

# Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events May 2025 Edition 276



**VE DAY  
CELEBRATIONS  
IN THE PARK**

**FREE ENTRY**

**Thursday 8th May • 15:00 – 20:00**  
**Simmons Park, Okehampton**

- ♪ Live Music
- ♪ Gift Stalls
- ♪ Classic Car Display
- ♪ Teddy Bears Picnic
- ♪ Street Food & Bar
- ♪ OCRA Activities
- ♪ Children's Entertainment
- ♪ Lighting of Beacon at 9:30 (location to be advised nearer the time)

More details on  
[www.visitokehampton.co.uk](http://www.visitokehampton.co.uk)

## FRIENDS OF ST BRIDGET'S PLANT SALE BRIDESTOWE VILLAGE HALL Saturday 24th May 2025



**From 10am until approximately 12.30 or when**

**we run out of plants** We look forward to seeing you there.

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 from 9.30 or dropped off at Glebe Town, Pig's Leg Lane Bridestowe ( just before the caravan park) the evening before the sale.

Or contact Deborah Dreyer by email [deborahdreyer@gmail.com](mailto:deborahdreyer@gmail.com) or by text on 07854613337 to arrange collection.

# The Vicar writes...

## Strange Goings on in the Cemetery: Body Goes Missing

From John Downes our Devon Correspondent.

Mary Magdalene, (a young 'ooman wot Jesus had once 'elped out) went to the cave zo as to take out the body an' clean it up like, avore 'twas finally laid-to-rest. But when Mary got there, the gurt stone what'd bin used to close the cave 'd bin rolled away and the body were gone.

My hyvers! Mary wus that shocked an' 'er rinned to find Peter an' they. Ol' Rocky-Peter come to the cave smartish like, an' zurenuuff there wus nort inside, only the wroppings what had been put around Jesus's body. The cloth wot had been around 'ees poor 'aid wus lying separate, neatly folded an' tidy like.

Peter an' they decided it were they dirty Pharisees, or mebee the Romans, must've taken the body away to prevent 'ees disciples frim getting at it. But arter a bit they decided there was nort they could do, zo they went off home leavin' Mary Magdalene there by the tomb, broken hearted an' cryin' 'er eyes out. Arter a bit a voice behind her sayeth: "What be weepin' for maid?" Mary thought twas the gardener an' er said, wi'out turnin' round like: "Oh Zur. What have 'ee done wi' the body? Us only wants to give 'n a daicent burial like!"

But then this yur voice said, "Mary!" 'Er turned an' looked an' couldn't believe 'er eyes! Twas none other than Jesus ee'self standing there, large as life an' twice as nachrul, as the saying goeth. He were smiling down at 'er!

"Maister!" cried Mary, an' felled down at 'ee's feet, laffin' an' cryin' all to once, ye know, like wimmin do times, specially when they'm a bit flustered like, an' 'er tried to reach out an' touch 'un.

Jesus backed off a bit. "Dorn 'ee touch me yet maid," Er said. "But go an' find Peter an' they an' tell as what I've been raised frim the dead. Tell 'em I'm gwain to My Fayther, but that I'll be back zoon, never fear." Then ee disappeared like. Mary was all of a tizwas, but 'er rinned to find Peter an' they.

"I've seen our Lord! Our Lord and Maister! Our Jesus has been raised from the daid!" 'er shouted. But they thought as what 'er was mazed wi' grief an' didn't take no nawtise. Like as not they telled her to have a quiet lay down, an have a nice cuppa tay, or summat, an' er'd feel better zoon! Peter didn't know what to make of it all, but then,

blow me down, as they was huffin' it awver, in come Jesus ee'self!

"Why dorn 'ee believe what they tells 'ee? He asked. "I baint no ghost. Go on. Touch me, an' you'll find out zurenuuff."

Then he arst if there were aught to ate, so they gived un a bit of veesh what they'd cooked fer their tay, an' ee ate it avore their very eyes. They was convinced at last. Ghosts don't usually ate veesh you.

Ee stayed wi' 'em fer a while, then ye know what? Ee lifted up his hands an' blessed 'em, an' promised 'em that even if they couldn't zee un, ee'd be with ees volleyers alwis, to the very end of time!

Adrian Brook

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## Sourton Village Hall

### AGM

Monday 19th May 2025

7.30pm at the Hall

Please come and support your local village hall .

We will be delighted to see members of the community at the meeting and discuss future plans for the Hall.

Your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

Further details on our website [www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk) or please contact

by emailing [sourtonvh@gmail.com](mailto:sourtonvh@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you.

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## Sourton Parish council

[www.sourtonpc.org.uk](http://www.sourtonpc.org.uk)

[parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk)

07792958675

## Parish Meeting

Our Parish Meeting will take place 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.

The council's annual report can be accessed via the website.

## Victory in Europe

May 8th has been known as V E Day for eighty years. When Germany finally surrendered it was not totally unexpected and the war against Japan still continued, but the relief was such that the countries connected to the Allied effort burst out into unbridled celebration. By chance I happened to be making my first visit to London on that day and can just about remember the hordes of people flocking from Trafalgar Square to Buckingham Palace, seeing Winston Churchill pass by on his way to the Palace and later appearing on the balcony with the King and Queen and the two princesses. Once the three Allied armies had crossed the Rhine on 22nd March the advance through Germany was sometimes met by little resistance or occasionally very hard fighting. On the eastern front the Russian forces were fast approaching Berlin. General Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied armies had to redirect American forces to the south so that they did not encroach on land which had been previously agreed at the Yalta Conference would be managed by Russia at the end of the war. Instead, they swept through Bavaria and into Austria and met up with American troops who had been fighting the retreating Germans in Italy.

Field Marshall Montgomery's 21st Army Group consisting of mainly British and Canadian troops had advanced through northern Germany and reached the Elbe by the end of April. With Berlin surrounded by Russian forces Hitler had taken his own life and named Grand Admiral Karl Donitz as his successor. He set up his short-lived cabinet at Flensburg near the Danish border. He was a committed Nazi and had been commander of the U Boat fleets until his promotion to Grand Admiral, but realised that defeat was inevitable and imminent.

He already knew from captured documents how Germany would be split into occupation zones and tried to bargain with the Western Allies in order to save thousands of troops from the Russian advance by letting them retreat west and surrender to American forces, but Eisenhower refused, partly because of arrangements made at Yalta but also because there were already thousands of surrendered prisoners of war, freed slave labourers and

displaced people to cope with.

On 3rd May Donitz sent a delegation of high, ranking officers to Field Marshall Montgomery's headquarters near Luneburg in an effort to 'rescue' half a million troops of Army Group Vistula. Montgomery flatly refused because they were in the Russian zone and demanded the surrender of all German forces to his northern and western flanks which included all of North West Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. Two members of the delegation went back to Donitz at Flensburg to seek his approval. They returned to Montgomery's headquarters the next day and were ushered into a carpeted tent and accepted the terms for surrender of the German army in North West Europe to start at 0800 hours on Saturday 5th May. The document was signed at 1830 hours by Montgomery on behalf of the Allies and five German officers for Donitz's cabinet. On 6th May another delegation visited the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) at Reims and offered to surrender all German forces to the Western Allies. General Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander again refused and demanded unconditional surrender to all the Allies on all fronts. At 0241 hours on 7th May General Alfred Jodl, Chief of Staff of the German Army signed the surrender document. Walter Bedell Smith signed on behalf of Eisenhower in the presence of a representative of the Soviet High Command and witnessed by an officer of the French army. The Soviets wanted a Military Surrender to be signed in Berlin and this was completed the following day.



