, carpet, tiled floor - only a couple of steps within my front door. To top it all the smell seemed to linger as well.

Reminder

If, when out exercising your dog, you find that the dog waste bin is full, PLEASE take the waste to the nearest general litter bin or take it home. To balance it on the top or below the bin is littering.

If you see that a dog waste bin needs emptying, please report it to West Devon

Borough Council either by email
www.westdevon.gov.uk/report-it or by
phoning
01822 813600

BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 6th February** at 7.30pm at 8, Beech Tree Meadow. We will be discussing *The Romantic* by William Boyd.

About the book

The author of 'Any Human Heart' guides readers expertly through the richly imagined life of a fictional nineteenth century figure, tracing his passage from adventurer and bankrupt to African explorer and minor diplomat in perfectly crafted, immersive prose.



*Soldier. Farmer. Felon. Writer. Father. Lover.
One man, many lives.*

Born in 1799, Cashel Greville Ross experiences myriad lives: joyous and devastating, years of luck and unexpected loss.

Moving from County Cork to London, from Waterloo to Zanzibar, Cashel seeks his fortune across continents in war and in peace. He faces a terrible moral choice in a village in Sri Lanka as part of the East Indian Army. He enters the world of the Romantic Poets in Pisa.

*In Ravenna he meets a woman who will live in his heart for the rest of his days. As he travels the world as a soldier, a farmer, a felon, a writer, a father, a lover, he experiences all the vicissitudes of life and, through the accelerating turbulence of the nineteenth century, he discovers who he truly is. This is the romance of life itself, and the beating heart of *The Romantic*.*

From one of Britain's best-loved and bestselling writers comes an intimate yet panoramic novel set across the nineteenth century.

www.waterstones.com
New members always welcome
01566 783529
email: neil@neiledgson.com



St Thomas à Becket Sourton

FEBRUARY

Although there are not so many services at Sourton at present, prayers are said daily there. It is open during daylight hours and many visitors pop in. Except during Lent there are always flowers, usually arranged in memory of loved ones. We look forward to snowdrops and other signs of spring appearing in the churchyard.

Last month several of us were able to attend Okehampton Church, for the special Team Service, to bid farewell to our Team Rector, Stephen Cook.

SOUP LUNCHES

Sunday 9th February 12- 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall

This is in aid of Okehampton Community Transport, which is entirely financed by voluntary contributions.

We welcome you to a variety of home made soups with bread and cheese, fruit and tea or coffee.

Last month was a lovely community get-together. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch in a nice warm hall. The Hall committee have worked very hard to get everything working again.

The following lunch will be on March 9th.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

February 2nd	Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
February 9th	Service at Bridestowe
February 16th	Service at Bridestowe
February 23rd	Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.

Jenny Batten



**THE BARBER SHOP,
OKEHAMPTON IS
MOVING
in February to
1 St James Street,
Okehampton EX230 1DW**



(Located two below The King's Arms -
previously the Antique Shop)
OFFICIAL DATE TO BE CONFIRMED.
Contact: 07803 471774

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.org.uk

Riverside Stores & Post Office
Bridestowe,
Okehampton,
Devon, EX20 4EG
01837 861321
riversidestores@hotmail.com



Happy New Year to all our customers

We hope all our customers had an enjoyable Christmas with loved ones
& a peaceful New Year.

We ourselves had 5 days in Scotland with our son for Christmas and recently, a 2 day visit back to Scotland to see our first new grandson.

William, Rhys, Gordon Arthurs born on 8th January weighing a healthy 9lbs 13 ozs!
He's a bonny boy!

A Message of Thank You's

We would like to say a massive thank you to all our customers who have continued to support us over the years we have been here. 8 years now!

Without you, we wouldn't be here!

Please let us know how we can further help and support you.

Local Venison - February Offer

We are fortunate enough to have permissions from local landowner's to provide local venison in a sustainable way.

We would welcome and support additional opportunities from local landowners with permissions to manage your deer, so please get in contact with us, to help us support you and your business.

With our 5* processing unit we are able to provide all cuts including burgers on a regular basis.

Venison boxes are available for local or UK delivery.

Any order over £50 in February will receive a 10% discount.

Venison Boxes @ £45.00 include;

1 x 4 Venison & Roasted Onion Burgers

1 x 2 Haunch Steaks

1 x 500g minimum mince

1 x 500g minimum diced

1 x Roasting Joint

Reminder - Updated telephone system

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 at riversidestores@hotmail.com

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL FOR SUPPORTING US

And a massive thank you to our delivery drivers who continually support us through all weather conditions, Carl, Sue & Martyn.

