

Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events April 2025 Edition 275



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



Clean up Day at St Bridget's

26th April 2025

09.30 to 12.00

Our spring clean up day is coming up and we would like to invite anyone who is free to join us for a few hours working on the churchyard clearing weeds and generally tidying things up in preparation for the summer, all with the promise of cakes and

coffee/tea mid-way to get our breath back -but please bring your own mug.

All welcome but please could you bring tools (and garden refuse bags too if you have them as we can't guarantee we will be able to take the products of the morning to the recycling centre or assorted compost heaps). And don't forget your personal safety equipment - gloves and sunscreen (in the hopes we have glorious weather!)

There will be some power tools in use in some areas and we are also asking that you do not undertake any tasks you are not physically able to do.

White Hart, Bridestowe

Pub Quiz

Wednesday 9th April
8PM

Raffle **Prizes**

Entry £2.50 per person,
recommended team size 4-6

All proceeds to Friends of Bridestowe School

The Vicar writes...

I've been coming here on Sundays for seventy year or so
'Twas here that I was Christened and 'tis here I'll want to go.

Now I know you all gets vexed about changes in belief
Well frills on top don't matter if you're comfy underneath.
I never lets it bother if I'm High or Low or what,
While I've got me Ten Commandments
I shan't go wrong a lot.

Now, I likes old-fashioned prayer book
And they like A.S.B,
And they can have what pleases them,
And I'll read what suits me,
And half the hymns we sing these days
I've never heard before,
But I can stand and listen, and perhaps I'll learn some more.

All these guitars and instruments –
It's no more than they had
Afore they put the organ in,
When my Grandad were a lad
And I don't suppose God'll worry
He wouldn't make a fuss,
As long all the singing's meant for Him and not for us.

We've had clergy coming straight from college,
Full of summat new,
From incense on the altar to posters in the pew.
And I lets 'em all get on with it, 'cos all these fashions pass,
And you'll still do the flowers, me dears,
And I'll still clean the brass.

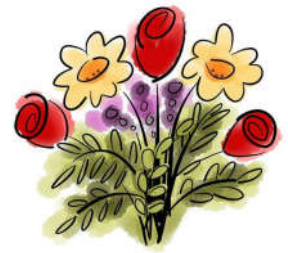
I got this seat I always have, no draughts and nice and near,
So I can hear the organ and see the vicar clear,
And I tells God what's been happening,
And what a week I've had,
And thanks Him for the good times,
And He helps me through the bad,
'Cos all that really matters, as far as I can see,
Is that, I down here, remembers Him,
And He remembers me.

Barbara Robinson

Adrian Brook

Volunteers needed to join the flower rota for St Bridget's Church, just once or maybe twice a year.

For more details please contact
Jenny Thirtle
07779 102128



Support a Grave

A huge thank you to all those who have taken on a grave to maintain – the results speak for themselves, and all efforts are very much appreciated.

There are still a few graves that have been identified as ones that are available for support (tidying vegetation and clearing weeds on and around the grave – no structural work is allowed) so if you felt you would like to participate in this venture to maintain the upkeep of the graves in the churchyard at St Bridget's please do contact Georgina Hodgson at Logan Stone Cottage (07789146177). Some of the volunteers involved in this scheme have been fascinated as to who 'their' grave contains and have been moved to explore the person involved, and the time in which they lived. A brilliant way to examine life in the village within various historical eras.

If you are unable to continue with your support of the grave you are currently caring for, please let us know and we thank you for your efforts over the last year.

Friends of St Bridget's

Membership fees are due at the beginning of May. If you have a standing order there is nothing you need to do but if you pay yearly and wish to continue as a member of FOSB then please could you pay the yearly fee of £6 (or more if you feel able).

AGM The AGM is set for Wednesday 25th June 2025 at 7.30 in St Bridget's church. All are welcome but only members are allowed to vote on any issues. New members can also join that night and have voting rights. A yearly report will be available in the May issue of BaSE.

A date for your May diary...

FRIENDS OF ST BRIDGET'S PLANT SALE

BRIDESTOWE VILLAGE
HALL

Saturday 24th May 2025
at 10 am

Plant Sale to be held in
support of the St Bridget's
Tower Appeal in conjunction
with Bacon Baps

We would be grateful for
any contributions of plants
either ornamental or
vegetable, which can be
brought to the Village Hall
on the morning of the sale or
please contact Deborah
Dreyer by email
deborahdreyer@gmail.com
or by text on 07854613337
if that is not possible.



Easter Day Lilies In memory of a loved one

It is this time of year when we ask if anyone would like to contribute to the St Bridget's Flower Fund in memory of loved ones. The fund enables us to buy the Easter lilies and also make a contribution towards the purchase of flowers by our wonderful group of flower arrangers, to keep our church looking beautiful and loved.

If you would like to be part of this, please pop **your contribution and name(s) of those you wish to be remembered**, into an envelope marked Easter Lilies.

Please post your envelope through the letter box of Georgina Hodgson, Church Warden, Logan Stone Cottage, Launceston Road or give to Rev Adrian Brook at the Vicarage. If you wish to pay by cheque, please make it out to St Bridget's PCC.

If you wish to pay by bank transfer then contact Jonathan Whiteley, Church Warden, on 01837 861559 or email churchwarden.stbridgets@gmail.com for the St Bridget's bank account details. If you pay this way, you will need to include the names of those to be remembered in the email or give them to Jonathan when you ring.

To enable the names to be recorded in a special card which is placed on the altar on Easter Day, can you please complete the above by **Thursday 17th April**. You can, of course, donate money towards the flower fund at any time of the year.

Okehampton Artillery Camp by Howard Barkell

The sight of a red flag fluttering in the wind at the top of a tor or the staccato chattering of small arms fire are reminders that the Military have used the moor for practice for decades. As the development of weapons gathered pace their range increased and large open spaces like Dartmoor were needed to replace previous ranges which were no longer suitable. To begin with rifle ranges were used by the local militia. Artillery practice had usually taken place by firing out to sea but that was no longer practicable. The War Department chose Dartmoor as a possible replacement. After a successful trial and with the agreement of the Duchy of Cornwall who owned most of the land and the encouragement of the Okehampton Town Council who saw the chance of extra trade for local businesses a 25 year lease was signed with Rev. Luxmoore in 1875 to use part of his Okehampton Park estate as a temporary annual campsite. In September a detachment of the Royal Artillery from Devonport made the two day journey to Okehampton and lived in a tented camp for three weeks while firing in an area between the Taw and East Okement.