The White Hart quiz on  
**Wednesday 14th May at 8.00pm**  
is for St Bridget's Church.  
We look forward to seeing you there.





## Open Gardens... Calstock Hidden Village Gardens Sunday 18th May ,11am - 4pm

**Entry £6**

Explore the exciting as diverse private village gardens in the picturesque riverside village of Calstock, with peaceful walks and fantastic views across the Tamar Valley. Approximately 2-mile walk around the village gardens with some moderately challenging slopes. Maps available from the St Luke's stand at Calstock Quay on the day. Extra garden and open artist's studio located at Gresham House outside the village.

Once in Calstock look out for orange signs in the village. Free parking for upper gardens at Calstock railway car park. Free parking for lower gardens at the quayside car park.



## The Bridestowe Volunteer Group

In March the grass was cut in the orchard and several volunteers collected litter from along the old A30.

The fly tipped hovercraft opposite the Forda turning was too big for a black bag! It did get a mention on Spotlight and Radio Devon. Most popular items thrown from car windows are energy drink cans and coffee cups with their lids.

On Saturday 26th April the volunteers divided into two groups. One party helped with St Bridget's clean up day whilst the other continued with the clearing and widening of the footpath that runs in front of the village hall up to the Trescote Way turning..

The May meeting will be on **Saturday 31st** at the usual assembly time, 9.30am, at the cemetery gates. New faces are always welcome.

The blossom on the fruit trees in the community orchard is lovely at the moment so do find a minute to drop in to admire it. The orchard is tended by a conscientious band of volunteers and they plan to mow the grass every 2-3 weeks.

## Open Afternoon

**Tuesday 13th May, 1.30 - 3pm**

Come and join us for play, and see what Treetops is all about  
Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon

Treetops Preschool & Extended Schools Provision

Bridestowe, Okehampton  
EX20 4EW

treetops childcare@btconnect.com

## Bridestowe Parish Council

Bridestowe Parish Council met on **Wednesday 23rd April at 7.30pm** for two meetings. First of all came the Annual Parish Meeting - an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions or express concerns related to the parish. The Chair also delivers an annual report which had been circulated to councillors before the meeting.

Attendees were spared this with Alison Young giving only a synopsis as the report appears in BaSE for all to read.

This meeting was followed by a full PC meeting, and the main purpose was to discuss 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.*

There were not as many members of the public in attendance as expected. Householders, some of whom will be directly impacted by the development expressed strong objections to the proposed development. Nicole Stacey and Mark Edwards from Baker's Estates attended with the purpose of addressing these concerns. After a discussion period councillors voted and a split decision. The Chair did not cast a deciding vote as was her right. The outcome will be forwarded to WDBC with a response explaining the PC's neutral position. This response will appear on the PC's web page of the Bridestowe website.

The PC will meet again on Monday 19th May. This will be the **Annual Parish Council Meeting** and will include the election of a new Chair.

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](mailto:clerk@bridestowe.org.uk)

## Chair's Annual Report April 2025

As I write this report I am mindful that the parish council will be meeting on April 23rd to discuss the full application from Bakers Estates for a mixed housing development of 30 units on the land adjacent to the cemetery. This site was allocated for up to 35 new homes in the Bridestowe & Sourton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

This is a landmark moment and the council will listen closely to the views of members of the public. Bakers Estates engaged with the council and the community in mid-October 2024 displaying the emerging layouts and inviting feedback and in March another public consultation was held.

On the subject of housing development, it is worth noting that Leander Development's appeal against the refusal decision by West Devon Borough Council has been unsuccessful.

To more mundane matters: the precept - the tax that parish councils charge their local electors to meet their budget requirements - was raised in line with the inflation rate as the council felt it prudent to do so, bearing in mind the rising costs of services.

The council continues to maintain the churchyard, cemetery and Sporting Green. The recent collapse of a section of the church wall near the entrance to the Sporting Green, means the council faces a hefty bill to have it repaired.

Grass cutting is a major outlay but the contractor offers an excellent service. Attempts to reduce the number of cuts as a money-saving tactic proved counterproductive as the overlong grass gave rise to problems of clumping. A return to the previous number of cuts has been agreed. The council's finances are audited both internally and externally. The external audit can be viewed on the Bridestowe website.

A year ago we appointed a new clerk to the council and Kayleigh Walker has proved to be a great asset, both efficient and conscientious. She tries to ensure that the council follows policy and

procedures, data protection and financial regulations. Relevant documents that demonstrate this can also be found on the website.

A safety check by ROSPA of the Sporting Green play equipment is carried out annually as well as weekly checks by volunteer Gerald Tickner, who reports any issues to the council. The council recognises that the lack of regular maintenance of the play equipment has resulted in it looking worse for wear. Some issues can be addressed but the fissured surface under the multiplay needs replacing and the council hopes to progress the project to replace the play equipment entirely.

There is strong feeling in the community that there should be a bus service that serves the community better, with buses actually calling in at the village centre. The council has contacted two bus companies and Devon County Council. Dave Ovenden, Senior Transport Co-ordinating Officer did reply at length and did say that when the 118 service's timetable is revised, there *might* be the possibility of a diversion into the village; that seems a long way off.

The council has been asked by a number of parishioners for allotments. The council did appeal to local landowners hoping that a parcel of land could be purchased but so far without success,

The council awarded a grant to the Bridestowe Scout Group and to the Volunteer Group who spent the money purchasing wild flower plugs, now planted at the entrance to the village.

The council received a grant to fund a 'Warm Spaces' event. This took the form of a midday soup lunch in March providing an opportunity for people to socialise in The Ark. It was an enjoyable get-together and will be repeated again in the winter months.

The long standing problem of water streaming down Station Road at Bridhayes persists. When temperatures drop this becomes a sheet of ice. In January 24 extensive work that lasted for several days was carried out by

Devon Highways but failed to rectify the problem. The council is pursuing this again; a solution must be found before there is a serious accident.

The council continues to provide sand and sacks for flood defence and the sand is stored in a large, black plastic storage bin in the White Hart car park with the kind permission of Mike and Sarah. Although there is no formal flood response team, the council is confident people most affected are well prepared. General advice and contact details for flooding and other possible emergencies is given in the Emergency Plan on the Bridestowe website and this is in the process of being updated. The council is very grateful to the many volunteers from the community who are always there to lend a hand to keep the village looking spruce either by carrying out general tidying tasks or by waging war on litter. My thanks to fellow councillors for their contribution and for their support and advice.

Alison Young



Food and drink festival

**eat: Tavistock**

Sunday 4th May

10am - 4pm

sponsored by Flapjackery with stalls  
in West Street, Duke Street and  
Bedford Square, Tavistock  
celebrating our local and regional  
producers.



