

Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events March 2025

Edition 274

Friends of Bridestowe School
invite you to

FAMILY EASTER BINGO

SATURDAY | 29 MARCH 2025

DOORS OPEN 5:30PM, EYES DOWN 6PM
BRIDESTOWE VILLAGE HALL

Bring your family for some Easter fun - refreshments
available and lots of chocolate eggs to be won!

£6
per book
of 6 games

To guarantee your seats -
bookwhen.com/fobs

Bridestowe Parish
Council's
Warm Spaces event

Souper Savoury
Thursday on
27th March,
12-3pm
in
The Ark.

Four different soups on
offer with
crunchy bread, cheese,
assorted pickle and fruit.
Tea and coffee will be
available.

A free event

Everyone very welcome

**The quiz at the White Hart on Wednesday, 12th March is in
aid of the Richard Whitehead Foundation.**



Richard Whitehead MBE is a paralympian who set up a charity that enables disabled people to fulfil their ambitions through the power of sport and physical activity. It works with disabled people who are facing physical and emotional challenges. It helps to identify and remove their barriers to engaging in sport and physical activity, supporting them to reach their full potential.

The Vicar writes...

"Life After Delivery"

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other, "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?" The second said. "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now." The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore." The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists, where is She now?" The second said, She is all around us. We are surrounded by Her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

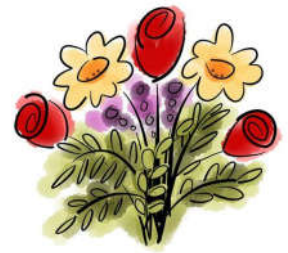
Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it's only logical that She doesn't exist." To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can here Her loving voice, calling down from above."

Anon.

Mothering Sunday this year is March 30th.

Adrian Brook

Volunteers needed to join the rota for St Bridget's Church, just once or maybe twice a year. For more details please contact Jenny Thirtle 07779 102128



Cleaner/caretaker required for Bridestowe Village Hall

The ideal candidate will live in Bridestowe, have cleaning experience and be able to work flexibly including evenings and weekends in line with the Hall's events calendar. The hours are six per week but may be more after large group events or busy weeks. For more information please call Esther Winter on 07946 992200 or send your CV to bvh@bridestowe.org.uk

South West spawn sightings are first for national survey



The PondNet Spawn Survey maps sightings of Common Frog and Common Toad spawn across the country to monitor how amphibians use different types of waterbodies to breed. The records are inputted to a national database, which is made available for research and conservation purposes.

The early record from the Isles of Scilly was followed by another two sightings in Cornwall, one in a pond near Jacobstow, North Cornwall, on 28th December, and another in a ditch in the Camel Valley on 5th January, as well as a sighting on 1st January in



Bideford, Devon.

We have been collecting data on sightings of breeding frogs and toads since 2012. Each year since then, people across the country have got involved by recording spawn they have spotted in their garden, community ponds, and out in the countryside.

Anyone can get involved, whether they have a pond of their own or experience a chance encounter, by adding the record on our website. We are also encouraging people to share photographs of frog and toad spawn they have spotted on social media, using the hashtag #SpawnSurvey.

Carole Cilia added the record from St Mary's on the Isles of Scilly on 21st December. She said: "We now have over ten batches of spawn in our pond and at the weekend I saw two

batches of spawn in a nearby wildlife pond. It was a bit later this year no doubt because of the cold winds we had here, but once they stopped the frogs were happy."

Peter Forse added the record from North Cornwall on 28th December and recorded the first sighting for the previous Spawn Survey in 2023. About the survey, he said: "I took part last year and feel it is important to keep a record, especially with regard to climate change."

Trevor Renals, who recorded the sighting in the Camel Valley in Cornwall, echoed the importance of records in the face of climate change, saying: "I wasn't particularly looking for spawn, but I am a freshwater ecologist, so I'm always interested to see what I can find. The survey provides useful data on how nature is responding to climate change."

Freshwater Habitats Trust Technical Director Dr Naomi Ewald said: "The Spawn Survey is one of our biggest citizen science events of the year, and it's always exciting to see the first entries come in. The 2024 survey was our biggest so far, and it would be incredible to have even more people involved this year. The records submitted from people across the UK help to improve our understanding of when and where frogs and toads are breeding and are invaluable for wildlife conservation. They can also help us to identify Priority Ponds, small waterbodies which have a high conservation value, as evidence that Common Toad are breeding there grants a pond Priority Pond status."

"Small waterbodies are often undervalued and neglected, but these early sightings in different habitats, from ponds to ditches, show how important they are for amphibians and other freshwater species."

The PondNet Spawn Survey will run until May 2025. Anyone in the UK can add their sighting here.

freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/advice-resources/survey-methods-hub/pondnet-spawn-survey

Hardly a Hundred by Howard Barkell

In last month's article I briefly mentioned how the new railway cut Fernworthy Down in two, but of course its opening had much more important consequences than that. Imagine the possibility of being able to travel to Exeter or Plymouth or even further afield if you had never left the village before. What were the economic effects on farmers or tradespeople when the itinerant farm labourers who had grabbed the chance to work on building the railway were made redundant? Lydford School was just about to open. Initial estimates were for eighty children, but this figure was revised to forty five when the navvies and their families left.