Michaela & Colin

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

Save the Date

Bridestowe Primary School will be holding their Summer Fair on **Saturday 14th June** in the school grounds. More details closer to the day.



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



Movie Watch January 2025

Crafting this column should be perfectly straightforward. We visit the New Carlton once or twice a month, watch whatever is on offer, come home and write about it, in the process hopefully identifying any films we believe local residents might enjoy or, occasionally, avoid like the plague. Sometimes though it doesn't quite work out.

Four of us went to see **Maria**, the Maria Callas biopic starring Angelina Jolie. However, just before the halfway point the screen went blank, swiftly followed by a sheepish technician explaining that the power had gone and while they'd try their best, there was no guarantee it would return, certainly in the short term.

After a brief consultation it transpired all four of us had found the first hour about as pacy as an A30 traffic jam so we made our excuses, accepted the complimentary tickets on offer and departed, muttering thanks to Western Power.

We'd seen more than enough to confidently suggest you steer well clear of this one.

As I write, we're looking for a spare evening to catch **A Complete Unknown**. Another biopic, this one covers the early performing life of Bob Dylan, culminating in his legendary performance at the 1965 Newport (RI) Folk Festival. Timothee Chalamet plays Dylan as *'a fully formed talent but a half-grown man,'* according to the Guardian's generally positive review. To be fair he was only 24 at the time but I shall report back next month.

We also saw **Conclave**, a political thriller based on the acclaimed 2016 novel by Robert Harris. Needless to say, the Vatican and Sistine Chapel remain strictly off-limits to film-makers but the facsimiles created, together with stock Roman footage, made for a stunning and entirely convincing backdrop.

A relatively modest budget (\$20m) coupled with an outstanding cast (including Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow and Isabella Rossellini) combined to achieve a terrific result for the studio, with box-office takings around \$80m in the first month after release. Critical response was overwhelmingly positive, religious feedback rather less so, but all appeared to acknowledge the film's visual impact.

Following the death of the Pope, the College of Cardinals, under the leadership of the British Cardinal Lawrence gather to elect a successor. It's a complex story, well-told and visually compelling. We both found the film to be two hours well-spent and would give **Conclave** a confident recommendation.

The New Carlton 'Coming Soon' page currently looks thin but with the Academy Awards ceremony approaching, late schedule changes often materialise during February. The ongoing Californian fires could yet lead to a delay from the scheduled ceremony date of 2nd March but, at the time of writing, the event will go ahead as planned.

September 5 is being heavily trailed at the cinema but so far without any firm screening details. Set during the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics, the film follows a dedicated US Sports broadcasting team, forced to adapt from producing conventional Olympics coverage to delivering live footage of the Israeli athletes taken hostage. It looks to be a powerful film which hopefully we'll get the opportunity to see.

I mentioned last month that we'd resisted the lure of Apple TV, despite an offer of a free three-month trial following the purchase of any of their electronic devices. Well, after a decent four-year period of service, my phone finally packed up, necessitating a trip into Exeter to acquire a replacement, thereby bringing us the attractions of Apple TV.

We knew Apple's flagship

show, **Slow Horses**, was good but had no idea quite how good. The trouble is, there are just too many channels and viewing time is, by and large, finite. However, I saw a recent tweet suggesting that had **Slow Horses** been broadcast on BBC1 rather than Apple, it would be a Line of Duty-sized hit. Which it surely would.

Gary Oldman delivers a breathtaking performance as Jackson Lamb, head of a hopelessly dysfunctional team of MI5 agents. Lamb heads a group of MI5 service rejects who have monumentally screwed up previous assignments but somehow avoided the sack.

Those condemned to Lamb's team are known as 'slow horses,' a play on the name of Slough House, the ghastly office building in which the unit is located. Lamb cuts a ludicrous physical figure. Hideous, obese, comedically unkempt, appallingly flatulent and breathtakingly rude, yet sharp as a tack. Oldman dominates the piece but Kristin Scott Thomas, Jonathan Pryce and Jack Lowden all excel in supporting roles.

If you can find an excuse to purchase an Apple device, rest assured **Slow Horses** will make the outlay more palatable.