By 1880 the camp was pitched for firing to start in early June and finish in late August. At any one time three batteries were in residence. The camp size had increased to over 100 bell tents and marquees for over 350 officers and other ranks and 256 horses were picketed between the harness tents and the main camp. Batteries now travelled from far and wide for their annual three week practice. A detachment from Canterbury was on the road for a fortnight before it reached Okehampton. Three ranges were in use and each Battery was programmed to fire over 500 rounds, some impact shells, some shrapnel which were fused to explode close to the ground and a few case shot for use against infantry and cavalry. There was no firing at weekends, although Saturdays could be used if weekdays had been lost because of bad weather.

The public was warned when firing was taking place by flying a red flag on Yes Tor. Other flags were raised at Watchet Hill above Belstone and at Fitz's Well on the approach to the camp. If firing was to take place on a

Saturday, notices were sent to local post offices for public display on Friday afternoon, including those at Bridestowe and Lydford. In 1886 the Duke of Cambridge, the Commander in Chief of the Forces, made a special journey from London by train to watch the new 12 pounder gun being fired. He was met by a mounted party at Okehampton station and proceeded to Halstock Hill, but the weather was so bad that firing was cancelled. The Duke, as his cousin Queen Victoria is supposed to have said, was not amused, cut short his visit and caught the next LSWR train back to London.

Public safety did not seem to be a huge priority. Indeed, excursions and visits to watch the whole spectacle of firing were encouraged. It must have been quite a sight to see each team of six horses with three mounted drivers pulling the limber or gun carriage and gun across the river from the camp followed by the 5man mounted gun team then up the hill towards Halstock Hill where the guns were detached and made ready for firing. A national newspaper report in 1892 told of how three visitors to the area decided to walk from Gidleigh to Cranmere Pool. Presumably unversed in military matters they could hear gunfire and eventually see shells exploding on a distant hillside but still carried on until they reached their goal. By the time they were having their lunch the firing had stopped, but when it restarted they could hear the shells coming and see them pass overhead and explode nearby. They managed to crawl along one of those deep fissures in the peat until they reached the Taw valley and safety. They complained afterwards that there were no red flags or warning signs on that side of the moor. Following this bad publicity several extra flag poles were erected including those on Kitty Tor and Sourton Tor and notice boards warning of the dangers erected.

After battling the Dartmoor wind, mist and rain under canvas for several years it was decided to make Okehampton a permanent camp. In 1892 the War Department signed a 999 year lease with Marion Luxmoore and others for 93 acres of the Okehampton Park Estate at a yearly rent of £152. The area was marked by 8 boundary posts consisting of granite blocks marked in a similar way to those around Willsworthy, the letters WD

with one of the numbers 1 to 8 underneath. For the next two years a number of buildings were erected including stables, tack rooms, feedstores and a farrier's shop. Officers and their servants were provided with accommodation, other ranks still slept on straw filled palliasses in bell tents! Further improvements were provided over the years until we have the present camp as it is today. Townspeople got used to seeing convoys of horses and guns passing through the town on their way to the camp. They got a surprise in 1882 when the detachment from Devonport arrived from their halfway stop at Tavistock. Behind the horses came a string of Spanish mules each carrying part of a gun, 7 mules per gun. They were part of a mountain battery and had found mules to be an asset in the mountainous Afghan campaign.

My grandfather served in the RHA for 23 years, for several years as a Driver. He was responsible for two horses and their harness. This included feeding and grooming as well as keeping the leather harness polished. In a team of three pairs the drivers rode on the left hand horse and they were known as the lead, centre and wheel drivers. He came to Okehampton at least once when he was stationed at Aldershot but didn't have the privilege of riding through the town. In the 1890's the LSWR built a special military siding just this side of the station. Special trains loaded with soldiers, horses, guns and other equipment could unload there. A special exit was made onto camp road for easier access across the bridge and up the hill to the camp. This saved the long journeys previously made by road. The site is now occupied by the Army Cadet Force and the beginning of the Granite Way runs right beside it.

One group of people who didn't welcome the likelihood of more live firing and the area of ranges being extended were the commoners whose animals had to be cleared from the ranges when live firing took place. In 1893 the Commoners of Bridestowe and Sourton were offered £50 every 31st December for loss of pasture on certain parts of the common on firing days. A heated meeting in Bridestowe schoolroom followed because Sourton wanted the whole £50 because their farmers would be most inconvenienced, but the commons are actually held jointly. It was eventually agreed to

accept the War Office's offer and to appoint Frank Ward, a well respected auctioneer and surveyor from Brentor owning the firm of Ward & Chown, as arbitrator between the two sets of commoners. They had to find their own range clearer. A similar situation occurred between Okehampton Borough and the Hamlets, but they were paid £200 as the acreage lost was much larger. Local commoners are still paid compensation every year. Some of them make generous donations to worthy parish causes or events.

A Hundred Years Ago

Thanks to Carl I believe there was an article in a recent edition of the Cornish and Devon Post recounting how electricity came to Bridestowe a hundred years ago. John Worden, a local carpenter and undertaker, was responsible. He owned the Sawmills on Rectory Road (Pig's Leg, that is the piece at the Sourton end, was never mentioned). He lived and farmed at Diggaport. The sawmill was a long, low corrugated iron building where the circular saw was capable of sawing quite large tree trunks into planks and coffin boards. The power came from a waterwheel attached to the bench by a belt. The water was brought by leat from the river from just opposite Leawood Mill. He installed a series of storage batteries which were connected to a generator worked by the waterwheel (its remains can be seen in the car park of the Highwayman Inn). The electricity was mainly for John's own use and a series of poles carried the power line to Diggaport. There were also a few street lights dotted around the village. When the wheel was turning it made an audible, distinctive noise, but it had to be turned off promptly at ten o'clock in the evening!

The Bridestowe Volunteer Group

The group will meet again on **Saturday 26th April** at the usual assembly time - 9.30am at the cemetery gates.

The plan is for some volunteers to join forces with the cleaner- uppers at the church, after all there is cake on offer.

New faces are always welcome.

Bridestowe Parish Council

Bridestowe Parish Council will be meeting on **Wednesday 23rd April at 7.30pm** in The Ark (Methodist Chapel).

First there will be the **Parish Meeting**, an opportunity for parishioners to discuss local issues, voice opinions, and have a say in parish affairs. The Chair will present her annual report too.

This will be followed by a **full meeting** of the Parish Council. Councillors will be discussing Bakers Estates' planning application for the land adjacent to the Cemetery. **0783/25/FUL**

Residential development of 30 dwellings, the formation of access, public open space and associated works.