By 1870 the track of the proposed railway from London to Plymouth across northern Dartmoor had reached as far as Okehampton Road, later known as Sampford Courtenay. Once it reached Okehampton the next stretch to be engineered would be from that town to Lydford, a distance of roughly ten miles. The land had already been bought. The main landowners were Rev. John Luxmoore, who lived in Shropshire, but owned that area known as Okehampton Park, which included the site of the station right up to the moor and the site of the future Okehampton Camp and both sides of the line to Meldon, where the original plan for the viaduct was to be built of granite. H. Woollcombe lived at Ashbury, Shilston Calmady-Hamlyn was at Leawood and owned land on both sides of the line from Sourton through to the other side of Bridestowe Station and John Newton owned the Millaton Estate which included land reaching into Lydford village. They had agreed to accept payment in shares of the London and South Western Railway. An intermediate station was to be built in a field adjacent to Sourton Church.

By the following year the whole line had been fenced. The contractors had bought a small plantation at Blackabroom, had installed a steam powered sawmills there and manufactured all the stakes needed for fencing. They acknowledged that the construction of the new line would be a difficult task, it would be a line of cuttings and embankments. One problem was a shortage of

suitable labour. Experienced navvies were looking elsewhere because the top wages offered, 2shillings and 11pence a day did not match the 3shillings and 6pence they were used to. The hundred or so farm labourers who were glad to earn such wages did not have the skills needed for such arduous work. It was reported that after 6months labour in the cutting at Lydford very little progress had been made. By the end of the year the contractors were advertising for another 200 experienced men.

By October 1874 the scarcity of labour and the difficulty of obtaining iron for Meldon Viaduct had been overcome and the line was ready for inspection before being passed as safe for public use. From Okehampton Station the line entered a cutting spanned at the end by a granite bridge on the road which led to the moor. As it progressed the valley of the West Okement could be seen below with the ruined remains of the Norman castle standing high above the river and beyond that the tower of All Saints Church. Soon the most spectacular part of the line was reached where Meldon Viaduct carried the line across the West Okement river. It was built as a six span Warren truss bridge on lattice trestles all fixed on solid granite or cast iron cylinders filled with concrete. The ironwork was supplied by a firm in Wednesbury. To test its strength and stability two of the Railway Company's heaviest engines and an attendant carriage, a weight of 120 tons were driven over the viaduct several times. The engine was driven by the district locomotive superintendent. On a fine day travellers would be able to look up to the highest part of the moor, Yes Tor and High Willhays, while closer at hand the waters of the Red-a-Ven Brook tumbled down the hillside. On the valley floor a large waterwheel operated a line of flat-rods across the river to pump water from the limestone quarry. From Meldon the line climbs uphill through a cutting of very hard rock until the summit of the line is reached at Sourton Down from where Brentor Church and Bodmin Moor can be seen. It continues over and under granite bridges until you pass so close to Sourton Church, dedicated to St. Thomas a Becket, on the right that you can almost look through the windows. Through another deep cutting the engine begins to brake as Lake

Viaduct is approached. Built of granite it consists of 9 arches of 40 feet span and stands 70 feet above the small stream which flows through Deep Valley and past Tor Wood. Crossing the Sourton/Bridestowe parish boundary on a high embankment where the infant Cranford Brook flows underneath the line through a culvert and under the A386 road the train drifts into the intermediate station at Blackabroom. Although the village is almost two miles away it bears the name of Bridestowe. The fact that it is here rather than at the alternative site at Sourton is not surprising when you consider that both sites were on property owned by Shilston Calmady-Hamlyn. It was far easier for his coachman to drive a mile up the road to Bridestowe Station than it would have been to go all the way to Sourton when the family wished to travel further afield by train. The only building on the down platform is an open fronted passenger shelter, but behind them are cottages where the station staff live. A mile marker by the station nameboard for those interested shows that it is 204 miles from the up terminus at Waterloo. On the up platform is a suite of buildings. A single storey part acts as the booking office. Attached to it is a shelter leading to a ladies' room and a waiting room. This is all attached to the Station Master's house. On the other side of that is the gent's toilet. Off the far end of the up platform is the signal box.

The train continues under a wooden footbridge and almost immediately under the granite road bridge leading from the Fox and Hounds to Bridestowe. This road had to be re-aligned and raised in order to accommodate the bridge. Through a cutting, across Fernworthy Down, and through another cutting takes the line past Lydford village to the valley of the Lyd just upstream from Lydford Gorge. In order to cross this wide space another granite viaduct had to be built, similar to the one at Lake. This one has seven arches and stands 90 feet high to carry the single track across the river.

From there a level stretch takes the line into the station, named Lidford, where all the passengers have to alight on the Launceston and South Devon Railway station platform. A broad gauge train will transport them on to Tavistock and Plymouth.

It was a remarkable feat to have built ten miles of line through difficult country in four years keeping to the estimated cost of £100,000. During its history several important changes would take place before it was closed in 1968, not quite reaching its century.

The Bridestowe Volunteer Group

was about on a rare sunny Saturday. Fiona pruned the fruit trees in the community orchard. The footpaths in front of Queen Elizabeth Terrace and leading up to Trescote Way were cleared after someone had driven over them, tut, tut. The path running in front of the village hall to Trescote Way is being cleared. Litter picking was carried out along the main road and also by Gayle and Malcolm who walked 'the triangle' - up Rectory Road, Pig's Leg Lane, along the byway past Little Cranford to Station Road and home.

More volunteers are needed so if you can spare an hour or two once a month, you'd be given a warm welcome.

The group will meet again on **Saturday 29th March** at the usual assembly time - 9.30am at the cemetery gates.

What were these volunteers up to in the photo below? Turn to page 14 to find out.



Tuesday 18 March at 2.30pm in Fairplace Church

**Our speaker this month is Emma Cunis
Emma is the founder of Dartmoor's
Daughter and will be talking about
"Dartmoor Myths and Legends".**



Inside every seemingly strange story of witches, black dogs, and ghostly happenings on Dartmoor is a small kernel of truth. What are the real histories or possible origins behind the devil at Widecombe church; Hairy Hands; Faithless Wives of Chagford; Hound of the Baskervilles; Bowerman's Nose and Hound Tor; and more?