Back on broadcast television, I'd never quite seen the point of Claudia Winkleman, but I have to admit she's found a perfect role as the host of BBC1's **The Traitors**.

The contrived Gothic appearance and fawning interview technique made it all too easy to give the first two series a wide berth.

I'm not quite sure what lured us into the third series but having sampled the first episode, it soon became 'Appointment to View' material for both of us.

The contestants (along with so many of the general public, I'm increasingly finding) are mostly annoying, while the format is dreadfully contrived but somehow it all

hangs together. Claudia's delivery would give wood a bad name, but she seems to represent a major part of the show's appeal.

The current series is ending as I write but should sit on the iPad for the foreseeable. To make sense of the show, the twelve hour-long episodes would need to be watched sequentially but should provide you with an enjoyable winter viewing project, always assuming you can see Beyond the Fringe (one for the youngsters there).

Finally, a few recommendations, from various local sources. **Lockerbie** (Sky Atlantic), **Out There** (ITVX), **Playing Nice** (ITV/ITVX), **Industry** (BBC iPlayer), **SAS Rogue Heroes** (BBC), **How to Win the Champion's League: Real Madrid** (BBC1), **Black Doves** (Netflix), **The Split: Barcelona** (BBC iPlayer), **Rivals** (Disney+). Hopefully there should be something in that lot for most people.

Oh and by the way, the final Christmas audience research figures have been released. The top ten Christmas Week programmes were all shown on BBC One,

Gavin & Stacey: The Finale (19.1m)
Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Foul (16.3m)
Call the Midwife Christmas Special (7.6m)
Outnumbered: Christmas Special (7.4m)
Doctor Who: Joy to the World (5.9m)
The King (5.6m)
EastEnders: Christmas Day (5.6m)
Strictly Come Dancing: Christmas Special (5.4m)
Beyond Paradise (5.2m)
The Split (5.2m)

How many of those did you watch?

DAVID HARRISON,
January 2025

Bacon Baps will be served on **Saturday 22nd February 10am - 12 noon in Bridestowe Village Hall.**



Jill may well be there with honey and free range eggs for sale and there will be a selection of secondhand books to peruse. We raised £130 at January's session. Thank you for your support.

Appeal

We could really do with a couple of volunteers, just to cover when one of the stalwarts are away. It's only for a couple of hours once a month and it's almost enjoyable.

Please contact Ali Young 01837 861157

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP

will meet at The Ark this month on **Thursday, February 20th** at about 10.30. We shall be starting to think about where to visit in the spring and summer. New members very welcome.

Contact person: Ann Allan on 861551 or annallan1948@gmail.com

Job Opportunity:

Help wanted in kitchen 5:00 - 7:30pm two evenings per week. Perfect job for young person as hours are after school/college. No prior experience necessary. Week days and term times only, start date beginning of March. Based just outside Bridestowe.

Call Ruth Hatton at Stone Farm on 01837 861 605 for more information

News from Sourton Parish council

www.sourtonpc.org.uk

parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk

07792958675

We are delighted to share some exciting updates and achievements from Sourton Parish Council this month:

Funding Successes

- **Wild About Devon Grant:** The Parish Council has been awarded £200 from the Wild About Devon Community Wildlife Fund. We were initially unsuccessful when we applied in the Summer, but they were able to secure some more funding which gave Sourton PC the grant. This funding will be used to support green projects in the parish, contributing to the enhancement of our local environment and biodiversity. Is anybody interested in a Green Volunteers Group to tackle small projects in the parish?

- **Defibrillator Support:** We are also pleased to announce that we have received a £100 donation from the Okehampton Freemasons towards the maintenance and upkeep of our community defibrillator. Thank you to the Freemasons for their generosity.

Bronze Local Council Award Sourton Parish Council has achieved the Bronze Local Council Award. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of the council to meet a wide range of criteria, including effective governance, sound management, and excellent community engagement. The positive feedback we received highlights the strength and commitment of the council in serving the parish.

Budget News The budget for 2025-26 has been set, and we are pleased to confirm that the Parish Council precept will remain at £55.10 for a Band D property. For a detailed breakdown of the budget, please visit the finance page on our website.