All the relevant documents can be viewed on line via WDBC website .

www.westdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications

The Design and Access document will give you the clearest and most succinct summary of the proposal.

Members of the community are encouraged to come to the meeting to express their views and Mark Edwards, Head of Planning for Bakers Estates, will be present to answer any questions.

Do come and have your say.

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

BAKER ESTATES

A summary of the feedback from the public consultation held on 26th March

provided by Mark Edwards Head of Development

"44 people attended the public exhibition held at the Ark on 26th February 2025 from 2pm to 7.30pm at which they were able to view a series of panels covering feedback from the drop-in session in Oct'24, policy details from the Bridestowe & Sourton Neighbourhood Development Plan, information on local housing need, site constraints, sustainability and drainage, as well as the proposed final layout and examples of house types and finishes.

The panels were posted on the Bakers Estates dedicated consultation portal (bakerestatesconsultation.co.uk) the day after the public exhibition. They could be viewed and/or downloaded and an online feedback form was available to complete. Following the public exhibition, feedback forms (available in hard copy at the event or online) were required to be completed and returned by 5th March.

The material on display demonstrated how the plans had evolved in response to feedback, and how matters rated as important by the community, such as parking and affordable housing, had been prioritised. The feedback from this second event was overwhelmingly positive."

'Souper' Thursday

Well it **was** super. The event was funded by a grant that Bridestowe Parish Council had received and was specifically for 'Warm Spaces' events. It was an enjoyable three hours with people coming together to enjoy a choice of soups, crusty bread, various cheeses and fruit and it offered a chance to have a good natter. It was informal and friendly. In fact it went so well it was suggested that another similar event is held in the autumn. It was a proper community event. If you Google the word "community" one definition offered is:

"a group of people who share a common characteristic, interest, or location, often with a sense of belonging and interaction. There was plenty of interaction on Thursday!

I'm very grateful for the help and support given by the regular Ark attendees. They made soups, served the guests and manned the dishwasher. So thank you Janet, Jenny and George in particular. AY



**Tuesday 15 April at Fairplace Church
Our meeting this month starts at 2.00pm
with a short AGM followed by our speaker
at 2.30pm Ruth Stainer-Smith**

Ruth is Vice Chairman of Okehampton Beekeepers Association.

Her talk will include an introduction to honeybees and their relationships to other insects.

Beekeeping today is a fascinating and rewarding activity but at times can be challenging. Caring for bees, like caring for any livestock, can be affected by adverse weather, pests, disease and bad luck. Successful beekeeping requires some degree of dedication to acquire knowledge and understanding of bees and their needs. Also, in this global world with changing climate, it is necessary to keep up-to-date with developments.

So, if you want to know more come along and listen to Ruth's talk.

There will be time for discussion at the end of her presentation.

This meeting will be held at Fairplace Church, 3 Fairplace Terrace, Okehampton, EX20 1DT starting at 2.00pm.

Admission - £1.00 to help towards the cost of, hiring the venue and refreshments.

For further information please contact Dee McVey 01837 658590

Bridestowe Primary School's new Reading Shed

The school was delighted to unveil its new outdoor Reading Shed on World Book Day.

The Friends of Bridestowe School (FoBS) worked incredibly hard to fundraise for this outstanding resource. It was a real team effort to get it ready for opening, with parents, staff and their family members giving up their weekends to provide a perfect environment for pupils to develop their love for reading. FoBS would like to thank Countryside Furnishers from Launceston who kindly donated the carpet to make the space extra cosy.

It was a delight watching pupils of all ages explore and enjoy this excellent space.'



Friends of Bridestowe School (FoBs) would like to thank The Thursday Morning Group for donating £100 towards new books for the school. It is greatly appreciated by all. New books are on their way to school now for all the children to enjoy. Thank you all again.



St Thomas à Becket Church *APRIL* Soup Lunches

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported our March lunch. This is the last one of the season as we head towards starting cream teas at Easter.

CREAM TEAS

Our next cream teas, in aid of church funds, will be on Easter Monday April 21st from 1.30 - 5.30 p.m.

We will be serving our usual delicious home made cream teas and savouries. If you would like to help with baking or serving please get in touch with Ruth Humphry or Jenny Batten if you can spare any time.

Our APCM will be held in the church at 7 p.m. on April 3rd

EASTER Services

Good Friday

April 18th at 12.00 Service of devotion

Easter Saturday at 7 p.m.

EXSULTET service

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday SERVICES for April

April 6th Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

April 13th Service at Bridestowe

April 20th EASTER DAY Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

April 27th Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.

EASTER FLOWERS

We will be decorating the church at 10 a.m. on Saturday if any one would like to provide flowers or come and help to decorate. We are very grateful to Cynthia Higbee for arranging the flower rota and to all the people who help during the year.

Jenny Batten

Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010

Summer opening times
April - September



Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6.00pm

NICHOLLS HALL LYDFORD

BACON BUTTY, CAKE AND COFFEE MORNING

Last Saturday of each month

10am -12.30pm

Well behaved dogs welcome

Card payments accepted

SOURTON VILLAGE HALL

CREAM TEAS

Cakes and Savouries



Easter Monday

21st April, 2025

1:30pm – 5:30pm

Cream Tea only £7.00



In Aid of the Church of
St Thomas á Becket
Sourton

Why not pay a visit to the church while you are here?

For Sale

Small electric mower £15.00 o.n.o

Please call **0781 071 7965**

(Correct phone number this month! AY)

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

Riverside Stores
& Post Office

At the heart of Bridestowe

PLEASE VOTE FOR US

South West Countryside Alliance Awards - FINALISTS

To all our followers and friends, please vote for us for the Countryside Alliance Rural Oscar's award South West 2025. Click the link below or use the QR code if you could. Closing date for voting is midnight 6th April 2025.

<https://www.research.net/r/BizSW25>

The South West Countryside Alliance Awards winners are being chosen by loyal customers and you can all play your part by voting for us. Your passion for our business shone through in the nomination stage and our inclusion as a finalist speaks highly of how much you value our business, our community and how much

we strive to support local rural businesses with our locally produced products we sell.

But it also demonstrates our business is valued by you, our customers and also how much we value you and your support.

#ruraloscars Please Share and Like

Thank you for your continued support.

Michaela & Colin

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



Cricket Club Crowdfunder for stolen machinery

As you may have heard the cricket club was broken into at the end of March and lots of equipment and tools stolen. Although the items were insured the cost to replace them far outways what they were worth due to having been old, second-hand and kindly kept in working order by local companies and volunteers.

A crowdfunder has been set up to help raise funds towards the £10,000 needed to replace the specialist kit - please use the QR - every penny counts!

