

Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events February 2026 Edition 285

Bar & Raffle

Camp
NO LIMITS

Cash & Card

WINE & WISDOM

BOOK A TABLE NOW!

Bridestowe Village Hall
FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY
DOORS OPEN 7:00 · STARTS 7:30PM

• **£30 per table – Teams of 6** •

To book your table
Text or call Jo – 07825 512154

1 bottle of wine (White or Red) and a cheese board for every team

Help us to send 10 kids with limb differences to Camp to celebrate our 10 years of benefitting from this amazing charity!

A couple of new advertisers to look out for.. John Hunkin's services come recommended. Page 21

The Vicar writes

A recent visit to Dave the chiropractor reminded me of how everything is designed to be in balance. According to Dave I am out of alignment which is causing me hip, knee and back trouble, he said it's like trying to drive a car with the handbrake on. I tried to imagine what sort of car I might be; a Lotus, Aston Martin...!? To be realistic if I was any sort of vehicle, I would probably be an old tractor, the one on the yard scraper that has mudguards held on by string, still has the original 1960's factory oil in the engine and needs half a can of *Easy Start* to get going in the morning.

Everything in nature is in balance, often in quite complex systems. If I remember my biology properly the balance system of the body is called homeostasis and in the environment an ecosystem. When it functions as it's meant to everything goes along suant as they used to say. (NB I couldn't find 'suant' in the dictionary, maybe it's a dialect word? It means smooth, sweet.) However, that's not how life is, the reality is it regularly goes out of kilter, we interfere with it at our peril. The tablet that eases the back pain causes drowsiness which makes you fall asleep in the chair and wake up with a stiff neck.

What happens in the material world is mirrored in the spiritual world. "Consider the lilies" Jesus said when illustrating spiritual beauty. We might say consider the idea of goodness; it has its own balance system. It has hard virtues like truth, justice and righteousness, the outworking of which can appear harsh, uncompromising or forceful. Take a policeman upholding the law, he may have to use physical force, or a judge giving a custodial sentence may appear harsh but both are an outworking of good. Without them there would be no justice, no fairness, evil could flourish unchecked.

On the other hand, goodness contains what we might call soft virtues like, mercy, kindness, forgiveness. When the policeman goes home from work these are the kind of virtues he displays with his family; it would be a bit dysfunctional to still act like a policeman! He needs both hard and soft virtues to maintain a healthy balance. If we focus only on the hard virtues life becomes legalistic and tyrannical; if we focus only on the soft virtues life becomes

chaotic and unmanageable. So we need both. The hard virtues tend to be masculine traits while the soft virtues are more feminine. The God revealed in the Bible displays both hard and soft virtues. In the creation story we are told 'So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them.' Get it?

Adrian Brook

Sourton lottery results

October

1. Ali Young £20
2. John Hockridge £10
3. Josh Drury £5

November

1. Suzanne £20
2. Alan Jewell £10
3. Andre Saines £5

December

1. Josh Drury £40
2. Jenny Crocker £20
3. Jo Down £10

Anyone who wishes to support Sourton Village Hall lottery. £15 per year. Message Ali Horn. 07751053563.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support.

Save the date in March....



A Scouting Adventure by Howard Barkell

Our Skipper, Lionel Lawrence, certainly led us on some adventures, many of which wouldn't get past the Health and Safety Risk Assessment stage these days. The one which took place in August 1949 probably broke the most rules and nowadays would be a topic of some notoriety.

The 'plan' was to leave our tented camp at Black-a-Tor Copse, hike to Postbridge, sleep under the stars overnight, then get to Widecombe in time for a church parade on Sunday morning. Nine scouts set off on Saturday morning, five of us only twelve years old, wearing those wide brimmed Scout hats, shod with wellington boots or plimsolls (polished shoes were needed for the church parade), a variety of backpacks on our shoulders and carrying various cooking pots and pans.