Winter Preparations: Salt Boxes As we head further into winter, we encourage parishioners to check local salt boxes. If any require refilling, please contact the Clerk at parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk or report it directly via the Devon County Council website at devon.gov.uk.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Boasley Chapel **Happenings for February**

Sunday 2nd February Service with
Alison Morgan 11am

Sunday 2nd February Afternoon Tea
2.30 - 4.30pm

Sunday 16th February Service with
Peter Webb 11am

Thursday 20th February

_SOUP and SWEET 12 - 2.00pm

Good choice of homemade soups and puddings with tea and coffee - no charge but donations welcome. Bring friends. Make new ones.
Everyone very welcome.



Seth's Pressure Washing Services

Reliable and energetic local young person offering pressure washing of patios, steps, outdoors paving etc in Bridestowe.

Own machine and tools used.

Will need access to tap and electric.

Competitive rates

- please contact

for a free

quotation visit.

01837 861114



Seth did a very thorough job pressure washing the paved ramp and paths at the front of the village hall. The management committee were very impressed.

Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010

Winter opening times

October to March

Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4.30pm



CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Okehampton Choral Society is looking for new members! We are a friendly choir spanning a wide age range and all voices are welcome - there are no auditions and it doesn't matter if you do not read music. All you need is enthusiasm and a love of singing and you will find yourself enjoying the opportunity to sing in four part harmony and discovering a wide range of music.

We meet on a Monday evening for a 7:15pm start at Fairplace Church, Okehampton. We are not a church choir but we do appreciate the warm and welcoming atmosphere that Fairplace offers. You will be welcome to come along for a couple of rehearsals before deciding whether you would like to join us.

For further information please contact:
Bill on 01837 53109
or Helen on 01409 231106



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

Live music at The Wharf, Tavistock ***Desperado***

Saturday 1st March at 8:30pm

Desperado - Eagles Greatest Hits tour 2025

The Eagles' Greatest Hits collection (Vol. I) gained the position of being the best selling album of the 20th Century overtaking MJ's Thriller as the best selling album of all time. From an era when country-tinged rock and fine harmonies spoke to a nation reeling from unrest through a silent 14 year vacation, an award winning comeback tour and global tours right up to present day the band continues to perform their amazing catalogue of material to sell out audiences.

Desperado tap into this incredible legacy and faithfully recreate a superb two hour plus good humoured homage to all your favourite Eagles tracks with the precision that Eagles fans deserve and Desperado consistently deliver. As more than one fan has said *"If you close your eyes you would believe the Eagles themselves are on stage"*

Tickets

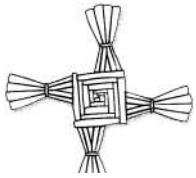
Prices

From 6pm on the night £22.00

Adult in Advance £20.00

Seated and standing

Bridestowe Churches Partnership



Sunday Worship for February 2025

Sunday 2nd

9.30am St Bridget's Day. After the service at St Bridget's we move to The Ark for the Methodist Drop In service which will then be followed by soup and a roll lunch at midday.

Sunday 9th

9.30 am Morning Prayer at St Bridget's
11.00am Bridestowe Worship Group

Sunday 16th

11.00am Joint service at the Methodist's Chapel with Alison Morgan.

Sunday 23rd

9.30am Family Service at St Bridget's
11.00am Morning service at the Methodist Church led by R & J Richey. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

February 14th may be Valentine's day, but love is much more than a relationship between two people!

*Valentine's Day is a special time,
To show our love with gifts and rhyme.
But Jesus calls us every day,
To live His love in all we say.
It's not just hearts or cards we share,
It's showing kindness, being there.
For family, friends, and strangers, too,
Love's a choice in all we do. A helping hand, a
gentle word,
Reflects the Saviour we have heard.
So let's make every day divine,
By living out God's Valentine.
Through acts of love, both big and small,
To follow Jesus' show His love.
Not just today, but the whole year through,
Let's share His love in all we do.*

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer



The Ark

The World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 7th March at 2pm. in the ARK. This is always well supported and will be followed by tea and cakes.

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian Women from The Cook Islands.

The coffee morning in January raised £212 for Action for Children. Thanks to all who supported us.

The Coffee Morning on **Saturday 8th February** will raise funds for Devon Air Ambulance. Do come along and support this local cause.

Do remember that the Ark is a warm space to meet friends.

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.

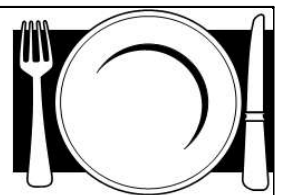
Remember that booking the ARK has changed. Jennifer Thorne is handling bookings.