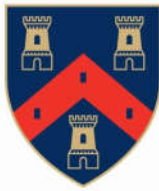
With the season just around the corner, time is



of the essence, and we are already scouring the internet for good quality secondhand machines we can service.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing lots of people at the club for some great cricket this summer.





Director: Dan Robson

Carl Orff: Carmina Burana

Saturday 3rd May at 19.30
St Eustachius' Parish Church, Tavistock

Join us for a performance of this much-loved work as part of this year's Tavistock Festival. Written in 1935-6, and based on the idea of the turning Wheel of Fortune, Carmina Burana consists of settings of twenty-four 13th century poems, mainly in secular Latin or medieval German. The cantata is divided into three main sections: Springtime, In the Tavern and The Court Of Love, with an invocation to Fortune beginning and ending the work, which will be performed in the thrilling arrangement for choir, soloists, two pianos and percussion.

Tickets £14 in advance from TicketSource (ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society) or BookStop in Tavistock.
£15 on the door. Under-18s free.





As we step into April, Sourton Parish Council begins a new financial year. Residents can find a copy of the Council's budget for 2025/26 on the Finance page of our website, providing transparency on how public funds are allocated to benefit our community. The Council also monitors its spending on a monthly basis as part of its financial management and in accordance with financial regulations.

In the churchyard, the first grass cut of the season has taken place. However, as per the Council's green plan to supporting wildlife, the spring flowers have been left untouched to provide an essential habitat for pollinators and other species.

The Council has also been made aware that some headstones in the churchyard are lying flat. As part of our ongoing responsibility for the closed churchyard, we will be discussing an inspection of the condition of all monuments at our April meeting. We are committed to ensuring the safety and preservation of these historic features and will carefully consider any necessary actions following the inspection. Any work required in the closed churchyard must follow Church faculty procedures, and where families cannot be traced, the cost of repairs may need to be met by the Council. We appreciate the community's understanding and will keep residents informed of any developments.

We appreciate the community's support and encourage residents to visit our website for updates on council matters. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us



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 **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

Thank you Sue!

The ex Sourton Parish Councillors thought it would be too nice to recognise the work of Sue Eberle who had been on the Parish Council for over 20 years. Sue has shown great dedication to the parish and been at the forefront of many events, litter picks, tree planting and had a big part in the neighbourhood plan. Sue was presented with a personalised cheeseboard and bunch of flowers at the White Hart Pub Bridestowe in February 2025. I'm sure all parishioners will join us in our gratitude to Sue for all the work and enthusiasm she has shown over the years to the parish.



Movie Watch March 2025

I was ready to lead this month with a few words on **The Salt Path**, full of local interest and originally scheduled for general release at the end of April. However we learn the launch date has just been pushed back until 30th May, despite the finished film having been shown at the Toronto Film Festival back in September 2024.

The delay is a shame as I suspect many of you will already have read Raynor Winn's 2018 memoir, on which the film is based. In short, a married couple run into legal problems relating to the ownership of their home, at the same time the husband receives a bleak medical diagnosis. Homeless, penniless and hopelessly unprepared, they decide to walk the 630-mile South West Coast Path, pretty much on a whim, from Minehead to Poole.

It's a terrific story, beautifully crafted by a first-time author. The Guardian described it as, *'Funny, sometimes uplifting,'* while the book collected numerous awards and became a Sunday Times best seller. The film adaptation stars Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs. No doubt the launch will be backed by significant promotional support.

We'll return to **The Salt Path** when the film has been reviewed and distribution details made available. Hopefully it will reach Okehampton within a few days of the national release date. It already appears on the Coming Soon pages of the New Carlton website.

During the post-Oscar lull, film distributors tend to sit on their hands. (I'm sure they do no such thing, but that's how it appears). They did provide us with a brief opportunity to catch **The Brutalist**, for which Adrien Brody was voted Best Actor, but at a bottom-numbing 215 minutes run time, a film would need to cover a more obviously compelling subject than a Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor arriving in the US in search of the Great American Dream.

Best Picture honours went to **Anora**, with Mikey Maddison voted Best Actress, while the Best Supporting awards went to Zoe Saldana for her performance in **Emilio Perez** and

Keiran Culkin for **A Real Pain**. The former, incidentally, is described as a Spanish language French musical crime film, a genre upon which I'd not previously stumbled.

A few nominated titles had at least reached Okehampton but sadly **A Complete Unknown** and **Conclave**, both excellent we thought, failed to trouble the judges.

That Coming Soon page generally looks weak, with a few possible exceptions. **Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy** continues to be granted occasional local showings, while **Black Bag** (Cate Blanchett, Michael Fassbender and Pierce Brosnan) is a positively-reviewed spy drama.

I don't think I'd make much of an effort to see **Death of a Unicorn**, despite the presence of Richard E Grant in the credits, but **The Amateur**, starring Rami Malek and released on 11th April, could be anything. Charlie Heller is a brilliant, but deeply introverted CIA decoder working out of a basement office at headquarters in Langley. His life is turned upside down when his wife is killed in a London terrorist attack. His supervisors refuse to get involved so he takes matters into his own hands. Could be worth a check.

The big cinema title of the summer will no doubt be **Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning**, with Tom Cruise starring in what will be the eighth (and possibly final) instalment of the franchise. Scheduled for release during May.

Meanwhile the evenings are starting to draw out, making television a progressively less appealing proposition. Nevertheless I've scribbled down a few noteworthy titles.

Our March favourite, by some distance, has been the first season of the outrageous **Bad Sisters** on Apple TV+ for which we're squeezing the last drops of our free three-month trial subscription. By the way, that's an offer worth exploring should you ever need to replace an Apple phone, laptop, iPad or whatever.

However, I specify Season One

as the reviews suggest the second season has been nothing like as enjoyable as the first, but we've not yet got there. Regardless of that, the first season has been a delight. Set in and around Dublin, *Bad Sisters* is a very black Irish comedy created by, and starring, the excellent Sharon Horgan. Recommended viewing, although the jury must remain out on Series 2.

Not strictly speaking a programme recommendation, but do you ever flick on Sky News during weekdays mornings? Their rolling morning news show is billed as **Sky News Today with Wilfred Frost** and runs from 10am. Wilfred is David Frost's 39-year-old son and has clearly inherited his father's fluency and incisive interviewing technique. I can't think of a more impressive TV Current Affairs presenter. In fact he looks to me like a Dimpleby-in-Waiting.