**Our speaker this month is  
Marilyn MacQueen  
Tuesday 20 May at 2.30pm  
in Fairplace Church**

**Title: "Tales of a Traffic Inspector in Exeter"**

Marilyn is a retired Police Officer having served in Devon & Cornwall Constabulary for over 30 years, completing her service as a Traffic Inspector in Exeter.

After her retirement she trained as a psychotherapist and for 12 years worked as the Force Trauma Manager for Devon & Cornwall police and helped to pioneer the use of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) in several UK police forces and other emergency services.

She now volunteers for Devon Air Ambulance and is a cricket umpire.

This will be an interesting talk by Marilyn who is an engaging speaker.

This meeting will be held at Fairplace Church, 3 Fairplace Terrace, Okehampton, EX20 1DT starting at 2.30pm.

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

For further information please contact Dee McVey 01837 658590

**Okehampton Recycling  
Centre**

0345 155 1010

**Summer opening times**

**April - September**

Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6.00pm



*Get up with the Cuckoo (but maybe not the Scarlet Ibis)...*

**Dawn Chorus Walk  
around Belstone Parish**

**Meet outside Belstone Village Hall**

**5.30am, Saturday 3 May**

**Breakfast in Hall on return**

**Stout footwear advised**

**Sorry, no dogs**

Suggested donations invited  
for Hall funds:  
£5 for walk only  
£10 for walk and breakfast

Walk leader  
Chris Walpole



This year's annual Dawn Chorus walk, led as usual by Chris Walpole, leaves Belstone Village Hall at 5.30am on Saturday 3rd May (the day before International Dawn Chorus Day) and follows a varied route around the parish, through woods, across fields, along lanes and over the open moor. Last year we had perfect weather although we saw and/or heard fewer species than usual – one unusual sighting turned out to be the Red Devils Army display team of powered parachutists descending through trails of red smoke to herald the start of the Ten Tors walk! So far this year summer arrivals have included chiffchaff (first heard 8 March), swallow (first seen 2 April), blackcap (first heard 4 April) and willow warbler (first heard 6 April) – although not record earliest dates in my database these are all earlier than the average dates.

Wear your walking boots for the rough bits and bring your binoculars and bird-identifying apps, but please leave your four-legged friends at home. We should be back at the Hall for a breakfast of cereals, toast and bacon rolls by 8am. Suggested donations of £5 for the walk or £10 for the walk and breakfast will be gratefully received for Hall funds.



## St Thomas à Becket Church

### CREAM TEAS

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported our Easter cream tea.  
The next cream tea, organized by Rose Dashper's family, will be on **Sunday May 4th** from 1.30 -5.30 p.m. in aid of Marie Curie Nurses in memory of Rose.  
The following cream tea in aid of the church, will be on Bank Holiday Monday May 26th from 1.30-5.30 p.m.

### PCC

It was good to welcome 4 new members on to the church council at our APCM .  
We are grateful to them for stepping up to take part in the running of the council and decision-making for our church.

### The shed in the churchyard

We are grateful to Mark Spry and Tony Batten for giving up their time over the Easter weekend to clear out the rubbish and remove the old rusty galvanized sheets, replacing them with new green sheets. Mark is making a new wooden door for the shed. The materials were partly funded by a grant of £100 from the Parish Council.

We are grateful to Ken Hobbs for keeping the new burial ground tidy and also for allowing us to use his field for parking on occasions for church functions.

### Sunday Services for May

May 4th Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.  
May 11th Service at Bridestowe  
May 18th Service at Bridestowe  
May 25th Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.

**Jenny Batten**

## Sourton Show Faces Uncertain Future – Your Thoughts Needed

Last year's Sourton Show was a scaled-down version of the traditional event we all know and love. Entry numbers were only half of what we usually see, and with just two people left on the organising committee, keeping things going has become increasingly difficult.

While it's clear that the community still values the show, it's also clear that it can't continue in its current form without more hands-on deck. That's why we're asking for your input on what happens next.

Here are a few options currently being considered:

**No Show** – Bringing the event to a close, at least for the foreseeable future.

**A Break** – Pausing the show for a year or two while we seek out new committee members to help organise future events.

**A Joint Show** – Exploring the possibility of joining forces with the neighbouring Bridestowe show to create a shared event.

We know how much this show means to many of you, and we want to hear your thoughts. Whether you've entered in the past, helped out, or simply enjoyed coming along, your opinion matters.

Please send your comments, suggestions or offers of help to: [sourtonshow@gmail.com](mailto:sourtonshow@gmail.com)

Let's shape the future of the Sourton Show together.

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

Last Saturday of each month  
10am -12.30pm

Well behaved dogs welcome  
Card payments accepted





Welcome aboard the  
**OVERNIGHT EXPRESS TRAIN**

From Sloth in Scotland to St. Vitus in London.  
But hold tight to your luggage as the train comes to a dramatic  
emergency stop at Little Messing station  
(also known as The Victory Hall, Northlew) when the body of a  
Government Minister is discovered, shot dead, in his First Class  
sleeping berth.

Enter stage Right Detective Inspector Pluckett of the Plodshire Police.  
He is here to investigate this murder with you (the audience) to assist.  
You will need to follow the evidence to uncover the perpetrator of this crime.

**Train arrives at Northlew on Friday 30th May**  
**7pm for 7.30pm**

Tickets £12 including Pasty Supper/ Vegetarian option.  
Ticketing Box Office is Elmfield, Station Road  
or from  
martinperry.northlew@gmail.com or 01409 221376

Railway Themed Raffle.



**RHS**

RHS Garden Rosemoor, Torrington EX38 8PH

**Massed Bands Concert on Saturday 17th May**

**2.30pm – 4.45pm/5pm (approx finish time)**

Enjoy an afternoon of music with Appledore Band, Bideford Town Band and Torrington Silver Band. This marks the 21st Massed Bands Concert, uniting musicians from the three towns.

Each of the bands has selected a fantastic mix of music to entertain you, playing together as a massed band of 80+ players.

Purchase your ticket in advance (includes a programme on the day) and enjoy free entry to RHS Rosemoor from 12noon.

Then take your seat in The Garden Room from 2pm for a 2.30pm start, sit back and be entertained. £10 adults; £2 young people 16 and under.

[www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor)

**CREAM TEA  
In Aid of Marie Curie**



In loving memory of Rose

Dashper

**SOURTON VILLAGE HALL**

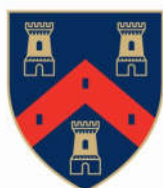
**Sunday 4th May 1.30pm - 5.30pm**



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)

**Mount Kelly Choral Society**  
**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](https://ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society))  
or BookStop in Tavistock.

£15 on the door. Under-18s free.

**A couple of dates for your June diary..**

**A Charity Concert on  
Saturday 14th June at 7.30 p.m.**

St. Andrew's Church, Sampford Courtenay  
by the augmented church choir and the Two  
Rivers Orchestra.