To find out, why not come along and listen to Emma who is an engaging and seasoned speaker illustrating her talks with stunning photographs, meticulous research, and personal anecdotes.

This meeting will be held at Fairplace Church, 3 Fairplace Terrace, Okehampton, EX20 1DT

Admission - £1.00 to help towards the cost of speaker, hiring the venue and refreshments. For further information please contact Dee McVey 01837 658590

For Sale

Small electric mower £15.00 o.n.o

Please call 0781 071 796



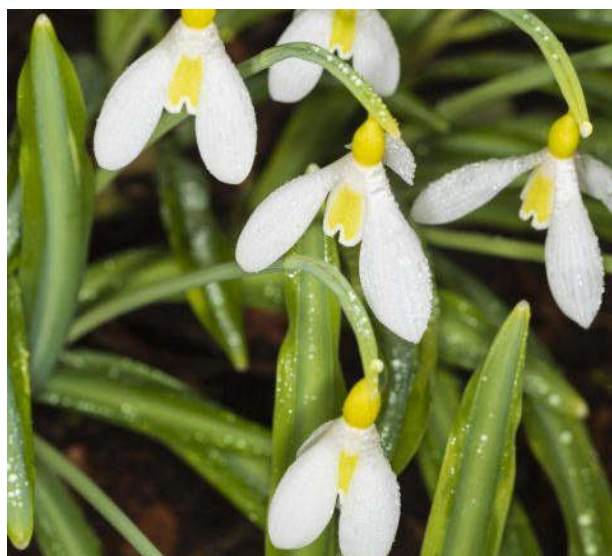
**The
Garden
House**

The Garden House,
Buckland Monachorum,
Yelverton, Devon.
PL20 7LQ.

The Snowdrop Festival continues until Sunday 16th March.

Open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday
10.30am – 3.30pm

With over 350 varieties of snowdrops from rare specialist to the flurries covering the Garden House landscape. Come along and enjoy a stroll and enjoy the first signs of the gardens coming back to life after a long winter sleep.



Then enjoy a coffee or steaming tea in the cafe where they will be serving snowdrop-themed cakes and snacks.

Contact: 01822 854769 – office is open 10am – 4pm Monday – Friday
office@thegardenhouse.org.uk

Bridestowe Parish Council

A full meeting of Bridestowe Parish Council will be held 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



St Thomas à Becket Church Sourton

Ash Wednesday March 5th at 4.30 p.m.

We are delighted to welcome the Right Rev. James Grier, The Bishop of Plymouth . He is praying in churches across the archdeaconry and will be at Sourton at 4.30 p.m. leading a time of informal prayer with anyone who comes along. All are welcome. Please see attached poster.

SOUP LUNCHES

Thank you to everyone who helped and made soup last month. We made a profit of £250 which has been given to the **Okehampton and District Community Transport Group**.

Our next soup lunch will be on March 9th from 12-2 p.m. in the Parish Hall

We welcome you to a variety of home made soups with bread and cheese, fruit and tea or coffee and a nice warm place to enjoy good company and a delicious lunch.

March 2nd	Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
March 9th	Service at Bridestowe
March 16th	Service at Bridestowe
March 23rd	Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.
March 30th	Mothering Sunday - TO BE CONFIRMED

Jenny Batten

NICHOLLS HALL LYDFORD BACON BUTTY, CAKE AND COFFEE MORNING

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

Butchers' Hall, in Tavistock's Pannier Market is an award winning, beautifully restored Grade II Listed Building which is home to a fantastic array of vibrant themed markets and events. Here's one:



Book Fair on Saturday 22nd March, 9am - 4pm.

A chance to come and meet local authors, illustrators etc.
Free entry.

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



Local Venison – March Offer

Spend over £20.00 and receive 10% discount.
Venison boxes are available for local or UK delivery.

Venison Boxes @ £45.00 include;

- 1 x 4 Venison & Caramelised Onion Burgers
(Gluten free available)
 - 1 x 2 Haunch Steaks
- 1 x 500g minimum Mince
- 1 x 500g minimum Diced
- 1 x Roasting Joint or Hock Joint

We will shortly be adding to our Venison range and introducing;

Venison Sausages

Cumberland
Sweet Chilli

Thank you for your continued support

Cricket news

Ahead of the 2025 season we are very excited to announce the merger of Bridestowe Cricket Club with fellow village club, Belstone, to form the new Bridestowe and Belstone Cricket Club.



Belstone played their games on Sundays in the North Devon League and Wednesday friendlies, while Bridestowe played on Saturdays in the Devon Cricket League. Thus, many players have played for both teams over the years. Last season saw the clubs working together to develop local youth hard ball teams and discussions led to the decision that for the good of both clubs the relationship

would be formalised by a merger. This not only helps both teams, with Bridestowe needing to fulfil increasingly strict requirements to remain in the A Division, and Belstone wanting more players to carry on cricket in the village, but also ensures the continuation of local, village cricket in the area.

The youth teams had a very successful season last year, with competitive hardball teams playing at U11s and U13s level and this year will see the addition of a third team at U12s. Games and training will be at Rew Meadow (Belstone), with softball sessions being offered for the younger age groups and those not wanting to play hardball cricket at both Rew Meadow and Millaton (Bridestowe). The off-season has seen lots of hard work going on behind the scenes to improve the aging facilities at both Millaton and Rew Meadow. With the investment

in a new artificial wicket at Rew Meadow, which will be crucial for youth games and training. Millaton has seen improvements to the pavilion thanks to S106 monies and a community grant fund, with the installation of a new boiler and showers, erection of internal walls and new flooring to upgrade the changing facilities. This is all thanks to help from several local tradesmen including Dale Chadwick, Tom McGrattan, and Paul Prouse, and some long hours put in by Tallan Burn – chief decorator.