Setting off up the Okement, we skirted behind Lints Tor to Vergyland Combe and eventually reached Cranmere Pool. The letterbox was in the bank in those days and after signing the book, stamping up and having a meal we were ready to set off across the broken peat in the direction of East Dart Head, already way behind schedule.

As the day wore on it was obvious that we were not going to reach Postbridge before nightfall so it was decided to make camp some way short of the village. A reasonably flat piece of ground was chosen. We scavenged for bits of dead gorse, a fire was lit and a meal cooked. By the time that was cleared up it was almost dark. We had been carrying an ex-army groundsheet and at least one woollen blanket and that would have to suffice for bedding. I doubt that anybody slept much and by dawn everybody was covered in heavy dew.

After the obligatory breakfast of porridge and bread and jam we were so far behind schedule and the weather looked none too promising that it was decided to turn tail and head back towards camp. It wasn't long before the mist came down accompanied by driving rain. The gaberdine macs most of us were wearing proved no match for the Dartmoor weather and the backpacks we carried soon leaked, soaking the blankets inside, increasing the weight we were carrying and slowing us even

more.

At lunchtime, still in the Dart valley, we managed to light a fire and cook some food, but we were all wet through and thoroughly miserable. Skip made the crucial decision to send the seven younger, slower boys on ahead while he and the two older scouts cleared up the site, fully expecting to catch us up before long. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Somewhere along the route we started to cross the peat in what we thought was the right direction, but owing to the poor visibility we wandered way off course.

Eventually we reached a river valley and, in our inexperience thought it must be the Okement and that if we followed it downstream we would arrive back at camp. As the rain eased and the mist lifted we began to realise that this was unfamiliar territory and that we were well and truly lost. For some reason we decided to climb the steep ridge to our left and there in the distance we could see a dim light.

Summoning our last reserves of energy we struggled down the rocky slope, crossed a river, and then up another slope to that beckoning light. We had 'found' East Okement Farm. When we banged on the door Mr. and Mrs. Endacott must have been very surprised to find a group of bedraggled scouts standing outside. They ushered us into an empty building and supplied hot tea and thick slices of bread and butter. Living in such an isolated spot and on the military firing range they were on the telephone, so were able to call Brian Maddaford's home. His sister Joy's boyfriend Len Kearsley, drove a large Humber car and he agreed to come and fetch us.

I'm not sure how we all got in his car with all our gear, but after dropping off members of the troop at Southcott, Sourton and Lake we arrived home at Bridestowe none the worse for our adventure. I remember my mother had a hot bath ready and when taking off my wellington boots I left pools of dirty water on the floor.

Meanwhile Skip and the other two cleared up the site of the lunch stop and proceeded up the Dart valley fully expecting to catch up with the rest of the group. They successfully crossed the morass to Cranmere and then down the Okement to the camp site where they found a scene of devastation. The storm had blown one of the bell tents

down and a temporary stream was flowing through it. Worse still there was no sign of the rest of the party. After a brief stop to collect chocolate and cheese and a torch they returned upstream until darkness forced them to abandon their search. They spent a sleepless night not knowing that we were all at home tucked up safely in bed!

Very early the next morning my uncle, Frank Harris, and sister Phyllis, set out for Black- a-Tor Copse to convey the news of our whereabouts. The weather was dry and clear, they made good progress and reached the camp site before the others had set out to search for us again. Of course, they were very relieved to find out that we were all safely at home. In the aftermath of the storm and our adventures all that remained was to strike camp and get everything back to Sourton. Despite the uncertainties and discomfort of our predicament on this particular occasion no one suffered any ill effects and indeed some of us retained a lifelong affinity with the moor, having walked on it hundreds of times since. But it still needs to be used with respect rather than complacency. I have been temporarily lost in my adult life on at least two occasions, not because of being poorly equipped but because of not using the map and compass I had. Great Links area, no problem, this is my home patch, I know the way back! On the fiftieth anniversary of our adventure five of the original party walked from Sourton Church to Cranmere Pool and back, while five years later four of us completed the trek. On the sixtieth anniversary only two of us managed the pilgrimage. We agreed that perhaps then was a good time to stop!