Programme to include music by Morley,  
Purcell, Bach, Handel (o, S.S. Wesley, Bairstow  
and Bullock

Proceeds to be divided between  
Force Cancer Charity &  
The Children's Hospice South West  
Admission on the door (to include an Interval  
glass of wine)

£15 (students in full-time education £7.50)

**AND**

# Quiz Night

**6<sup>th</sup> of June 2025**  
**Sourton Village Hall**  
**7:30pm start**

Max 6 people per team £4 per person

\*Bar Available\*  
\*Raffle\*  
\*Snacks\*

**All money raised to go to  
Epilepsy Action**

**Please contact Allana 07967962783**  
**to book a team**  
**Teams MUST be pre booked**



## Friends of St Bridget's yearly report

The FOSB committee has benefited this year from some new faces and their energy has been invaluable. The preservation of the fabric of the building of St Bridget's is the sole reason the friends was formed in January 2013. There is no financial support from the diocese for repairs.

Whilst some on the committee are also part of the PCC, many have no affiliation with any religious organisation but wish to help preserve the church building in the centre of our village. Although the regular congregation is small, many in the village use the building. Apart from baptisms, weddings and funerals, the school holds events in the church and seasonal celebrations fill the church regularly. None of the money raised by FOSB is used for day-to-day costs of running the church but all money, time and effort is for the support of the building which has suffered from ongoing deterioration and, in retrospect, some unwise repairs- well-meant at the time - undertaken in the sixties which are now causing structural problems.

Over the last year several activities have been undertaken. Clean up days regularly help to keep the churchyard tidy, and the 'Support a Grave' initiative has improved the graveyard. This is an ongoing project for the volunteers interested in helping out but not always available for a clean up day. Thank you to all the volunteers who've been involved in both the regular clean ups and taken responsibility for a grave.

A 'To do' list of projects that can be managed and executed by volunteers has been produced and updated as tasks are completed.

The very successful photo competition raised interest in the village (and some money) and it will be repeated this summer. FOSB engaged in the Christmas tree festival, which was a glorious event, and many thanks to the organisers. The current projects include the resurrection of the yearly plant sale – this will be held in the village hall in conjunction with Bacon Baps on

24 May. Please come along and support the return of this popular event.

We would like to thank those involved in the running and organising of all the fund raising events.

The most recent Quinquennial inspection report identified a number of areas that required attention. Some more urgent than others but the prime concern is the tower. Water leaking through the walls is causing ongoing problems in the tower itself and also the body of the church. Clearly this is not a DIY project, or even one that could be undertaken using the FOSB funds. A subcommittee has been formed to set out a list of works required in the tower, organise quotes for the work, apply to grant organisations and permission from the diocese to proceed. Hopefully resulting in significant repairs and the solution of the problem with the damp. Sadly, there is no money from the diocese, but their permission (with a significant financial cost) is required. The subcommittee is grateful to the diocese surveyor who has offered to give a free opinion as to what will need to be done and a suitable date for this is awaited. It is hoped that the current funds available in the FOSB accounts will support the preliminary costs and possibly allow some match funding.

Further discussion will need to clarify where the friends are placed with regard to the PCC following a directive from the diocese, and this will need to be raised with the members at the AGM in June.

More support is always welcome – to be a member costs £6 a year. The huge value of having members is that the more members there are, the clearer it is that the church building is important to the village. This will be a question asked by many grant agencies who will not wish to contribute money to a building that is not.

To become a member or renew your membership (if you don't have a standing order) please contact the membership secretary, Georgina Hodgson, on 01837 861183 or via email to [georgina.m@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:georgina.m@hotmail.co.uk)





The Museum of Dartmoor Life is a gateway to the rich history of Dartmoor. It exhibits a vast collection of objects spanning 5,000 years of life on Dartmoor from the Bronze Age through to the mid-20th Century

Discover a new way to experience the museum's collection. The new audio guides bring the artifacts to life, offering captivating insights into the stories behind them

### **Is Dartmoor Dying? New Exhibition Explores the Moor's Future**

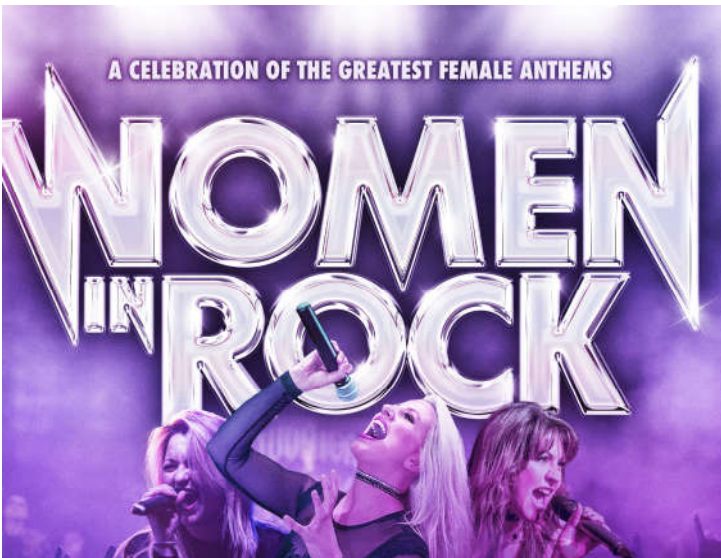
We are delighted to announce our new exhibition for 2025 exploring the challenges and opportunities facing Dartmoor's unique landscape and biodiversity.

This thought-provoking exhibition, funded by The Royal Society's Places of Science project, brings together a diverse range of voices – from landowners and commoners to conservation charities and national bodies – to address the pressing question: Is Dartmoor dying?

With reports indicating that nearly 80% of Dartmoor's Sites of Special Scientific Interest are in unfavorable condition, the exhibition highlights the urgent need for action. Visitors will learn about the vital conservation work being carried out across the moor and discover how they can contribute to protecting this beloved landscape.

**The museum is open 10am - 4pm every day, closed Sunday.**

A CELEBRATION OF THE GREATEST FEMALE ANTHEMS



## **WOMEN IN ROCK**

**Saturday 24th May at 8:30pm**

*Women In Rock* return are thrilled to back at the amazing Tavistock Wharf with their spectacular sell out show. Since 2016 they have been busy wowing audiences up and down the UK in theatres and venues.

Having been invited twice to Europe to perform for Harley Davidson to audiences of up to 120 thousand in Europe, their show simply goes from strength to strength. With soaring vocals and a world class band of musicians, the show covers 5 decades of songs made famous by the world's greatest female rock and pop artists, costume changes and a full choreographed 2 hour set, *Women In Rock* has something for everyone.

### **Tickets**

From 6pm on the night   £21.00

Adult in Advance   £19.00

New advertiser...



**STAGS**

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## Movie Watch - April 2025

As I write, we're faced with the customary Easter Holiday ragbag of titles at the New Carlton.

There's 'an endearing Oscar-winning animation' about a cat whose home gets washed away (**Flow**), playing alongside **Minecraft**, 'where creativity doesn't just help you craft, it's essential to one's survival.' No, sorry, not a clue.

Meanwhile Disney invites us all to 'return to where the magic began' with a live action reimagining of their 1937 animated classic, **Snow White**. Reimagining? Is that a word?

The first interesting title on the schedule is **The Penguin Lessons**, starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. 'A well-meaning, awkward tonal jumble of a movie, based on the best-selling memoir by former teacher Tom Michell,' the Guardian reviewers weren't overly impressed.