As many of you know Millaton is a privately owned ground with the sole purpose to ensure provision of cricket for the village and local area. Thanks to the trustees it is maintained as a community facility welcoming local people to enjoy open access, including dog walkers, runners and local young people who are often seen down there with a bat and a ball or a frisbee. We ask that all users respect the space, leaving it how you found it, picking up after your dog and never allowing dogs/children etc on the square in respect of the teams.

Maintaining such a facility is not cheap and the club is always extremely grateful to both sponsors and donors whose kind financial support is vital to the continuation of the club and the facility as a whole.

Looking forward to this season we are offering various sponsorship opportunities for individuals and businesses and would love to hear from you if you would be interested in supporting the club in any way. Whether you would like an advertising board at Millaton, to be a sponsor for a week of matches or to volunteer some time please contact Jo Pritchard, Secretary – jcw_101@hotmail.com / 01837 861114 for more information.

----- DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bridfest 25 on Saturday 2nd August on the Sporting Green.

After last year's highly successful community event, plans are well underway for this year. There's a circus theme this time. Regular updates will appear in BaSE.



Family Bingo on Friday the 4th April at Bratton Clovelly Parish Hall to raise funds for Boasley Cross Primary School. Doors open at 17.30, eyes down 18.00 Full details in next month's BaSE.

Revival of a popular event ...

The Great Bridestowe Plant Sale at Bridestowe Village Hall on **Saturday 24th May** from 10am until... all the plants are sold. Raising funds for St Bridget's Church. Perhaps you will be sowing seeds soon so why not grow a few extra for the plant sale?



Mount Kelly Choral Society
Carl Orff: **Carmina Burana**
Saturday 3rd May at 19.30 at
St Eustachius' Parish Church, Tavistock



Welcoming Our New Councillor, Ivor Kaczanow

We are excited to announce the appointment of Ivor Kaczanow as the newest member of our local council. Ivor has been a resident of Sourton for over 30 years, and we are thrilled to welcome him as he joins us in representing our community. Having lived in the area for many years, Ivor brings an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our parish.

Although we are pleased to have Ivor on board, there are still spaces available on the council. If you are interested in getting more involved in local governance, we encourage you to consider joining. Co-option paperwork can be found on the council's website, and we welcome anyone who feels they can make a positive impact.

Parish Meeting

Our Parish Meeting is also fast approaching on **12th May** at 7:30pm. This is an important opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for Sourton to raise any matters of concern relating to their local community. Whether it's a small issue or a larger topic, your input is invaluable in helping shape the future of our area.

Additionally, if any local groups would like to provide a report or share updates with the council, please send them to the Clerk. This is a great way to keep everyone informed about the work and progress of our local organizations.

We look forward to seeing you at the Parish Meeting.



The North Dartmoor Garden Club, is a friendly group of garden lovers – but not necessarily gardeners, who hold monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 7.30pm, in Belstone Village Hall. The group has a wide range of speakers on a variety of topics.

On 27th March, Jenny Evans will be giving a talk 'Camouflage, Colour – the Moths in Your Garden and How to Look After Them'. Then on 24th April Professor Karl Ritz will be taking us on a 'Subterranean Safari – Soil Health and Organisms'.

New members and guests are always welcome. For further details about the club please contact Robin Hill **01837 840332**
edwinarobinhill@outlook.com
or our secretary Pat Watson
watsongp@hotmail.com



Community Open Weekend

Visit RHS Garden Rosemoor for just £1 on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd March, 10am - 5pm, and experience spring in this special place. The beautiful gardens are literally bursting into life. Relax on a peaceful lakeside stroll and admire the sunny swathes of daffodils as you go. Marvel at our magnificent magnolias and smell the subtle scent of wisteria blooms opening. Families can follow our fun leaf-rubbing trail and let their imaginations run wild in our dedicated adventure play and den building areas. **Please note: Tickets to this event are limited and must be booked in advance.** If you do not have a booking, normal garden admission will apply. Garden entry for the Open Weekend is just £1, which will be returned as a catering voucher on arrival.

Contact details: 01805 626810
rosemooradmin@rhs.org.uk

Movie Watch February 2025

Famine or Feast? Recent offerings at the New Carlton have felt a bit that way.

After a generally dismal 2024, we've suddenly been presented with some quality output. **Lee** (Kate Winslet) and **The Critic** (Ian McKellen) were both pretty good, but last year was, by some distance, the weakest since this column began in 2016.

We didn't much enjoy the ponderous **Maria** (or at least the half of it we saw prior to Western Power pulling the plugs) but **Conclave**, **A Complete Unknown** and **September 5** were all thought-provoking and entertaining.

I mentioned **Conclave** last month. A terrific political thriller, this one comes with a very solid recommendation although I was slightly surprised to see the film voted Best Picture at the recent BAFTA awards, ahead of the much-vaunted **The Brutalist**. Whether we get a chance to see the latter in Okehampton remains uncertain but either way, **Conclave** would be well worth two hours of your time, if you can track it down.

We were also able to take in the Bob Dylan biopic **A Complete Unknown** and were grateful for the opportunity. Flavour of the month Timothee Chalamet fills the title role superbly, notably supported by Edward Norton as Pete Seeger and Monica Barbaro, convincing as Joan Baez.

In 1961, the 19-year-old Dylan moved to New York, initially in the hope of meeting his recently hospitalised, and rapidly failing, folk idol, Woody Guthrie. Dylan plays one of his own compositions for the bed-ridden Guthrie and it all took off from there.