So, what else? **With Love, Meaghan** is an American Lifestyle TV series, featuring the Duchess of Sussex and a few chums. I had a look at it, mostly to save you the bother, It launched on Netflix at the start of March. The Duke and Duchess signed a private rights deal worth an estimated £100m. It looked unspeakably dreadful to me, but then I'm not exactly part of the target audience. If you're tempted, I should give it a try.

Jumping from the sublime to the faintly ridiculous, **The Dimpleby Lectures** were this

year given by the former England Football Manager, Sir Gareth Southgate. I liked and admired Gareth which I'm fairly sure will sadly have left me in a small minority amongst the football fraternity.

A few others, from various sources. **Feat** (Amazon Prime) is a well-reviewed three-part psychological thriller, described as 'an extraordinarily creepy thriller.' **A Cruel Love - The Ruth Ellis Story** tells the tragic story of the last woman to be hanged in Britain. That one stars Lucy Boynton alongside the invariably excellent Toby Jones.

Protection (ITV1) follows the gripping story of a Witness Protection Officer told in six parts. *Towards Zero* is available on the BBC iPlayer and has been Positively reviewed.

Adolescence and **Black Doves** are Netflix thrillers, while **Small Town, Big Story** stars Christina Hendricks from the outstanding *Mad Men*, together with the Irish comedian Chris O'Dowd.

White Lotus continues on Sky, attracting a large and appreciative audience, but mostly I will just continue to point you in the direction of the wonderful **Slow Horses** on Apple TV+

David Harrison
March 2025



BEARSLAKE INN

LOCAL RESIDENTS SPECIAL OFFER

20% discount on your food & drink bill

Monday's & Tuesday's in April 2025

Cannot be used on Easter Bank Holiday Monday or in conjunction with any other offer

www.bearslakeinn.com

Lake, Soutton, Nr Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4HQ

01837 861334

enquiries@bearslakeinn.com

Is this you? Could you be the volunteer we need? Bridestowe Village Hall Management Committee is looking for someone who could act as:

1. Invoicing Clerk - raise invoices and e-mail to hall hirers at the end of each month (approx 15 invoices per month)

agree payment of invoices to bank statements (rarely need to chase anybody for non-payment)

maintain schedule of hire deposits received and paid back

2. Accounts preparation person - separate from treasurer who deals with all transactions
- maintain a simple monthly income & expenditure account along with the treasurer prepare year end accounts for filing with the charity commission.

If you would like to join the team, please contact Esther, 07946 992200 or come along to our next meeting on 30th April at 7.30pm in the hall.

A date for your diary..

Bridestowe Village Hall Management Committee will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.30pm at the Hall.

Do consider coming along to find out how your community building is faring.

Lunar cycle for April

New moon 27th
First quarter 5th
Full moon 13th
Last quarter 21st



Stargazers can look forward to the Lyrid meteor shower which will be active from April 16th to 25th, peaking on the night of April 22nd.

You might see around 20 meteors per hour at its peak, with occasional bright fireballs. April's full Moon, is sometimes called the "Pink Moon," Native American groups are thought to have named it after the moss-pink wildflower which blooms in shades of dusty pink.



Quiz night at The Blue Lion, Lewdown on Thursday 24th April

**BLUE LION
INN**



In aid of the Friends of
Lew Trenchard School
£3 per person, kids free!
7.30pm for 8pm start

The winning team will receive a bottle of wine, kindly donated by The Blue Lion and the Friends of LewTrenchard School will receive a cash percentage of food ordered on the night.



HEAR THAT ?
- FIRST LAWNMOWER
OF SPRING!



Bacon Baps will be served on **19th April, 10am - 12 noon in Bridestowe Village Hall. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL**



It was lovely to see Mike Bidmead, our 'Plant Man', back at February's session and we're hoping he will be a regular again. 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 At our meeting in March we decided to donate our winter takings to the Friends of Bridestowe School for their book buying campaign. Thanks to the members who donated a little extra to bring our gift up to a round £100. This has been gratefully received by FOBS.

We shall next meet for a trip to Belstone Community Cafe on Thursday April 24th, leaving the village at 10.15. I'll be in touch later about transport. (Just for this month we are meeting on the fourth Thursday, not our usual third one.)

Ann Allan on 86155

The winner of the **59 Lottery Club** rollover prize for March will not be known before BaSE is printed.



The decision has been made by the Bridestowe Village Hall Management Committee to disband the 59 Lottery Club. It has been difficult to recruit new members and at £52 a year, the committee recognises it is quite an outlay. Perhaps at some point in the future it might return with a new format.

I would like to thank all the loyal members who renewed their membership without a murmur

every year I emailed them. You helped raise a significant sum for village hall funds.

A. Young

BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd April** at 7.30pm, at 9, Crandford Close.

We will be discussing *The Trees* by Percival Everett



About the book..

Percival Everett's The Trees is a powerful satire of revenge and racial justice in America.

When the rural town of Money, Mississippi is beset by a series of brutal murders, a pair of detectives from the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation arrive, only to be met with resistance from the local sheriff, his deputy, the coroner, and a mob of racist white townsfolk. This, they expect. Less predictable, however, is the second corpse which appears at each crime scene: that of a man resembling Emmett Till, the young Black boy lynched in the same town sixty-five years earlier.

As a spate of copycat killings spreads across the country, what begins as a murder investigation soon becomes a journey into the soul of America's violent past.

www.waterstones.com

Shortlisted for The Booker Prize 2022

Winner of the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction 2022

A Sunday Times Novel of the Year 2022

About the author..

Percival Leonard Everett II is an American writer and Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California. He has described himself as "pathologically ironic" and has played around with numerous genres such as western fiction, mysteries, thrillers, satire and philosophical fiction.

New members always welcome

01566 783529

email: neil@neiledgson.com

Boasley Chapel April Happenings

Sunday 6th April Afternoon Tea 2.30-4.30pm
in the Chapel Schoolroom

Sunday 13th April Service with Roy Down at
11am

Thursday 17th April Soup and Sweet 12-2pm

Easter Sunday 11am Communion Service with V. Phillips

Advance Notice of our **Scrap and Salvage week** beginning 12th May....more details
in the May BaSE edition!



Stannary Brass Band

This year the band is celebrating its 30th year, and we are delighted that it can continue to be a place where people can enjoy playing music together, and playing in our local community. Our members come from a wide area around Tavistock, and we regularly play locally. The band is a place too where people young and old can come to learn to play, are given help and support from band volunteers and get a long term loan of an instrument, all completely free of charge. The only thing we ask for is that you try to attend regularly and practice to help you improve, so you can progress from Beginners to Training Band and eventually to the main band. It is a lot of fun and new players are welcome. See our website for further details
<https://www.stannarybrassbandtavistock.org.uk> .