The North Dartmoor Garden Club is a friendly group of garden lovers – but not necessarily gardeners – that meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month, 7.30pm, in Belstone Village Hall. We have a wide range of speakers on a variety of topics. The Club welcomes new members, guests and visitors to our meetings and at £15 for the year it is very good value or just £4 for an evening visit.

February 26th 'Growing Vegetables in Harmony with Nature'

Talk by Martin & Sarah from Harvest Workers Co-op, Okehampton.

For further details contact Robin Hill
01837 840332
edwinarobinhill@outlook.com

Lunar cycle for February

New moon	17th
First quarter	24th
Full moon	1st
Last quarter	9th



A parade of planets

At the end of February there will be six planets visible in the night sky, an event popularly known as a 'parade' of planets because they'll all appear in a roughly straight line across the sky. On this occasion, Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune will all technically be visible, but it's definitely a challenge to see all six.

Mercury, Venus, Saturn and Neptune will be visible in the west very close to the horizon just after the Sun sets, making sunlight and anything on your skyline additional obstacles to spotting these planets. Neptune will also, as always, require a telescope to see.

Uranus is higher in the sky in the constellation of Taurus and will set around midnight, so you've got a better chance of finding the planet if you have a telescope.

Jupiter will be high in the sky for most of the night in the constellation of Gemini and will be the easiest of the six to find. It will be a bright point of light visible to the naked eye, even from a light-polluted area.

Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010



Winter opening times

October - March

Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4.30pm

Bridestowe Parish Council report

At the recent meeting of the Parish Council, the parish precept was discussed and the rate set for the financial year 2026-27. Increases in the precept have been kept to minimum in recent years, but significant inflationary costs and some unforeseen expenditure during 2025 involving repair to the churchyard wall, as well as tree work adjacent to Tanyard Court, have resulted in a marked depletion of the council's reserves. This trend, if not reversed, will see them disappear entirely within a few years.

The council does not take the decision to increase the precept lightly, and is acutely aware that it will affect every household within the parish. However, it is inconceivable that the parish finances reach a point at which it is no longer possible to pay for the essential services required to maintain the village and its wider environment.

The council is in any case, required by law to hold reserves to cover unforeseen expenditure, whether that is repair work to infrastructure as happened during 2025, or to cover ever increasing costs e.g. insurance, routine maintenance, both of which impacted council finances last year.

Consequently, after much debate it was agreed that the only sensible option is to increase substantially the precept for 2026-27. The council believes that by taking this action, the decline in its financial situation will not only have been halted, but reversed by this time next year. The 2026-27 precept will provide, not only the reserves required by law, but sufficient funds to re-instate plans for some of the non-essential work that the council has been obliged to put on hold for the time being. Primarily, the project to repair or replace play equipment in the playing field some of which, whilst remaining safe is well over due for attention.

The sums involved will mean that a Band D house in the parish will have an increase of precept of approximately £3 per month. This sum will be reflected in the precept of

the other bands, and will provide the income necessary for a more optimistic outlook 12 months from now.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 25th February** at 7.30pm in The Ark (Methodist Church)
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



Okehampton u3a

Established in November 2001

Our February speaker is Robert Hesketh
Tuesday 17 February
2.30pm at Fairplace Church
"Devon Place Names"

"Every Devon place name has a story to tell, usually a very old story going back well over a thousand years to the Saxon settlement or older still. They reflect successive layers of conquest and settlement, revealing a great deal about our ancestors, the languages they spoke, their names and the lives they led".

Robert Hesketh is a freelance writer and photographer with a strong interest in local history. His illustrated talk will focus on the key aspects of place names in Devon outlining the origin and evolution of Devon place names and give an explanation of common place name elements such as ton, ford and leah.