He became increasingly involved in the thriving New York folk scene and soon developed a sizeable following. The film pivots on the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, with Dylan the star turn but, to the horror of the folk fraternity, he launched into an

almost exclusively electronic set, anathema to his loyal fan base, who let their displeasure be known in no uncertain terms.

It's easy to forget just how many timeless songs Dylan has created but in at least one respect he stands alone, having won the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature for 'creating new poetic expressions in the great American song tradition.' In that context, he ranks alongside the likes of Kipling, Pasternak, Sartre, Shaw, Hemingway and Co.

Like A Rolling Stone, Blowing' in the Wind, Hey Mr Tamborine Man, End of the Line, The Times They Are A-Changing.....the film's soundtrack should have something for everyone. But regardless of whether you would count yourself a Dylan fan, this fine film is another to earn a strong recommendation.

With **Conclave** and **A Complete Unknown** both ticked off early in the New Year, we approached the barely-promoted **September 5** with no great expectations, only to stumble across another superb piece of work.

The film details the appalling terrorist massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics, told from the perspective of the ABC television crew covering the games. Actors play the TV executives but their scripted dialogue is cleverly interspersed with archive news footage. Keep your eyes open for our own Trevor McDonald, spotted in the background.

Television coverage of the chaotic events, initially at least, was further complicated by the lack of any agreed demarcation between the Network's Sport and News teams, both of whom chose to claim it as their own. ABC duly broadcast the unfolding events to a vast global audience but their self-congratulation at scooping the opposition was short-lived as they realised the terrorists could also watch the output and modify their strategy accordingly. That aspect in particular made September 5 a tense and compelling, if

uncomfortable, watch.

A difficult couple of hours but informative and rewarding.

Finally, Bridget Jones returned to Okehampton around the middle of February with the latest in the series of Helen Fielding's romantic-comedies, this time **Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy**, with a cast once again headed by Renee Zellweger and Hugh Grant.

I stayed at home and opted for Leeds v Sunderland on the small screen but fortunately we were able to send a trusted Movie Watch representative. She reports, *'The best aspect of the latest Bridget Jones film was the decision to stick with the original cast. Renee Zellweger is perfect as Bridget. Her life is still chaotic, even with the addition of two children, one of whom (Mabel) is her double. The other (Billy) is a mini-Mark Darcy, her late husband who was killed, four years earlier, on a humanitarian mission in Sudan.*

Bridget has still not come to terms with widowhood but close friends (Sally Phillips and Emma Thompson) persuade her the time has come to move on. Hugh Grant, one of her original suitors, is godfather to Bridget's children and still dipping in and out of her life.

In the customary all-star cast, Jim Broadbent and Gemma Jones feature as Bridget's parents, the former in flashbacks, the latter as an organising busy-body. Bridget's first affair post-Darcy is with Roxster (Leo Woodall), 22 years her junior. He is replaced in her affections by Scott Wallaker (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a teacher at Bridget's children's school who becomes her final love interest. A happy, funny film with many emotional moments.'

Oh and Leeds won 2-1. That also had a few emotional moments.

I suspect the other named titles will be forced to make way, initially at least for Bridget, but also for **Captain America:**

Brave New World which stars Anthony Mackie alongside Harrison Ford making, at the age of 82, his Marvel Films debut.

'After meeting with newly-elected U.S. President Thaddeus Ross (Ford), 'Sam' finds himself in the middle of an international incident. He must discover the reason behind a nefarious global plot before the true mastermind has the entire world seeing red.'

A budget of \$180m suggests a sure-fire winner and despite mixed reviews, this one will already have been packing them in at the New Carlton for a while.

Prior to the announcement of the Academy Award winners and any subsequent schedule revisions, next month looks thin, with **Black Bag** (Cate Blanchett, Michael Fassbender, Pierce Brosnan) looking to be the biggest title. *'A spy drama concerning two legendary intelligence agents,'* the film goes on general release in the US in early-March so no reviews at the time of writing. Strong cast though.

Not much room left to talk about TV output but we watched all five episodes of **Lockerbie – A Search for Truth** on Sky Atlantic. A well-made if harrowing dramatised Sky documentary, in five one-hour parts, starring the invariably excellent Colin Firth.

A few other suggestions, from various sources around the parish, most of which should still be available on catch-up.....**Playing Nice** (ITVX), **Bad Sisters** (Apple TV+), **Culprits** (ITVX), **Prime Target** (Apple TV+), **The Night Agent** series 2 (Netflix), **Brian Banks** (Netflix), **Brian and Maggie** (C4), **Miss Austen** (BBC1), **24 Hours in A+E** (C4) and **Four in a Bed** (Channel 4).

And if there's nothing there that appeals, why not treat yourself to a night at the cinema?

DAVID HARRISON
February 2025

Bacon Baps will be served on **Saturday 29th March, 10am - 12 noon in Bridestowe Village Hall.**



It was lovely to see Mike Bidmead, our 'Plant Man', back at February's session and we're hoping he will become a regular. Jill may well be there too with honey for sale and there will be the usual selection of secondhand books to look through. There was a good attendance at February's session and we raised £160 for hall funds. Thank you for your support.

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP will meet for coffee at The Ark on Thursday March 20th at 10.30. New members always welcome.

In April we are planning to go to Belstone community cafe on Thursday April 24th. Please note that to suit most members we are meeting on the 4th and not the 3rd Thursday, just for that month.