Coogan plays Tom, who takes a job in Peronist Argentina in 1976, teaching English at a stuffy private school for the sons of wealthy expats, where he becomes increasingly wary of the overbearing headteacher, played by Pryce.

On a holiday to Uruguay, Tom rescues a penguin from an oil slick on the beach and finds himself responsible for the bedraggled bird. He ends up smuggling it back to Argentina with him. **The Penguin Lessons** was released on 18th April and should run in Okehampton for a few weeks.

Later in April we'll get a chance see the latest **Star Wars** film, **Episode III - Revenge of the Sith**. Spell-check wasn't keen but that is correct. If you're a fan of the franchise, you'll know just what to expect. Hayden Christensen, Ewan McGregor and Natalie Portman star in what will doubtless be a heavily promoted title.

**The Accountant 2** sounds like it should be worth a check. Christian Wolff has a talent for solving complex problems. When an old acquaintance is murdered, leaving behind a

cryptic message to 'find the accountant,' Wolff is compelled to solve the case. Ben Affleck stars in a well-reviewed thriller.

If given a chance, we're also keen to see **Mr Burton**, which stars Toby Jones and Lesley Manville in a biographical drama about the early life of the great Welsh actor. It tells the story of how the poor son of a miner became one of the world's greatest performers. Mr Burton (coincidentally also the name of his drama teacher) was released in early-April to celebrate what would have been Richard Burton's 100th birthday.

I pointed out **Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning** last month. Nothing much to add, other than a confirmed launch date of 21st May. Tom Cruise stars as Ethan Hunt in what will inevitably be one of the big films of the summer.

Finally, we mentioned **The Salt Path** last month and that also has a confirmed launch date, Friday 30th May. A combination of local interest, a compelling storyline and plenty of publicity is likely to mean this will also require advance booking at the New Carlton. As ever, I should keep an eye on the cinema website.

On the smaller screen, we were looking forward to **Neil and Martin's Bon Voyage** (U&Gold) in which Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey revisited their laddish relationship in the original 1990's Men Behaving Badly sitcom. Following the success of Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer in their delightful BBC '**Gone Fishing**' series, commissioners seem to think all you need do is pair a couple of likeable 60-something blokes and you're onto a winner.

This disappointing show demonstrates that programme making is not that simple. They were based at Morrissey's lovely French holiday home where they.....well, just pottered about really. The joy of **Gone Fishing** lies in the relationship between the two characters, but that is underpinned by their shared love of fishing and wherever that takes them. Sadly this shapeless affair had no such purpose.

We were also looking forward to **Your Friends and Neighbours** (Apple TV+) and this one duly delivered. It features the painfully cool Jon Hamm as Andrew Cooper, a hedge-fund manager in what, to my knowledge, is Hamm's first major role since his portrayal of Don Draper in the superb **Mad Men**. Recommended.

**The Piano** (C4) returns for a third series and, once again, it's a tear-jerking delight. Amateur pianists turn up at Liverpool Street Station and play for commuters. Clearly there's more to it than that, but basically it's an amateur talent contest, purely for pianists. Entrants include a 12-year-old girl who taught herself to play during lockdown, a 77-year-old music hall performer and a thwarted Britpop star. Heart-warming stuff.

Possibly the most interesting show to be screened during April was **Last One Laughing** (C4). This was classic old-school Channel 4, for those who remember the station's controversial early days under Michael Grade (C4 launched in 1982, to save you looking).

**Last One Laughing** was hosted by Jimmy Carr and featured ten comedians filmed whilst held captive in a room for six hours. The only rule was that they mustn't laugh. Easier said than done, given that inmates included the likes of Joe Wilkinson, Rob Beckett, Daisy May Cooper and, worst of all if you're trying to suppress laughter, Richard Ayoade and Bob Mortimer. Some will love it, some will sit stony-faced throughout, but either way, track it down on the C4 catch-up service and see what you think. Just remember to keep a straight face.

Finally, a few more, recommended either by us or local correspondents, to whom our thanks,

**The Feud** (tense C5 drama with Jill Halfpenny)  
**White Lotus** (Sky Atlantic series that started poorly but improved steadily)

**Hacks** (very funny American comedy-drama on Sky Max)

**Michael Portillo's Travel Diaries** (Michael takes his ridiculous trousers on holiday, C5)

**This City is Ours** (highly-rated BBC1 crime drama)

**Volcano** with Dara O'Briain (starting with

Mount Etna, on C5)

**Black Mirror** (contemporary reworking of The Twilight Zone, Netflix)

**The Studio** (American satirical comedy series, Apple TV+)

**Death in Paradise** (5.8m, BBC1) and **Britain's Got Talent** (5.4m, ITV) topped the ratings for the first week of April, but a special mention for Rory McIlroy's gripping performance in Augusta. BARB reported a remarkable peak Sky audience of 1.85m just before midnight.

**David Harrison**  
**April 2025**

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## BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING

**GROUP** will be going this month to Country Lanes Garden Centre on **Thursday May 15th**, leaving the village at 10.15. Please let me know if you can come, and if you need, or can offer, a lift. New members would be welcome.

Contact person; Ann Allan on 861551 or [annallan1948@gmail.com](mailto:annallan1948@gmail.com)

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## Seth's Grass Cutting Services

Reliable and energetic local young person offering lawn mowing in Bridestowe.

Own mower and tools used.

Can take cutting away for small additional fee.

Competitive rates - please contact for a free quotation visit.

**01837 861114**





## Stamper's Wood at Phare's

People have asked me what is going on in our field – it can be seen from Bridestowe and has lots of green sticks – horse jumps?

This is the embryonic wood planted by volunteers organised by the charity, Moor Trees, and grant funded. These volunteers normally bring their own lunch but we chose to provide lunch – seemed the least we could do.

Around 4,862 trees have been planted. The provenance of all the trees is Devon, mainly grown in the Moor Trees nursery, also largely looked after by volunteers.

The trees are indigenous and include: oak, birch, blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan, Wych elm, crab apple, hazel, alder buckthorn, hornbeam, spindle, wild cherry, guelder rose and field maple. Oak is 20 per cent and the proportion reduces down to two per cent for field maple. Beech was not included as not local to this area, which we find odd but I suspect it will soon self set. No ash or elm due to disease.

The green shelters you can see are plant based and will be absorbed back into the soil – perhaps sooner than intended. Each tree has a woolly blanket held down by five bamboo pegs. Putting these bits on took as long as planting the trees.

Dino put up a deer fence all around the field, all funded by the grant. It will be fascinating to see it grown even though, as maturity will be at least 100 years hence, we may not see it in its full splendour...

We hope to have an annual event each spring with the volunteers to celebrate and mark how the wood develops.

Our field was planted as part of the Plymouth and South Hams Community Forest (yes, weird we know). The planting is part of the intent to meet 30 x 30 target for the UK. "The "30x30" target refers to the UK's commitment to protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, as part of the global 30x30 initiative. This includes efforts to increase woodland cover and restore or create wildlife-rich habitats."