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

For further information please contact Dee McVey 01837 658590



BRIDFEST 26
WHERE WE COME TOGETHER

QUIZ NIGHT

**Wed 11th Feb 2026
at 8pm**

£2 Per Person

Trivia themes include pop culture, sports, history, Special Picture Round & more!

Grand Prize Raffle

**For info please call
The White Hart
Bridestowe**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

**THE WHITE HART,
BRIDESTOWE**



Love is in the air !

This Valentine's Day, surprise the one who has your heart with something they'll never forget.

Whether it's for your partner, your bestie, or yourself (because self-love matters too), we've got the perfect treat waiting for you.

Check out our stunning Valentine's menu on our Facebook page. A complementary single stem rose per couple.

Simply call us on 01837 861318 to book your table Valentine's menu only served in the evening of the 14th February

Can you help keep youth cricket at Bridestowe?



Bridestowe and Belstone Cricket Club are looking for some willing volunteers to help with the softball kids cricket sessions at Millaton (Bridestowe) Cricket Ground this summer. Full training and support will be given but we can't run the weekly sessions without a qualified 'activator' and willing helpers with a DBS and lots of enthusiasm – no cricket experience required!

May and July, weather allowing, for children aged 5+.

These are fun, active sessions that introduce children to cricket and help them build on core skills including, catching, batting, bowling and playing together as a team.

If you are keen to join the team or are interested to know more please do get in touch, and please share this with anyone else who may be keen to support the 2026 season.

**Jo Pritchard – 07825 512154 /
jcw_101@hotmail.com**

Thank you

We aim to run 6 – 8, 1 hour session between

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



National
Trust

Well January started a bit wintry, with snow falling and settling, and not just on the moor. I hope everyone managed to stay safe in the icy conditions, I did work from home for a few days, so I didn't get to see the snow at Lydford in person. The rangers did get in to carry on their winter work. And Area Ranger Crystal snapped photos of some interesting footprints in the snow, from rabbits, deer and a large bird, most likely a corvid.

You may have seen the work that's taking place along the old railway line from the Waterfall entrance. With help from Dartmoor National Park Authority's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) funding, we are hoping to once again make this route accessible for all. The first stage is to resurface the path, which should now be complete, along with a new platform to allow Trampler users to gain some height and better appreciate the view over the gorge. Work is also progressing well to create new wildlife areas to spot species like dragonflies, damselflies, and frogs. Including improving the pond and adding a dipping platform, a ditch now flowing with water which was previously diverted underground, and leaky dams to create pools and hold back sediment. The next job is for the well-loved bird hide to be upgraded, giving a wheelchair and Trampler accessible destination. Plus, some interpretation on the history of the railway, more benches and opening up some viewpoints looking out over the gorge.

February fun near by...

Cotehele. Grab-and-go art bags, Sat 14 Feb to Sun 22 Mar, 10am-4pm.

Buckland Abbey. Write your own fairytale trail, Sat 14 Feb to Sun 1 Mar, 10am-3pm.

Castle Drogo. Rock on (Dartmoor geology) trail, Sat 14 to Sun 22 Feb, 10am-4pm.

All these are free, normal National Trust admission applies, free for members.

The final total raised in the second-hand

donated books. This money will all be used to help look after Lydford Gorge. We've had a few sessions in the bookshop over winter, with a lot of volunteer help, to get it full of exciting new displays and a host of interesting reads to tempt you back in March! As usual, donations always welcome.

Opening Times until Friday 13 March

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

We plan to reopen from **Saturday 14 March.**

The rest of the gorge trails are closed over winter for safety and essential maintenance work. This can include tree work, path work and rock face inspections, so please do not pass any locked gates. Now that we are in our winter period, please check the weather before you visit. During periods of high wind and rainfall trees may drop branches or fall over making it hazardous to walk in the gorge. Also, please continue to keep dogs on a short lead and out of the river to help protect the important habitats in the gorge.