Contact person Ann Allan on 861551

BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 6th March** at 7.30pm at Rowdens Barn. We will be discussing *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead



The Underground Railroad author's powerful new novel evokes the dark realities of a Florida reform school in the 60s

Colson Whitehead has a mission to create a fictional space in which the buried stories of America's racial history can breathe. His previous novel, *The Underground Railroad*, exhumed the testimonies of former slaves who fled the American south. The novel gave those histories startling imaginative release, taking the metaphor for the network of tunnels and channels by which abolitionists helped escapees rattle north and giving it unforgettable reality. That book was Whitehead's eighth, but its publication at the juncture between the 44th and 45th presidencies gave it urgent significance. It came with pointed endorsement from Barack Obama, won a Pulitzer prize and a National Book award and offered an indelible corrective, if one were needed, to ideas that there had been settled closure to that heinous and often unacknowledged past.

The Guardian, 5th August 2019

New members always welcome

01566 783529

email: neil@neiledgson.com

YOUTH MARKET AT BUTCHER'S HALL, TAVISTOCK

Young entrepreneurs are being invited to seize a new opportunity to market their wares and ideas in Tavistock.

The town council is launching the first Tavistock Youth Market in the award-winning Tavistock Pannier Market on Saturday 8th March, 9am - 4pm, in partnership with the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF).



Boasley Chapel

Happenings in March

Sunday March 2nd 11am Service with Rev. Chris Jackson

Sunday March 2nd 2.30-4.30pm Tea and Cake

Sunday March 16th 11 am Service with Barbara Dalton

Thursday March 20th 12-2pm Soup and

Sweet Very popular regular event, no need to book, good choice of soups and puddings, come with friends/make new ones, no fixed charge but donations welcome!

Enquiries 01837861760

Thursday March 27th 11am Short Service with Angela Banfield then Coffee

Sunday March 30th 11am Mothering Sunday Service with Angela Banfield

Everyone very welcome!

We have a box at the chapel to collect food items for Okehampton's Community Kitchen which we try to dispatch every month. Thankyou on their behalf for any donations you can spare.



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



Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010

Winter opening times
October to March

Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4.30pm



On 9th February, members of the Bridestowe Volunteer Group planted 150 wild flower plugs in the right hand verge as you enter the village. You can see the canes marking the area. Ten species from a longer list of suitable UK wildflower plants that grow in the widest range of settings were planted. These include, common knapweed, oxeye daisy and wild carrot. Most of the species appear on the RHS 'Plants for Pollinators' list and are a great source of food for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Good job done.



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



The Okehampton Fairtrade Group

invite you to a

Quiz Night

Quiz Master Graham Crocker

Friday 4th April

Church Hall, Okehampton

7:30 start

Teams of 4 or 6

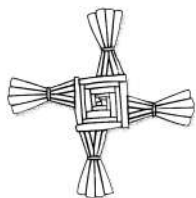
Tickets £5 each to include a free
pasty

Bring your own drinks

To enter phone: 07398843933



Bridestowe Churches Partnership



Sunday Worship for March 2025

Sunday 2nd

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)

Wednesday 5th Ash Wednesday

6.00pm Service to celebrate Ash Wednesday at the Methodist Chapel.

Friday 7th World Day of Prayer

2.00pm Service at The Ark

Sunday 9th

9.30 am Morning Prayer at St Bridget's

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist Chapel with Jerry Cook. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday 16th

9.30 am United service with the Methodist Chapel, at St Bridget's.

Sunday 23rd

9.30am Family Service at St Bridget's

11.00am Bridestowe Worship Group

Sunday 30th

9.30am Mothering Day service will be held at St Bridget's and is an United service with the Methodist Chapel.

The Ark

The World Day of Prayer service is on Friday 7th March at 2pm. and this will be held in the Ark.

This will be followed by tea and cakes.

Do come.

The Coffee Morning in February raised £222 for Devon Air Ambulance. Many thanks to all who attended and supported us.

The March Coffee Morning will be held on

Saturday 8th March with

Tea/Coffee/Biscuits and a cake stall.

The money raised will be given to the BaSE magazine to help with costs.

You will see on the front page the Warm Spaces' free lunch which is being held in the Ark on **Thursday 27th March**,

All welcome to soup, crunchy bread, cheese and fruit This event has been funded by a grant from the Sustainable Communities Localities Fund to the Parish Council.

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.

The Over 60's Lunch

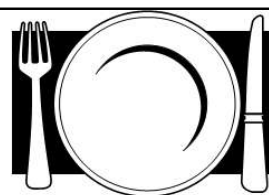
Club will meet on

Tuesday 11th March.

Meet at 12.15 for lunch at 12.30pm.

Ring Jennifer 861592 if you cannot attend.

Thank you





At Okehampton Library

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!

EVENTS - MARCH

Okehampton Library Book Bingo Launch
Join our FREE year-round reading challenge for adults! Read 12 library books across the year, each square has a different prompt on your bingo card. Once you have completed a square, come in to have your bingo card stamped and move on to another square. They can be completed in any order; when all 12 have been stamped, bring your card into the library to be entered into a prize draw to win a book bundle and mug – funded by The Friends of Okehampton Library. Completed bingo cards must be handed in to the library by 10am Saturday 20th December 2025. Collect your bingo card from Okehampton Library at any point in the year.

Come and celebrate World Book Day at Okehampton Library

We're all about celebrating reading and equal access to books this World Book Day! Pop in and join the library for free anytime

during the week of World Book Day (Monday 3 – Sat 8 March) to receive two free books! Already a library member? No problem - come into the library and borrow or reserve any book during the week of World Book Day to receive a free book! Plus, everyone that takes part in this offer will also be entered into a free prize draw to win some Roald Dahl themed goodies. Open to all ages, whilst stocks last, available during library opening hours

Fancy Dress Rail

Until 6 March during library opening hours Come in and choose your child's next fancy-dress costume for World Book Day (6 March). No swap required. Monetary donations welcome.