To celebrate our 30th anniversary, the band invites you to a concert at St Eustachius church in Tavistock on **Saturday 17th May**, hosted by our patron Angela Rippon. Entry is free but there will be a retiring collection for the Mary Budding Trust, a local charity offering support for children with additional needs. The evening will provide a variety of marches, blues/jazz, some pieces written just for brass, and some old favourites. This year the band is celebrating its 30th year, and we are delighted that it can continue to be a place where people can enjoy playing music together, and playing in our local community.

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<https://www.stannarybrassbandtavistock.org.uk>

New advertiser...



MOORLAND GARDEN CARE & MAINTENANCE

Please text or call for a free quote!

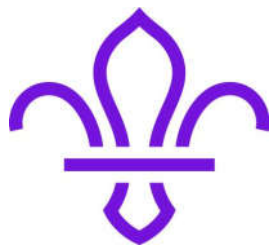
07845758702 // 07718220309

Based in Okehampton & Surrounding areas

Services we offer:

- Grass/hedge cutting
- Domestic fencing
- Landscaping
- Strimming
- Turfing
- Weeding
- Garden clearance
- Pressure washing

Bridestowe Scout Group news



Beaver report (6 - 8)

Beavers have been busy working on their communicator badge and sending messages using Morse code. They held the pancake Olympics and are working on their animal care badge.

Cub report (8 - 10)

The Cubs have had a busy term working on their digital maker badge and they reached for the stars when they had a look at the constellations as part of their Astronomer badge. The Cubs had a visit from a local martial arts club for a session on self-defence.

Scout report (10 - 14)

The Scout section have been honing their navigation skills hiking in the woods. They have been working on their science badge - fortunately they didn't blow up the village hall! Also the scouts had a martial arts session so watch out!

If you would like to enrol your child please contact us at:
membership@bridestowescouts.org.uk

Volunteer with us.

As you all are aware, Scouting is operated by volunteers who dedicate their time to offer young individuals in our community the chance to engage in various Scout activities. There are numerous ways to participate at Bridestowe Scouts. You can volunteer with the Beavers, Cubs, or Scout sections as assistant leaders or full leaders. Alternatively, if you prefer not to assist during meetings, please consider taking on a trustee role. Every Scout group has a board of Trustees. The Trustee Board consists of a team of volunteers who work collaboratively as charity trustees to ensure that the Scouts operate safely and legally. Their primary focus involves strategy, performance, and assurance. The Trustees aim to convene three times a year, in addition to attending the Annual General Meeting

(AGM).

We kindly request that you consider one of the following roles to help sustain Bridestowe Scouts:

Group Lead Volunteer:

The Group Lead Volunteer (GLV) acts as a manager, providing support to other volunteers to ensure the Group functions effectively and delivers quality Scouting experiences to more young people in Bridestowe and the surrounding area.

Trustees:

Work alongside the Chair and Treasurer as charity trustees to ensure the Scouts are managed safely and legally. The core responsibilities include focusing on strategy, performance, and assurance.

Also please let us know if you have a particular interest or hobby that you could share with our young people. Please drop us a line to see how you can get involved. It is great fun, you will make new friends and learn new skills. If you would like more information on the Scout Group activities, discuss how we could get involved in community events or would like to discuss a volunteer role with us, please contact: gsl@bridestowescouts.org.uk or secretary@bridestowescouts.org.uk

Yours in Scouting

Bridestowe Scout Leaders.

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.

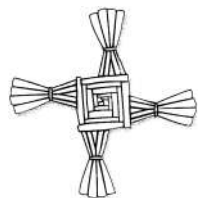
Competitive rates

- please contact for a free quotation visit.

01837 861114



Bridestowe Churches Partnership



Sunday Worship for April 2025

Sunday 6th

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

Sunday 13th

10.30 am **Palm Sunday**. The service begins at St Bridget's before parading up to the Methodist Church.

Thursday 17th

7.00pm pm **Maundy Thursday**. Agape meal and reflection in The Ark.

Friday 18th

10.00am At the cross. Reflective service at Methodist Chapel.

Sunday 20th

9.30am **Easter Day** at St Bridget's
11.00am **Easter Day** at the Methodist Chapel with A Banfield. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday 27th

9.30am Family Service at St Bridget's. Songs and a bible story.
11.00am Bridestowe Worship Group

Easter is a season of hope, renewal, and joy. It is a time to celebrate Christ's resurrection and the gift of eternal life. Just as spring brings new blossoms after the stillness of winter, Easter reminds us that light follows darkness, and faith conquers fear.

Jesus dying on the cross and His great grace saves us, Forgives our sins of the past; Amidst all fear and uncertainty He gives us hope at last. It's Easter that brings joy, peace and bliss; A reminder of how life can truly go on.



The Ark

The Coffee Morning in March raised £188 towards the cost of producing BaSE. Thanks to all who supported this.

The Coffee Morning in April will be held on **Saturday 12th**.

In aid of Gary and Julie's grandson Kye Rufus. (23)

Kye was brought up in Bridestowe and lived in the village up until 5 years ago when he sustained a Severe Traumatic Brain Injury following a moped accident which left him severely disabled. We would like to raise some money to buy him a Tricycle so that he can enjoy visits to local parks and cycle ways.

As usual we will have Tea/Coffee/Biscuits and a cake stall. Looking forward to seeing you.

We will be decorating the Chapel for Easter on Saturday 19th April. Please come and help and bring some flowers.

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.

Jennifer Thorne is handling bookings.

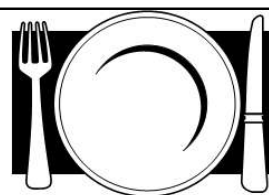
Phone **01837 861592**

Email: j.thorne2013@btinternet.com

The Over 60's Lunch

Club will be held on Tuesday 8th April. Meet at 12.15 for lunch at 12.30pm.

Please let Jennifer know if you cannot come. 861592.





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 - APRIL

Police Community drop in: Thursday 10 April 15:30-16:30

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

Easter Trail: 7-19 April during library opening hours

Can you find all the Easter items hidden around the library to receive a small chocolate treat?

Friends of Okehampton Library Chocolate Draw

£1 a ticket. Enter our Chocolate Draw to be in with a chance of winning one of our delightful bundles. To be drawn Wednesday 16th April. All proceeds will go to the Friends of Okehampton Library, who support the library.

REGULAR EVENTS

ADULTS:

Okehampton Library has a meeting room available for you to book, so you can spread your roots and break the work-from-home cycle or deliver training and meetings in a productive and comfortable environment. Book through our website roomhire.librariesunlimited.org.uk.