Consultation is in hand now on this local plan and more information can be found at <https://plymouth-consult.objective.co.uk/resources/portal/supportingfiles/800422>

**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.

**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 May

New moon	27th
First quarter	4th
Full moon	12th
Last quarter	20th



**Bacon Baps** will be served on 24th May, 10am - 12 noon in **Bridestowe Village Hall. PLEASE NOTE AGAIN THIS IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL**



Terry and Debbie are away on a well deserved holiday so extra hands would be very useful please, especially as the Plant Sale will be running in tandem with BBs. If you can help please get in touch 07857 677 627

Mike Bidmead, our 'Plant Man', will be there and Jill with honey for sale. There will be the usual selection of secondhand books to look through.

Our session in April raised £130 for hall funds. Thank you for your support.

A. Young

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## **BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP**

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 1st May** at 7.30pm, at David and Rosemarie's, Millaton Cottage. We will be discussing Lucinda Riley's *Murders at Fleet House*.



### **About the book..**

*The Murders at Fleet House is the suspenseful and utterly compelling crime novel from the author of the multimillion-selling The Seven Sisters series, Lucinda Riley.*

*'A cleverly woven mystery to savour' – Sunday Express*

*The sudden death of a pupil in Fleet House at St Stephen's – a small private boarding school in deepest Norfolk – is a shocking event that the headmaster is very keen to call a tragic accident.*

*But the local police cannot rule out foul play, and the case prompts the reluctant return of high-flying Detective Inspector Jazmine 'Jazz' Hunter to the force. Reunited with her loyal sergeant, she*

*enters the closed world of the school and begins to probe the circumstances surrounding Charlie Cavendish's tragic death.*

*When staff at the school close ranks, the disappearance of a young pupil and the death of an elderly classics master provide Jazz with important leads. But, while snow covers the landscape, a suspect goes missing.*

*As Jazz must confront her personal demons, a grim discovery at the school will make this the most challenging murder investigation of her career. Fleet House hides secrets darker than even Jazz could ever have imagined . . .*

[www.panmacmillan.com](http://www.panmacmillan.com)

### **About the author**

Lucinda Riley was born in 1965 in Ireland, and after an early career as an actress in film, theatre and television, wrote her first book aged twenty-four. Her books have been translated into thirty-seven languages and continue to strike an emotional chord with all cultures around the world. The Seven Sisters series specifically has become a global phenomenon, creating its own genre, and there are plans to create a seven-season TV series.

Her books have been nominated for numerous awards, including the Italian Bancarella prize, The Lovely Books award in Germany, and the Romantic Novel of the Year award. In 2020 she received the Dutch Platinum award for sales over 300,000 copies for a single novel in one year – an award last won by J K Rowling for Harry Potter.

In collaboration with her son Harry Whittaker, she also devised and wrote a series of books for children called 'The Guardian Angels' series.

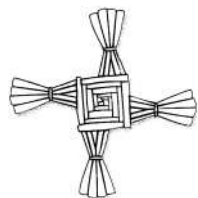
Though she brought up her four children mostly in Norfolk in England, in 2015 she fulfilled her dream of buying a remote farmhouse in West Cork, Ireland, which she always felt was her spiritual home, and indeed this was where her last five books were written.

New members always welcome

**01566 783529**

email: [neil@neiledgson.com](mailto:neil@neiledgson.com)

# Bridestowe Churches Partnership



## Sunday Worship for May 2025

### Sunday 4th

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 11th

9.30 am Morning Prayer at St Bridget's  
11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist Chapel with D Sutcliffe

### Sunday 18th

11.00am United service at the Methodist Chapel with Alison Morgan

### Sunday 25th

9.30am Family Service at St Bridget's. Songs and a bible story.

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist Chapel with Rev Chris Jackson and Helena Haywood. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

We have just celebrated Easter. Easter eggs, easter bunnies, perhaps roast lamb. These are all part of our Easter traditions. But the real message of Easter is this, from the words in the bible from Paul's letter to the church in Rome chapter 5 v6 *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. This is the certain hope of the Christian faith. The hope of forgiveness and new life in Him. Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11 v1.*

**The Quiz at The White Hart on Wednesday 14th May** will be in aid of St Bridget's Church. We look forward to seeing you at the quiz and any donation of raffle prizes will be much appreciated.

**The APCM meeting for St Bridget's** will be held in the church on **Wednesday 21st May** at 7.00pm. Drinks and nibbles from 6.30pm.



## The Ark

The Coffee Morning in April raised £250 towards a tricycle for Kye. Many thanks to all who supported this project.

At Palm Sunday on 13th April we started our service at St Bridget's and then walked to the Methodist Church lead by Brian Higbee playing his guitar as we sang Easter songs. I hope you saw us celebrating the start of Easter week.

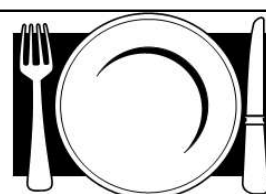
Our Coffee Morning on **Saturday May 10th** will raise funds towards funding for the "Open the Bible" project where we take the Bible stories to the children at Bridestowe Primary School. As usual we will have coffee/ tea/ biscuits and a cake stall. Looking forward to seeing you all.

## 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](mailto:j.thorne2013@btinternet.com)

**The Over 60's Lunch Club** will be held on Tuesday 13th May. Gather at 12.15 for lunch at 12.30pm. Please let Jennifer know if you cannot come. 861592. Thank you.







## Youth Softball Cricket – Pay & Play Friday 9th May – Friday 27th June

6 - 7pm

**£2 per session**

Millaton Cricket Ground, Bridestowe

ALL WELCOME – 5yrs+

(under 8's to be accompanied by an adult)

No experience necessary, no need to book, just come along and have fun!

Bar and Tuck Shop available – cash and card accepted.

**Bridestowe & Belstone Cricket Club** are very excited for the 2025 season and supporters are always welcome to come and support any of our teams. With three senior hardball teams, the lady's softball team and three youth hardball teams this season there will be plenty of cricket to watch!

Cricket fixtures for May and June are listed on the next page.



## Riverside Stores & Post Office

Bridestowe, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4EG

01837 861321 [riversidestores@hotmail.com](mailto:riversidestores@hotmail.com)

### South West Countryside Alliance Awards

Thank you to all our customers and friends who voted for us. It was great to be nominated and a finalist for the South West, but sadly we didn't make it through!

A community shop in Gloucestershire was the South West final winner.

### BBQ Packs

Venison BBQ Pack @ £22.50 (inc. 10% discount)

8 x Sausages

4 x burger

2 x steaks

Pack diced (for skewers)

### Mixed BBQ Pack @ £17.50

4 Pork Sausages

4 x Beef & Onion burgers

4 x Pork Ribs

4 x Chinese Chicken Thighs

Thank you for your continued support.