Police Community drop in Date to be confirmed

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."

Book Bingo Coffee Morning Saturday 8 March 10:00-12:00

Join us for a free cuppa and biscuits and hear all about our brand-new free adult reading challenge, 'Library Book Bingo'! Sign up to start the challenge, look at our book recommendations and various displays, or ask staff about our free e-service, BorrowBox 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).

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



Now we have reached March, and spring is looking a little nearer (we hope) the gorge is back open to explore. The rangers have been incredibly busy over winter both in the gorge and helping the team (well ranger Simon) down on south west Dartmoor. Simon returned the favour by bringing the big tractor up to Lydford to winch out an awkwardly big beech tree that fell but got wedged in the river that flows over the waterfall. There has, as always, been a lot to do, not helped by the stormy weather, so the team will likely remain busy during March finishing off a range of tasks around the gorge.

Volunteer opportunities

Now that we're back open we're looking for volunteers in several roles to boost the team. We're particularly in need of bookshop volunteers but are also looking for volunteers in the visitor welcome and tea-rooms. We can be very flexible, there's some basic training for all roles but the rest can be learnt as you go and there's no minimum commitment. If you're interested you can either stop by and say hello, email lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk or apply online at <https://bit.ly/VolDartmoorNT> search for roles around Lydford.

Easter trail

Wednesday 26 March to Monday 21 April, 10am to 4.30pm, with last entry at 3.30pm. Make your way around the orchard to find out where the plants and animals of Lydford Gorge go when you can't see them. £3.50 per trail which includes an Easter trail sheet, bunny ears and dairy or vegan and Free From* chocolate egg. *Suitable for people with milk, egg, gluten, peanut and tree nut allergies.

Opening Times 1 March to 30 September 2025

Devil's Cauldron trail, Waterfall trail, and Lyd Link path open every day 10am-4.30pm. Second-hand bookshop 10am-4.30pm. Devil's Cauldron tea-room 10.30am-4.30pm. Waterfall tea-room 10am-4pm. As always please check

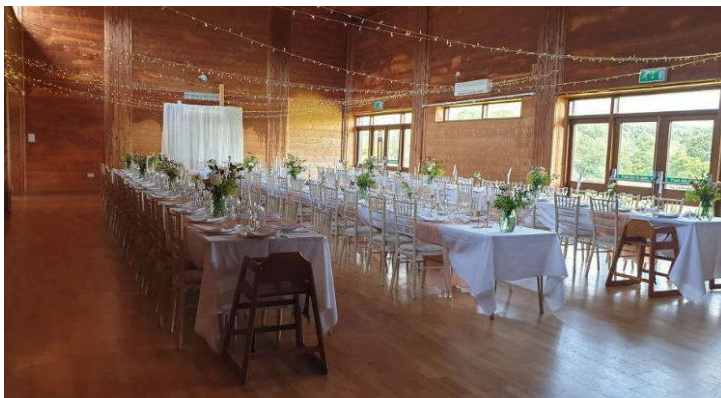
the website before travelling in case of closures
- nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge

Email: lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk Tel: 01822 820320
Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: [lydford.gorge.nt](https://www.instagram.com/lydford.gorge.nt)
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

Lunar cycle for March

New moon	29 th
First quarter	6th
Full moon	14th
Last quarter	22nd



March wildlife guide: best sounds and sights to spot

BBC Countryfile Published: March 1, 2018

Spring has arrived in the British countryside and the landscape is brimming with wildlife.

From the song of the Skylark to rivers full of pike, here is our guide on the best wildlife sounds and sights to spot in March.



Skylark

Although you may spot skylarks on coastal marshes, moorland and lowland farms, it seems to be at its most alluring when performing its stirring song flight from above the chalk ridges and hills where our distant ancestors built their hillforts, henges and barrows. Perhaps these ancient people paused in their work as we pause on our walks to enjoy the exultant cascade of notes, which drive back winter's gloom this month.

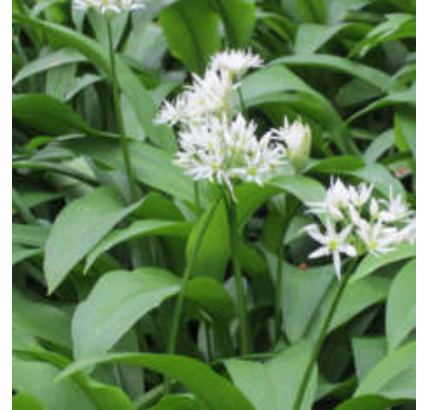
It's no surprise that composer Ralph Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* – inspired by the skylark's melodies – is regularly voted Britain's favourite piece of classic music. William Wordsworth wrote about the bird in *To a Skylark*, remarking "Up with me! up with me into the clouds! For thy song, lark, is strong". Like most bird species, it's the male who has all the songs. He tries to dominate a patch of sky in order to out-sing neighbours and woo females. The birds with the widest repertoire of songs are more likely to attract mates. Apart from their songs, skylarks are unobtrusive birds. They nest on the ground and rely on their soft, brown-flecked plumage to hide them. When you're walking on downland, the first skylark you're likely to see is one bursting from a grassy hideout almost beside the footpath. But once you get your eye in, you can spot the black speck on blue sky as the male yo-yos upwards, singing his tiny heart out.

Wild Garlic (ramsons)

Before bluebells steal everyone's attention, ramsons also known as wild garlic rules the woodland floor leaving a thick garlicky smell over footpaths, clearings and rides.

Late spring is the perfect times to go foraging for this versatile and pungent plant, which can be whipped up into a delicious soup or pesto.