Phone **01837 861592**

The Over 60's Lunch

Club will meet on Tuesday 11th February. Meet at 12.15 for Lunch at 12.30pm.

Ring Jennifer 861592 if you cannot attend. Looking forward to seeing you all again.





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.

Free hot drinks available.

Our Reading Well titles are a range of books covering physical and mental health, and include titles aimed at children and teens. And don't forget if you're housebound or struggling to get to the library, our Home Library Service can deliver not just books but a friendly chat too!

February Events

Stay & Play with 'Tiny Travels Cultural Drop-in'

Monday 10 February 10:00-11:00

Come along to Stay & Play and experience a cultural diversity pop-up play group session with Tiny Travels. Tiny Travels Cultural Education provides children in Devon with the opportunity to learn about different cultures in a fun, accessible, educational way with the mission to help promote understanding, reduce stereotypes and combat racism in the British countryside.

Explore global crafts, instruments, storytelling, diversity games, dolls, sights, smells & sounds from around the world!

Free drop in event for children under 5 and their carers.

Repair Event from Proper Job

Saturday 22 February 10:00 - 12:00 TBC

Do you have items that could be repaired? Bring along your tired or broken household items (max 3 per person) including textiles, household electricals, tools and knives that need repairing or sharpening, wooden items, mechanical items etc and we will assess and attempt to repair your items!

Proper Job's electrical repair expert can also do clocks and mechanical items. Refreshments and cake will be available for a small donation.

Proper Job is proud to be one of the UK's pioneering community reuse centres, located on the northeast edge of Dartmoor in Devon. Striving to minimize the unnecessary disposal of materials through education and engagement, encouraging sustainable practices within our community. Book via Eventbrite and pay a nominal fee to secure your place.

Keep an eye out for more events and activities at Okehampton Library.

Visit our website:

discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook (Okehampton Library) and Instagram (@okehampton.library).

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

News from Lydford Gorge
National Trust
Rose Cooke, Visitor Experience
Officer



The two major dumpings of snow we had in January certainly caught me out. When it was forecast, I was certain it would only settle on the moor and high ground, but even in Okehampton there was a thick layer of snow. I hope everyone managed to stay safe, and perhaps got a chance to enjoy the beautiful scenes the snow brings, too.

The stormy weather in December brought down several trees that the rangers have been dealing with and are aiming to get cleared up in time for reopening from Saturday 1 March. The rock face surveys are now all complete, and the rangers will continue to work on path maintenance as well as continuing the invasive species work to remove laurel and rhododendron. The platform for the Devil's Cauldron will go back in towards the end of February, once the debris that was brought down river by high water thanks to the winter storms, is cleared.

If you're looking for something new to do this year, we're looking for some help in the second-hand bookshop, visitor welcome, and tea-room. If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer please do get in touch. Or find out more online at <https://myvolunteering.nationaltrust.org.uk/opportunity-search>

February half term fun near by...
Cotehele. Little Gardeners family trail, Sat 8 to Sun 23 Feb, 10am-4pm.
Buckland Abbey. Write your own fairytale trail, Sat 15 Feb to Sun 30 Mar, 10am-4pm.
Castle Drogo. Choose your own adventure trail, Fri 14 to Mon 24 Feb, 10am-4pm.
All these are free, normal National Trust admission applies, free for members.

Opening Times until Friday 28 February 2025

The walks to Whitelady Waterfall and the bird hide are open during daylight hours. All other facilities, including the toilets, are closed.

We plan to reopen from **Saturday 1 March 2025**.

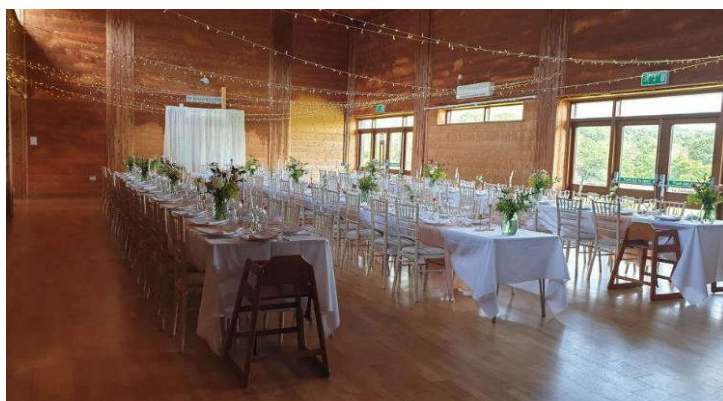
The rest of the gorge trails are closed over winter for safety and essential maintenance work. This can include tree work, path work and rock face inspections, so please do not pass any locked gates.