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

Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: lydfordgorge.nt

Registered Charity Number 205846

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING

GROUP will meet for coffee at The Ark on **Thursday February 19th** at 10.30a.m. Please come along, especially if you have suggestions for future venues or outings. New members will be welcomed.

Contact person; Ann Allan on 861551

Please remember that as February is a short month, we need submissions for the March BaSE in by 25th February.
Thank you. AY

BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP



Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th February** at 7.30pm. The venue is Rowdens Barn. We will be discussing *Pigeon English* by Stephen Kelman.

About the book

Eleven-year-old Harrison Opoku, the second best runner in Year 7, races through his new life in England with his personalised trainers - the Adidas stripes drawn on with marker pen - blissfully unaware of the very real threat around him. Newly arrived from Ghana with his mother and older sister Lydia, Harri absorbs the many strange elements of city life, from the bewildering array of Haribo sweets, to the frightening, fascinating gang of older boys from his school. But his life is changed forever when one of his friends is murdered.

As the victim's nearly new football boots hang in tribute on railings behind fluorescent tape and a police appeal draws only silence, Harri decides to act, unwittingly endangering the fragile web his mother has spun around her family to keep them safe. www.waterstones.com

About the author

Stephen Kelman was born in Luton in 1976. *Pigeon English*, his first novel, was published in 2011. It was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the Guardian First Book Award, the Desmond Elliott Prize, and six other awards. It was chosen as the pilot title for the Books Unlocked programme, an initiative with the National Literacy Trust and the Booker Prize Foundation which provides UK prisoners with access to quality literature. *Pigeon English* is also a set text on the AQA English Literature GCSE syllabus.

Stephen's second novel, *Man on Fire*, was published in 2015 to widespread critical acclaim.

01566 783529

email: neil@neiledgson.com

Tavistock Parkinson's Support Group - open to surrounding areas

If you have been diagnosed with or care for someone who has Parkinson's, please join us for support and information.

Four sessions are held a month, all in the mornings at the Anchorage Centre, 10.30 - 12noon.

1st Friday: Singing

2nd Thursday : Exercises

3rd Friday: Coffee morning

Last Tuesday: Support

Subjects covered by speakers range from information about Parkinson's to more social subjects.

On **Tuesday 24th February** Christopher Turner's talk will be about Grace Darling and the RNLI.

For further information please contact Pam **01822 614204** or call in at The Anchorage, Chapel Street, PL19 8AG for a leaflet

This is a transcript of Radio 4's Tweet of the Day broadcast on January 18th

Horatio Clare on the Rook

We rooks wish to say this: we are dim purple not black. We eat grains and grubs not carrion. We are baggy-trouserer, grey-beaked, master builders. We live in rookeries. Country people used to say that if we avoid a tree, it will fall. They say we hold parliaments to judge and expel delinquents from our colonies but we are jokers and lovers, not fighters. We are emphatically **not** crows. Our latin name, *corvus frugilegus*, means 'fruit raven'.

Crows say *caar* we say *caw*. Vincent van Gogh's painting of dark birds over golden corn is mighty but the title is wrong. The Wheatfield with..rooks. That's us!

William Shakespeare was right. *Light thickens* says Macbeth *and the crow makes wing to the rooky wood*. A solitary villain is going into hiding among good citizens he means. We are all about citizenship. Our wingbeats strum the morning air as we commute to the fields: we row through the sky at sunset as we come home. We are fellowship's own bird and friends to all who love us. We thank you for your seeds.

www.bbc.co.uk/sounds



St Thomas à Becket Church, Sourton February

Gerald Horn

We were very sorry to hear the news that Gerald, of Coombe Farm has passed away. His funeral is to be in the Chapel at Bridestowe at 3.30 p.m. on February 6th . He will be buried in Sourton Churchyard. We send our prayers and condolences to Marcia , Andrew and Abbi and the family.