By April, it sends up stems with a cluster of tiny white flowers. In some woodlands, this white bloom coincides with the flowering of early bluebells and you can see waves of blue and white flowers sweeping over the woodland floor between the trees.



Pike

Something that will make your heart start thumping faster: a vast shadowy torpedo that isn't a submerged log. If the water's clear enough, you'll make out the huge tail fin, sleek mottled green body and shark-like head of a pike. It will be motionless, endlessly patient, waiting for a smaller fish to swim within range, before surging forward with horrifying speed to engulf its victim.

Pike breed at this time of year – smaller males pursue huge females into shallow weed beds where the mighty fish thrash around as they spawn. It's an epic event that's seldom seen by humans. (*Trenchford Reservoir on Dartmoor is very deep in places and there are karge features for the pike to hide around.*)

Blackthorn

The first hedgerow flower to appear, blackthorn bursts with clouds of small, starry-white flowers that look especially fragile beside the shrub's vicious thorns.

Once this beautiful display of flowers is over, blackthorn comes into its own in autumn, when it bears small plum



like fruits known as sloes.

Heron colonies

Like rooks, grey herons get a head start on the seasons by building their nests before winter ends. Herons build rather untidy nests in the tops of trees, but considering that these birds are all leg, beak and neck, building anything in a precarious location is admirable.

Hérons tend to nest in colonies of anything up to 30 nests in locations that are used year after year. If you think they're noisy now, wait until April when the chicks are growing and demanding food. The birds produce an extraordinary sound as they clatter their beaks – from a distance it sounds like a steam train chugging along



Extract from DAAT's February Supporters Newsletter

Here are our Monthly Mission Stats for January 2025 which shows our activity throughout a very blustery and stormy month! Thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue to respond to those who need our urgent help across Devon and beyond.

In January we were tasked to a total of 193 incidents, that's an average of 6 missions per day.

Our helicopters were deployed 103 times, our Critical Care Cars 84 times, plus, our Volunteer Responder Team were also called to help on 6 occasions.

We were tasked to 56% trauma emergencies and 44% medical emergencies. Nine of these missions took us across our county borders in January as we were tasked to respond to three patients in Cornwall and 7 in Somerset.

The most common reason for us to be called to help was to 29 patients suffering a Cardiac Arrest, followed by 23 patients injured in a road traffic incident. Please take care on our counties roads, wet weather is more regularly featured in our weather forecast when roads become slippery and visibility pretty poor. Coupled with the sudden mist, fog and ice patches that we are accustomed to in Devon, it's important that we all take extra care on our roads and leave plenty of time to reach our destination safely.

We attended 63.2% Male patients and 36.8% Female. Our busiest days of the week were Fridays where we were tasked to 22 missions and we were tasked to 42 missions in the hours of darkness. The hospital we visited most was Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.



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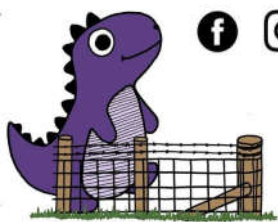
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THE WHITE HART INN, BRIDESTOWE

Nr Okehampton, Devon Tel: 01837 861318

Quiz on
Wednesday 12th March
in aid of
the Richard
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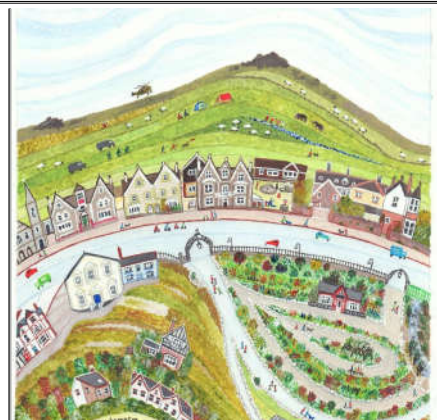
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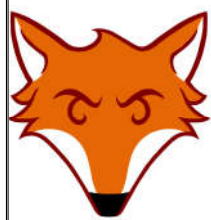
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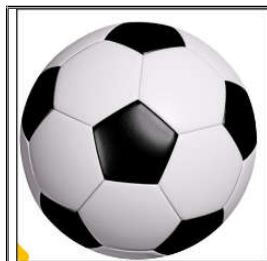
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Forthcoming Events in March 2025

Saturday 1st & 2nd	10am - 5pm, RHS Rosemoor's Community Open Weekend, Entry £1 NEED TO BOOK
Sunday 2nd	2.30pm - 4.30pm, Boasley Chapel, Afternoon Tea
Wednesday 5th	7.30pm, The Ark, Bridestowe PC meeting
Thursday 6th	7.30pm, Rowdens Barn, Reading Group
Saturday 8th	9am - 4pm, Butchers' Hall, Tavistock, Youth Market 10 - 12noon, The Ark, Coffee Morning in aid of BaSE
Sunday 9th	12 noon - 2pm, Sourton Village hall, Soup lunches
Tuesday 11th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's lunch
Wednesday 12th	7.30pm, Sourton's Parish Meeting 8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of the Richard Whitehead Foundation
Tuesday 18th	2.30pm, Faiplace Church, Okehampton u3a, talk
Thursday 20th	10.30am, The Ark, Thursday Morning Group 12pm - 2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Saturday 22nd	9am - 4pm, Butchers' Hall, Tavistock, Book Fair
Thursday 27th	12pm - 3pm, The Ark, Souper Thursday 7.30pm, Belstone Village Hall, Garden Club talk
Friday 28th	7pm, Sourton Village Hall, Family Bingo
Saturday 29th	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Bridestowe Volunteer Group 10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps 5.30pm onwards, Bridestowe Village Hall, Family Easter Bingo



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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.