**Michaela & Colin**

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

Riverside Stores  
& Post Office

*At the heart of Bridestowe*

# BRIDESTOWE AnD BELSTONE CRICKET CLUB - FIXTURES FOR MAY & JUNE 2025

## 1ST XI – A Division (12:30) Millaton Ground

### **MAY**

Sat 3rd	Torquay & Kingskerswell CC 1st XI	Home	Sat 10th	Bovey Tracey CC 1st XI	Away
Sat 17th	Thorverton CC 1st XI	Home	Sat 24th	Cullompton CC 1st XI	Away
Sat 31st	Tavistock 1st CC	Away			

### **JUNE**

Sat 7th	Barton 1st CC	Home	Sat 14th	Hatherliegh CC 1st XI	Home
Sat 21st	Kilmington CC 1st XI	Away	Sat 28th	Plympton CC 1st XI	Home

## 2nd XI – E Division West (13:00) Millaton Ground

### **MAY**

Sat 3rd	Teignmouth & Shaldon CC 2nd	Away	Sat 10th	Cornwood CC 3rd XI	Home
Sat 17th	Stokeinteignhead 1st CC	Away	Sat 24th	Dartington & Totnes 1st XI	Home
Sat 31st	Abbotskerswell 2nd XI	Home			

### **JUNE**

Sat 7th	Tavistock CC 2nd XI	Away	Sat 14th	Paignton 3rd XI	Away
Sat 21st	Whitchurch Wayfarers 1st CC	Home	Sat 28th	Plympton 2nd XI	Away

## Sunday 1st XI (10:00) Rew Meadow

### **MAY**

Sun 4th	Bideford/Littleham/Westward Ho! CC	Away	Sun 18th	Bideford/Littleham/Westward Ho! CC	Home
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### **JUNE**

Sun 1st	North Devon CC	Away	Sun 15th	Westlsigh CC	Home
Sun 29th	Hatherleigh CC	Away			

## Women Softball North Central Division – Millaton Ground

### **MAY**

Sun 11th	Hatherleigh CC	Home
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### **JUNE**

Thurs 5th	Holsworthy CC	Away	Wed 11th	Tavistock CC	Away
Sun 29th	Barnstaple & Pilton CC	Home			

## Bridestowe & Belstone U11's – Rew Meadow

### **MAY**

<u>Sun 4th</u>	<u>Plymouth CC</u>	<u>Away</u>	<u>Sun 25th</u>	<u>Whitchurch Wayfarers CC</u>	<u>Away</u>
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### **JUNE**

<u>Mon 9th</u>	<u>Whitchurch Wayfarers CC</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Wed 11th</u>	<u>Hatherleigh CC</u>	<u>Away</u>
<u>Tues 17th</u>	<u>Tavistock CC</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Sun 22nd</u>	<u>Plymouth CC</u>	<u>Home</u>
<u>Tues 24th</u>	<u>Hatherleigh CC</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Mon 30th</u>	<u>Tavistock CC</u>	<u>Away</u>

## Bridestowe & Belstone U12's – Rew Meadow

### **MAY**

Sun 11th	Whitchurch Wayfarers CC	Away	Mon 19th	Whitchurch Wayfarers CC	Home
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### **JUNE**

Mon 16th	Whitchurch Wayfarers CC	Home	Mon 23rd	Plympton CC	Away
Sun 29th	Plymouth Civil Service & Roborough CC				

## Bridestowe & Belstone U14's – Rew Meadow

### **MAY**

Sun 11th	Topsham St James CC	Home	Tues 20th	Chagford CC	Home
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### **JUNE**

Wed 4th	Sandford CC	Home	Tues 10th	Chagford CC	Away
Sun 15th	Topsham St James CC	Away	Wed 18th	Sandford CC	

## **Boasley Chapel April Happenings**

**Sunday 4th May** Service with Melvyn Cook at 11am

**Sunday 4th May Cream Teas** 2.30 - 4.30pm in the Chapel Schoolroom



**Boasley Chapel Scrap Metal and Salvage Week**  
**Commencing Monday May 12th between 10am and 4pm each day.** We will be collecting Scrap Metal in a skip on site which you can add to at any time...

( No fridges/freezers , No Gas canisters, No Aerosols, No Microwaves, No Vacuum cleaners, No Tyres...

Metal items only )

We will also have our 'Salvage Showroom' open during the week which has a multitude of items which have been donated or collected over the past months...come and have a browse! Refreshments will be available at most times.



**Thursday May 15th 12-2.00 pm Soup and Sweet**, with the incentive of Bargain Hunting among the Scrap and Salvage !! Our usual array of soups and puddings on offer...no charge but donations welcome!

**Sunday 18th May** 11am Service with Barry Searle

**Saturday 31st May Heritage Exhibition at Boasley Chapel**

Open from 10am followed by a concert at 4pm by Jim Causley and friends

Refreshments throughout.

This is an event put on by Dissenting Voices, a touring exhibition celebrating the diverse history and life of the Methodist Church in West Devon. Come and be immersed in the story, explored through writing , art and song, surrounded by artefacts and photographs celebrating Methodist life.

Everyone is very welcome . Any queries please feel free to ring 07841836018 or 01837 861371

## **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.

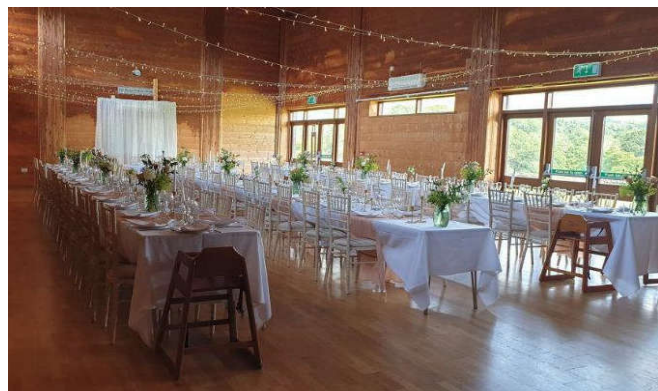
The venue is divided into a number of units, including meeting rooms, kitchen and a large hall which can be hired out separately. Also the venue can be hired in its entirety. The hire

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](http://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







## 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 - MAY

### 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."

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

Bring along your own creative projects and enjoy some optional socialising!

During May, Learn to Crochet with Eva. All materials will be provided or bring along your own Crochet project to receive guidance from Eva, our young volunteer.

Hot drinks available. Free (donations welcome), drop-in, open to adults.

### RNID Pop-up Session: Thursday 8 May, 10:00-12:00

As part of 'Deaf Awareness Week', The Royal National Institute for Deaf people (RNID), will be at Okehampton Library with a pop-up session. Speak to them about all things related to 'hearing loss' and get answers to your questions! Get help with your NHS hearing aids (including cleaning, re-tubing,

batteries etc). Or take a quick 3-minute hearing check to see if you're showing signs of a hearing loss! (for over 18s who don't already have a diagnosed hearing loss). Free, drop-in session, no booking necessary.

### Mental Health Awareness Week: 12-18 May

During Mental Health Awareness Week we will have several local organisations in the library to offer support and advise. These include 'The Veteran Armed Forces Breakfast Club' and 'Andys Man Club' on Friday 16 May 10:00-12:00 and 'The Wellbeing Cafe' on Saturday 17 May 10:00-12:00. Contact the library for details of other organisations.

There will also be a display in the library containing books on the topic of Mental Health and come in to chat to staff about our Reading Well collections to find out more about what they offer.

### Dementia Action Week: 19-25 May

There will be a display in the library containing books on the topic of Dementia and come in to chat to staff about our Reading Well collections to find out more about what they offer.