Soup Lunches

Our soup lunch was well attended in January despite the wet and windy weather. It was good to welcome back so many regulars as well as some new people. It was a very happy occasion and as well as raising some funds for the church everyone enjoyed a chat and some nice warm soup.

Many thanks to all our generous and kind helpers. We raised £205.60 for church funds.

The following lunches will be on **February 8th**, and March 8th

We will be serving a variety of home made soups and bread , with cheese and fruit , tea or coffee at the price of £6 in aid of church funds.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

There will be some changes to the rota starting this month.

There will be NO SERVICE on February 1st ,
Bridestowe will be having their Patronal Service with Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

February 1st NO SERVICE

February 8th NO SERVICE

February 15th MORNING PRAYER at 9.30 a.m.

February 22nd NO SERVICE

Jenny Batten

For something different...

All that Jazz! The Cottles Club

From intimate duos to full big bands, The Cottles Club pop-up jazz nights are drawing top talent and loyal audiences.

Sunday 1 February, 3-5.30pm

St James Church Okehampton

Pete Cantar, saxophone and flute and James Clemas on keyboard.

Tickets £10 on door

Source - Oke Links page 43



Sourton Village Hall - a venue for all occasions

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

For prices and to book contact

Paul Alford 07799 778 779

Alison Ewen 07990 981 826

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

www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk

Facebook - Sourton Village Hall

Movie Watch - January 2025

A month of sharp contrasts at the New Carlton, to which we made three visits.

The Housemaid is quite possibly the worst film we've seen since we began monitoring local cinema visits, ten years ago this month. Or at least the hour we endured, before skipping happily into the Okehampton night, certainly earned that dubious accolade.

Merely for completeness, the film stars Sydney Sweeney and Amanda Seyfried in what the promotional blurb describes as 'an erotic psychological thriller.' The failing will be mine but I spotted nothing remotely erotic, or thrilling for that matter.

Just predictable, puerile, pretentious and well.....plain dull, really.

To provide a point of comparison, we then took in **Hamnet**. Purely a personal view and one certainly not universally shared, but we found this as compelling a piece of work as we've enjoyed locally for some time. However, critical response, predictably enough, has been distinctly mixed.

The film dramatises the family life of William Shakespeare and his wife Agnes Hathaway as they come to terms with the death of their 11-year-old son, Hamnet. It stars Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal as Agnes and William. Both are impressive but Jessie Buckley, once again, puts in a superb performance which will inevitably win awards. In fact as I write, the film has just been voted Best Drama at the 2026 Golden Globes, with Jessie Buckley named Best Actress in a Drama Film.

However, Fiona Mountford in the iPaper was 'entirely unmoved' and headed her review, 'I Hated Hamnet.' The Guardian led with 'Mescal and Buckley beguile and captivate in audacious Shakespearean tragedy' while the BBC review found the film 'exploitative and lacking in subtlety.'

There's a critical assessment in the LA Times, under a heading of 'The Lush Hamnet Sinks under Non-stop Crying and a Dull Bard.' Worryingly, however, my view corresponds most closely with that of Matthew Bond in the invariably dreadful Daily Mail. Under a

recommendation that you should take tissues to the cinema, he went with, 'This Powerful Exploration of Love and Grief is Exquisitely Acted and Will Break Your Heart.'

So, wildly differing opinions from the self-appointed experts mean there's only one approach to adopt. Go and see it for yourself. Currently with three daily showings, the resultant publicity should ensure Hamnet runs at the New Carlton well into February.

Completing a highly unlikely trifecta, we had **Marty Supreme**, a film that defies conventional categorisation, although the Guardian made an honourable attempt with 'Timothée Chalamet plays Marty Mauser, a spindly motormouth with the glasses of an intellectual, the moustache of a movie star and the physique of a tiny cartoon character.'