Friends of Okehampton Library:

Monday 7 April 14:00-15:00

Are you interested in becoming a friend of your library?

Anyone is welcome to get involved and support the library, organising or helping with events, encouraging use of the library, and supporting fundraising activities.

Read Easy: First Tuesday of every month, 10:00 -12:00

Come and chat with Richard from Read Easy, the charity that helps adults learn to read. Richard would love to talk to you, particularly if you are interested to know more about what Read Easy do and/or if you would like to introduce someone to their free 1:1 and confidential service.

Coffee & Create: Fridays, 10:00-12:00

Bring along your own creative projects and enjoy some optional socialising! Hot drinks available. Free (donations welcome), drop-in, open to adults.

Okehampton Library Book Bingo
Join our FREE year-round reading challenge for adults! Read 12 library books across the year for 12 different prompts. Once you have completed a square, come in to have your bingo card stamped and move onto the next. They can be completed in any order; when all 12 have been completed, 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.

Recycling for Good Causes:

Okehampton Library have taken some inspiration from other Devon Libraries who are doing their bit assisting in tackling the climate crisis and we are proud to say that we have also teamed up with Recycling For Good Causes to offer a recycling point in our library! You can now drop off certain electronics, stamps, currency or jewelry at the recycling point in front of the customer service desk and these items will get sorted and recycled, whilst also raising money for our charity Libraries Unlimited.

Stay & Play: Mondays,

10:00-11:00 (term-time only)

A fun, free play session for under 5s. Come to play and socialise. Just drop in.

Read to a Dog: Tuesdays, 15:45 -16:45

To help and encourage children and teenagers to read, book on to a 'Read to a Dog' session with 'Rafa' who has been assessed by and is registered with Pets as Therapy (PAT). All children can benefit from this activity and are welcome, however, it is particularly beneficial to those children who find reading challenging, are worried about reading aloud in front of others or lack self-confidence and self-esteem. Each FREE reading session lasts up to 15 minutes. Booking is essential.

Bounce & Rhyme: Tuesdays, 10:00-10:20 & 11:00-11:20

Suitable for under 5s. FREE, booking essential via the library or Eventbrite.

Baby Weigh: Tuesdays, 09:30-11:30

FREE self-weigh facilities for parents to weigh their babies, are available in a

screened area within the library. This is in partnership with Devon Public Health Nursing. No booking necessary.

Duplo Builders & Storytime:

Wednesdays, 09:30-10:15

Suitable for under 5s. FREE, no booking necessary.

Lego Builders: Saturdays, 9:30-11:30

Suitable for ages 5+. FREE, just drop in.

Libro's Friends

Join our reading adventure for 0-4-year-olds! Collect a FREE sticker book from the library, receive a sticker featuring one of Libro's animal friends for each visit to the library. Collect all 8 stickers to receive a certificate.

The Secret Book Quest

A completely FREE year-round reading challenge for 5-12-year-olds across Devon. To take part, children sign up in the library, read 50 library books at their own pace, and collect stickers to solve the secret code. Finishers will receive a certificate and a small prize.

Children must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult
Please see our library website or Facebook page for any additional events and library services discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

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

Volunteer Reading Coaches required - Okehampton area

Read easy is a charity that provides free 1-1 confidential coaching sessions for adults that wish to improve their reading. If you could spare one or two half-hour sessions a week and have a friendly, patient manner, you could help someone with their reading.

Fill training and reading materials provided

Interested? Please call or message Shirley on 07396 813489



News from Lydford Gorge

National Trust

Rose Cooke, Visitor Experience Officer

You will most likely have heard about the mudslide that happened two days before we were due to open at the start of March. It happened after heavy rain when debris fell from the steep bank onto the narrow steps leading to the viewing platform in the Devil's Cauldron. As I write this, the work to make it safe is planned and we're hoping to be open by April if all goes well. You never know what the gorge is going to throw at you next.



While researching a moss I spotted on Dartmoor, for a social media post, I learnt about the fascinating 'splash-cup dispersal mechanism'. The bristly haircap moss *Polytrichum piliferum*, looks like it has little red flowers, but they aren't flowers and are far more interesting. The mosses are either male or female and the red cups are modified leaves which are found on male plants in spring and summer. They produce the plant's sperm which is dispersed by raindrops hitting the red cups and splashing off, hopefully transferring the sperm to a female moss nearby and fertilising it. Hence why it's called the splash-cup dispersal mechanism - there is always something new to learn in nature.

Easter trail

Running until 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

Registered Charity Number 205846



A big thank you to all the people who supported the coffee morning held in the Ark in March in aid of BaSE.

We were taken aback by your generosity. We saw it as an endorsement of what we do each month.

We do try very hard to keep costs to a minimum. We've just bought 30 reams of paper, making the most of a half price deal. This donation will pay for toner and paper for many months. Thank you everyone.

Martin and Alison Young

Friday 4th April 2025
Bratton Clovelly Parish Hall
Doors open at 17.30 • Eyes down 18.00



1 & 2 LINES WIN AN EASTER EGG •
FULL HOUSE WINS A ROAST DINNER •
CASH FLYER AND CHILDRENS FLYER •

Tea, coffee, cake and raffle tickets for sale

Accompanied children very welcome

Not organised by the Friends of Boasley Cross School (FOBCS), raising money for Boasley Cross Primary School. Adults must stay during event and remain responsible for their own children throughout the event.



F O B C S

Friends of Boasley Cross School

fobsfundraising1@gmail.com Charity number: 1125036

FOR SALE

Used but excellent condition bedroom wardrobe.
 Laminated MDF - solid unit, preassembled by manufacturer, not
 flat packed (from Countryside Furnishings in Launceston).
 Pine colour effect. On wheels so easily moveable

Dimensions

Height: 186 cm (plus 2.5cm for wheels)
 Depth: 55cm (58cm incl top and bottom plinths)
 Width: 76cm (80cm incl top and bottom plinths)

£60 or near offer

Collection only (Bridestowe)

07794 141072



An improved bus service

There is a strong desire within the village to have a bus service that really serves the community. This letter, written by local residents, was forwarded by the Parish Council to the transport team at Devon County Council and to the relevant bus companies.

'As you will be aware Bridestowe is a sizeable village located to the south of the former A30. Current residential planning proposals will add well over 100 extra residents in the near future.