### Citizens Advice Bureau & Healthwatch Information Stand

#### Tuesday 20 May 10:00-12:00

Healthwatch is a specialist service, run by specially trained volunteers and advisers in collaboration with Citizen's Advice Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon and their core services. A Healthwatch Champion will be available at the library together with a Citizens Advice Assessor. They would be delighted to meet anyone who is interested in their work, be it core or specialist. In particular, they are happy to discuss Healthwatch and the volunteering opportunities that are available.

### Ancient Tracks on Dartmoor' a talk by Dartmoor's Daughter, Emma Cunis:

#### Tuesday 27 May, doors open 19:00 for 19:15 start

This illustrated talk traces some of the key routes that offered safe passage across Dartmoor for farmers, wool jobbers and other merchants using pack ponies, tinnerns, peat-cutters, monks, sailors, the dead...and more. Based on a book of the same name by Eric Hemery (Emma's grandfather). Tickets in advance £5 each, to include refreshments; purchase through Eventbrite or Okehampton Library.

## 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

May is one of my favourite times of year in the gorge, the bluebells are at their peak and there are lots of other wild flowers, the trees have their leaves but they are still that bright green of spring, and the birds are singing and flowing water can be heard all around.

Ranger Luke heard the first pied flycatcher (*photo*) on Monday 14 April so hopefully these summer visitors will now be busy making nests and laying their gorgeous blue



eggs. The rangers will be surveying the nest boxes again this year to add to the data they have been collecting for the past few years. They have also started to survey reptiles in the orchard. There are six corrugated iron sheets on the ground, spaced around the orchard. They provide a perfect place for cold-blooded reptiles as they retain heat, providing a warm place for them to bask and shelter from predators. So far only slow worms have been spotted, but these legless lizards are still fascinating.

You may have spotted some rather ragged looking tree work around the waterfall trail. Over winter a team of tree surgeons were working to improve the diversity of habitat in the woods. Part of this work was veteranising chosen trees. Veteranisation is a technique where younger trees are deliberately damaged in a way that mimics natural processes to help create varied habitats for wildlife.

The extension to Tucker's Pool is back open after the busy Easter holidays. Due to the very narrow paths here, and the two-way traffic, we'll again be asking visitors not to walk dogs along this route. Please help us to keep everyone safe if you want to explore this beautiful section of the gorge.

### Connection café

**Wednesday 28 May, 10am-12 noon.**

Drop by to chat to the lovely volunteer or others that are attending, a great way to connect with people and make new friends. The Connection Café will run on the last Wednesday of each month in the Waterfall tea-room. This is a free event, tea, coffee and more are available to buy from the tea-room.

### Big bug hotel build

**Thursday 29 May, 10.30am-1pm.**

Drop in to help us refurbish the bug hotel in the orchard. Get handy with the hand tools and help us make a welcoming home for a whole host of bugs.

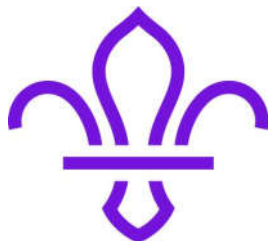
### Opening Times to 30 September 2025

Devil's Cauldron trail, Waterfall trail, and Lyd Link path open every day 10am-4.30pm.  
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Devil's Cauldron tea-room 10.30am-4.30pm.  
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## Bridestowe Scout Group news



### Beaver report (6 - 8)

Beavers have been tackling their Animal Friend and Animal Care badges, learning how to build campfires and running their own Pancake Olympics! They've been out and about learning the basics of navigation and discovering the joys of Dartmoor.

### Cub report (8 - 10)

Cubs have been learning about science and astronomy. They visited Okehampton Police Station to check out the cells. They tackled a night hike and have been finding out all about environmental conservation.

### Scout report (10 - 14)

Scouts have been learning about electronics and science, building and testing simple circuits. They have also been busy making (and racing!) pancakes, while also trying their hands at martial arts and outdoor cooking.

If you would like to enrol your child please contact us at:  
[membership@bridestowescouts.org.uk](mailto:membership@bridestowescouts.org.uk)

### Thank you!

Bridestowe Parish Council has generously donated £300 to help us run Scouting activities in and around Bridestowe. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued help and support.

### Volunteer with us

Scouting is run entirely by volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers to help out with activities, admin and fundraising.

Volunteering in Scouting is a lot of fun. You'll make new friends, try new activities

and have the chance to make a real difference in our community.

Right now, we're looking for assistant leaders to help run Beavers and trustees and group administrators to help us complete simple admin and group tasks, like logging new members, processing disclosure checks and ordering badges.

Full training is provided and can be easily and quickly completed online. Please contact us to find out more and lend a hand. Together we can make a real difference in the lives of our young people.

### ***Bridestowe Scout Group***

To find out more visit [bridestowescouts.org.uk](http://bridestowescouts.org.uk) or email [gsl@bridestowescouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@bridestowescouts.org.uk)



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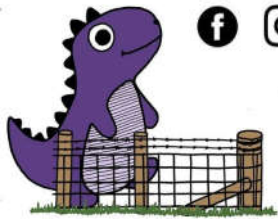
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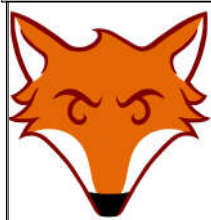
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## Forthcoming Events in May 2025

Thursday 1st	7.30pm, Reading Group, Millaton Cottage
Saturday 3rd	5.30am, outside Belstone Village Hall, Dawn chorus walk 7.30pm, St Eustachius' Parish Church, Tavistock, concert
Sunday 4th	10am - 4pm, Tavistock, Food festival 1.30- 5.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, Cream Tea in aid of Marie Curie 2.30pm - 4.30pm, Boasley Chapel, Afternoon Tea
Thursday 8th	3-8pm, Simmons Park, VE Celebrations
Saturday 10th	10am - 12pm, The Ark Coffee morning in aid of 'Open the Bible'
Monday 12th onwards	Boasley Chapel scrap metal week
Tuesday 13th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's lunch 1.30pm - 3pm, Treetops open afternoon
Wednesday 14th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of St Bridget's Church
Thursday 15th	10.15am departure to Country Lanes Garden Centre.TMG 12pm - 2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Saturday 17th	7.30pm, St Eustachius' Church, Tavistock, Concert
Sunday 18th	11am - 4pm, Calstock Open Gardens
Monday 19th	7.30pm, The Ark, Annual Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, SVH AGM
Tuesday 20th	2.30pm, Faipace Church, Okehampton u3a, talk
Wednesday 21st	7.30pm, Bridestowe Village Hall - AGM
Saturday 24th	10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps & PLANT SALE
Monday 26th	1.30pm - 5.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, Cream teas
Friday 30th	7pm for 7.30pm, Victory Hall, Northlew
Saturday 31st	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Bridestowe Volunteer Group



LYDFORD FOXES F.C.

### **LYDFORD FOXES AFC**

**Sessions for children in Years 2, 3 and 4.**

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

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



Sessions run at Lydford Sports Field, EX20 4BE every Saturday and on Tuesday evenings at Ashbury all-weather pitch. To register your interest, please contact us: [play@lydfordfoxes.com](mailto:play@lydfordfoxes.com) or [www.lydfordfoxes.com](http://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](mailto: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.