Email: lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk Tel: 01822 820320

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

Registered Charity Number 205846

Bridestowe Village Hall
Pool Hill, Bridestowe, EX20 4EW



The hall is a fantastic facility, that can be used for a wide range of events, from small meetings to large scale wedding receptions and parties. The venue is divided into a number of units, including meeting rooms, kitchen and a large hall which can be hired out separately. Also the venue can be hired in its entirety. The hire charges are reviewed annually and there is a special discount scheme for local residents (within a 4 mile radius of Bridestowe).

Visit the website

www.bridestowe.org.uk/village-hall to see prices and view the calendar for availability

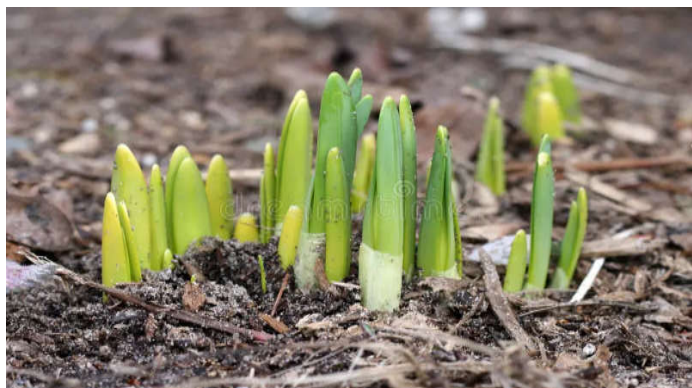
Please contact the Bookings Clerk for more information

Esther Winter Mob: 07946 992200

Reasons to be cheerful

(part two)

Guess what? The days are still getting longer! And snowdrops are showing, daffodils are poking up their green spears and buds are emerging on the magnolias.



Another great thing is the wonderful contributions people make by volunteering. Our village is full of people who do things for other people. Things that leap to my mind are the following (not an inclusive list) and sorry for the things I miss.

a) Kind acts when you see people need help – providing a meal, picking up shopping, a supportive call when someone is down. It is the sort of things that people in this area do for each other.

b) The cubs and scouts – they do wonderful things with our young people.

c) The volunteer group who pick up rubbish, weed public areas and generally improve our living environment and in all weathers.

d) The Ark (what a wonderful provision!) with its regular events all arranged and supported by volunteers (including some very good cooks).

e) The Over 60's lunch – a great opportunity to socialise and completely organised and provided by volunteers.

f) The members of the parish councils – not always a joyful role but a really important one for all of us. And of course other councillors (West Devon and Devon) who give their time at all levels as part of our democracy.

g) The village hall committees, keeping our village halls going so that the communities benefit and lots of things can happen.

h) Looking after our churches – we are not all Christians but these are important and valued buildings for our communities, and I

always like the flowers.

i) The BaSE newsletter month on month, year on year – something we all benefit from.

j) And of course the monthly bacon baps, allowing people to come together. Anyone want to join the team?

Going wider afield (no pun intended), there are many things from which we benefit. Firstly I must raise Moor Trees. This is a charity which applied for a grant on our behalf and were successful in securing funding for 4,800 indigenous trees which are being planted in our field by volunteers. People are travelling from all over to plant the trees because they believe that planting trees is important – Plymouth, Totnes, Belstone and Bridestowe for example. The first day there were 21 people digging holes, setting the tree, giving it its shelter and woolly blanket and setting it on its way – nearly a thousand trees were planted. And all because people were giving their time to make it happen. In the years to come there will be a woodland, because of these people – none of whom knew us beforehand. And they were there today, Sunday 26 January in the most horrendous weather.

And of course, future generations will benefit from their efforts when we are long gone. Bless them!

Our charity shops would not function without volunteers, nor would the Museum of Dartmoor Life, the junior sports teams (hockey, football, rugby and so on), and community transport (getting people to medical appointments).

I understand that reasons to volunteer include:

- kind hearts
- a wish to make a positive difference
- pursuing a personal interest or passion
- an opportunity to socialise
- a way of having a routine
- improving your mental and physical health

It warms the cockles of my heart to know that so many people give to others in this way. Thank you!