Unfortunately, our bus services have been allowed to severely decline over the years to the extent that not a single service bus route now comes into the village. This situation is causing difficulties for young and old alike. For example, older residents are being forced to use taxis at a cost of £30 plus per round trip to Okehampton and younger people face extreme challenges in accessing desired educational courses, especially those run by Exeter College which is the nearest provider of vocational options. Whilst it is true that the Go Cornwall bus 306 does stop on the old A30 outside the village this is of only very limited use for the following reasons:

There are just 4 daily journeys possible to Okehampton. Of those, one arrives in Okehampton at 7.10 a.m. well before the shops and other facilities are even open. The latest arrives at 18.10 after most shops/facilities have shut and provides no realistic option to return. The other two options both necessitate a stay of over 4 hours in Okehampton

The nearest bus stop to Bridestowe village for passengers wishing to travel to Okehampton involves walking up a steep hill and crossing a busy road which is not speed restricted.

The bus stop does not even have a shelter. The 306 does not serve Tavistock. A number of excuses have previously been put forward as to why the village cannot be provided with a reasonable bus service.

These seem to focus on the perceived inadequacy of the existing bus turning bay

located in the centre of the village and issues of congestion. Whilst it is accepted that the current turning bay arrangement may not be ideal there would seem to be ample scope to improve it. The congestion argument is simply not accepted at all as the village roads are frequently used by all manner of HGVs and massive agricultural machinery. It is also notable that the daily school bus, a large coach, travels the full length of the village shortly after 8 a.m. (when residents parking is near its peak level) and again in the early evening. Other service buses, including the 118, successfully negotiate routes along narrower roads. The Parish Council would like to put forward a suggestion which would meet the local need at minimal cost. That is to re-route alternate 118 bus services so that instead of all those buses passing straight along the A386 through Sourton half would instead serve Bridestowe and Trescote Way as follows:

Towards Okehampton -From A386 turn left at the Fox and Hounds – Continue along Station Road into Bridestowe village stopping at the White Hart or nearby- Continue through Bridestowe turning right onto the former A30 opposite Bridestowe garage- Stop at the Trescote Way bus stop then travel onward to the Sourton junction to re-join the current 118 route.

Towards Tavistock as above but in reverse. This option would still leave the residents of the small village of Sourton with a 2 hourly service and would not adversely affect any other current users of the 118. It would have positive benefits for a far greater number of people, not only in Bridestowe but also Trescote Way (Sourton Parish).

Since no bus turning would be required the cost of such a change would surely be limited and, as a planning application for a new residential development is expected shortly, presumably there must be some scope for attracting a developer contribution.

We sincerely hope for a positive response.'

A date for your diary.....

CREAM TEA

In Aid of Marie Curie

In loving memory of Rose Dashper



2 Scones,
Cream and Jam
Tea or Coffee
£6.00

Additionally: Savouries including sandwiches, sausage rolls etc, assortment of cakes
(Some gluten free options will also be available)

SOURTON VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 4th May 1.30pm - 5.30pm

New advertiser...



POW PATIOS

General outdoor services

- Patio laying, Restoring, Cleaning & Pointing
- General garden clearing, Tree cutting & logging, Hedge & Grass cutting, Fencing & Fence repairs, General groundworks.

ALL JOBS CONSIDERED

If you require our service, please call Pow
on 07355803908

Or Les on 07591761096

Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary Dance Classes

Classes for adults & children aged 3 years +

Bridestowe – Hatherleigh – Okehampton

All abilities welcome

Also available for one-one tuition, workshops
and birthday parties

To book or find out more:

Email e_stott@hotmail.co.uk Call 07890 420493

Visit www.estott.wix.com/ellodiestottdance



RAD DDTS

BA(Hons) in Ballet and Contemporary Dance

Dance Wherever You Can

Ellodie Stott
School
For
Dance





Local, home-grown, grass-fed lamb and pork available to order now.

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

For prices and more information, contact Alyse 07514 943 239 or Isaac 07908 430 236

Wendy's Sewing Box

I offer the following services but am not limited to:

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



Supporting individuals with all their concerns, historic and current.

West Devon Therapies offers Counselling, Hypnotherapy & EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) face to face and online in the Okehampton and Tavistock area.

For more information or to book a FREE 20 minute consultation please call Melika on 07824882224 or visit westdevontherapies.co.uk

Explorative and Wellbeing workshops starting soon, please see website for further details.

"Therapy should never add to the distress that someone has experienced, I try and make every session as positive and uplifting as I can."



kate cornfield SPORTS MASSAGE

Weekday appointments £40/hr

email: kate@katecornfield.com

mob: 07913 855 231

Based in Meldon, Nr Okehampton



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Your Local Independent Funeral Director

Services start at £1500 for a direct cremation,

£2995 for a simple cremation, to a full tailor made funeral service with "The Morris Way"

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The Old Bedford Foundry, Lakeside Tavistock, PL19 0AZ

www.morrisbros.co.uk



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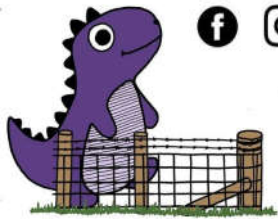
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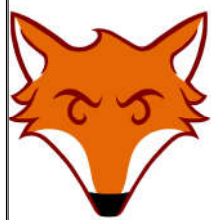
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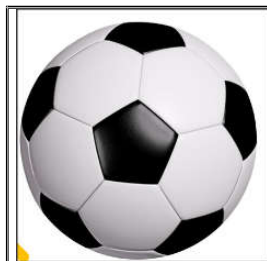
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Forthcoming Events in April 2025

Thursday 3rd	7.30pm, Reading Group, 9 Crandford Close
Friday 4th	5.30pm, Bratton Clovelly Village Hall, Bingo 7.30pm, Church Hall, Okehampton, Fair Trade quiz
Saturday 5th	
Sunday 6th	2.30pm - 4.30pm, Boasley Chapel, Afternoon Tea
Tuesday 8th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's lunch
Wednesday 9th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of FOBS
Saturday 12th	10am - 12pm, Coffee morning in aid of Kye Rufus
Tuesday 15th	2.30pm, Faiplace Church, Okehampton u3a, talk
Thursday 17th	12pm - 2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Saturday 19th	10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps
Wednesday 23rd	7.30pm, The Ark, Bridestowe's Parish Meeting & full PC meeting
Thursday 24th	10.15am departure, to Belstone Community Cafe, TMG 7.30pm for 8pm start, Blue Lion, Quiz in aid of Lew Trenchard School
Saturday 26th	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Bridestowe Volunteer Group 9.30am - 12noon, Clean up day at St Bridget's



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Sessions for children in Years 2, 3 and 4.

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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.