Debbie Pritchard

Lunar cycle for February

New moon	28th
First quarter	5th
Full moon	12th
Last quarter	20th



Stargazers will be treated to a rare alignment of seven planets on 28 February when Mercury joins six other planets that are already visible in the night sky. Here's why it matters to scientists.

Peer up at the sky on a clear night this January and February and you could be in for a treat. Six planets – Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune – are currently visible in the night sky. During just one night in late February, they will be joined by Mercury, a rare seven-planet alignment visible in the sky.

But such events are not just a spectacle for stargazers – they can also have a real impact on our Solar System and offer the potential to gain new insights into our place within it.

The eight major planets of our Solar System orbit the Sun in the same flat plane, and all at different speeds. Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun, completes an orbit – a year for the planet – in 88 days. Earth's year, of course, is 365 days, while at the upper end, Neptune

takes a whopping 60,190 days, or about 165 Earth years, to complete a single revolution of our star.

The different speeds of the planets mean that, on occasion, several of them can be roughly lined up on the same side of the Sun. From Earth, if the orbits line up just right, we can see multiple planets in our night sky at the same time. In rare events, all the planets will line up such that they all appear in our night sky together along the ecliptic, the path traced by the Sun.

Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are all bright enough to be visible to the naked eye, while Uranus and Neptune require binoculars or a telescope to spot.

In January and February, we can witness this event taking place. The planets are not exactly lined up, so they will appear in an arc across the sky due to their orbital plane in the Solar System. During clear nights in January and February, all of the planets except Mercury will be visible – an event sometimes called a planetary parade. On 28 February, though – weather permitting – all seven planets will be visible, a great spectacle for observers on the ground.

Boasley Chapel **Happenings for February**

Sunday 2nd February Service with Alison Morgan 11am

Sunday 2nd February Afternoon Tea
2.30 - 4.30pm

Sunday 16th ebruary Service with Peter Webb 11am

Thursday 20th February

_SOUP and SWEET 12 - 2.00pm

Good choice of homemade soups and puddings with tea and coffee - no charge but donations welcome. Bring friends. Make new ones. Everyone very welcome.

EVERYONE ALWAYS VERY WELCOME!





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Whole and half lamb boxes and half pig boxes available, as well as individual joints and sausages.

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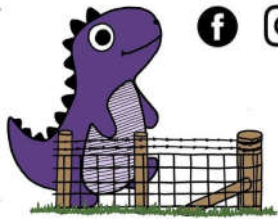
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or email **peterdeacon@btconnect.com**

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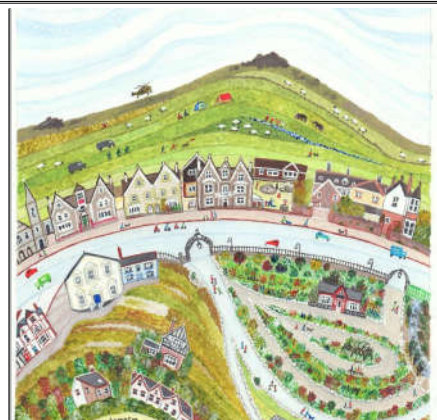
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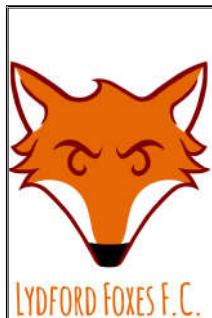


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Forthcoming Events in February 2025

Sunday 2nd	2.30pm - 4.30pm, Boasley Chapel, Afternoon Tea
Thursday 6th	7.30pm, 8 Beech Tree Meadow, Reading Group
Friday 7th	7.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, the Big Quiz
Saturday 8th	10 - 12noon, The Ark, Coffee Morning in aid of DAAT
Sunday 9th	12 noon - 2pm, Sourton Village hall, Soup lunches
Tuesday 11th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's lunch
Wednesday 12th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of Bridfest
Tuesday 18th	2.30pm, Faiplace Church, Okehampton u3a
Thursday 20th	10.30am, The Ark, Thursday Morning Group 12pm - 2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Friday 21st	7pm, Lewdown Victory Hall, <i>The Magician's Nephew</i>
Saturday 22nd	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Bridestowe Volunteer Group 10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps 3pm, Lewdown Victory Hall, <i>The Magician's Nephew</i>
Wednesday 26th	2pm - 7.30pm, The Ark, Public consultation on development of the site next to the cemetery



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

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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.