I can hardly leave you dangling there in search of a synopsis, but it's not easy. The film is listed as an American sports comedy-drama, starring Chalamet alongside a genuinely impressive Gwyneth Paltrow.

He plays Mauser, an aspiring table tennis champion, loosely based on real-life table tennis star, Marty Reisman. Paltrow meanwhile plays Kay Stone, a wealthy retired actress who forms an extremely unlikely sexual relationship with Marty.

Chalamet won the Golden Globe Best Actor award for his performance in Marty Supreme while it should be noted that some of the table tennis action scenes are seriously impressive.

By the way, I'd not previously spotted a measure on Google's film pages where the proportion of users who claim to have 'liked' a particular film is flagged. I have no idea as to the statistical validity of the findings but **The Housemaid** scored 60%, with **Hamnet** at 89% and **Marty Supreme** 85%. Those scores feel about right so I may well use that measure again in future as a rough sense-check.

Meanwhile it's not a big surprise when a strong cinema month is followed by a weak one. Sure enough February, and March for that matter, don't look great.

H is for Hawk went on national

release late in January. This is a biographical drama based on the 2014 memoir by Helen MacDonald featuring a strong cast including Claire Foy, Brendan Gleeson and Lindsay Duncan. The film tells the true story of a woman who seeks refuge in tending to a goshawk, following the death of her father.

Launching around mid-February is **Wuthering Heights**, starring Margot Robbie as Cathy and Jacob Elordi as Heathcliff. No reviews available at the time of writing but this latest version of Emily Bronte's enduring classic is said to be 'provocative but nowhere near as shocking as Bronte's original.'

On the smaller screen, the hotly-anticipated **Night Manager** (BBC1/iPlayer) began a second season on New Year's Day, with production now co-funded by Amazon. Tom Hiddleston, with more than a little James Bond about him, stars alongside Olivia Colman in what remains probably the best spy thriller on television, although maybe without quite reaching the heights achieved in the first series. The standard was immediately elevated by the shock reappearance of Hugh Laurie in the third episode.

I was also looking forward to the new series of **Traitors** but they lost me early on by constantly messing around with the format, introducing new characters when they weren't needed.

Last month I gave a passing recommendation to the delightful **Leonard and Hungry Paul** (BBC iPlayer). Normally I'd leave it there but a few people have squared the circle by suggesting I might enjoy the programme and should give it a try. Over to you!

Meanwhile a few other random recommendations from various local sources, for which many thanks. Please keep them coming.

The Beast in Me (Netflix), **The Girlfriend** (Prime), **Spain with Michael Portillo** (C5), **Lynley** (BBC1), **Red Eye** (ITV), **Hijack** (Apple TV), **Britain's Favourite Railway Stations** (More4), **Outrageous** (iPlayer).

David Harrison
January 2026

St Bridget's Church Needs Your Help



St Bridget's is facing a challenging moment. Major repairs are now urgently required: the tin roof — added only as a temporary fix in the 1960s — has begun to fail, and the tower needs significant structural work. Keeping the church open already costs £190 a week, covering insurance, electricity, maintenance of a Grade II listed building, and a contribution toward the vicar's salary.

Many people assume churches are funded centrally, but parish churches like ours rely entirely on voluntary donations. There is no financial support from Exeter or the Church of England. For a small congregation, this is a heavy burden.

That's why St Bridget's needs your help. You don't need to be religious to care about preserving the oldest building in our village or to value the role it plays in community life. We're looking for people who can:

- Join the fundraising team
- Offer skills or ideas
- Become part of the committee
- Support events or contribute in any way

St Bridget's is part of our shared heritage — a place that has held the life of this village for centuries.

With your help, it can continue to do so for generations to come.

A Living Piece of Bridestowe's History

There has been a church in Bridestowe since 1180 AD, and the dedication to St Bridget suggests an even earlier origin. From her name we get both the word "bride" and our village name, Bride-stow, with stow being the Saxon word for "holy place".

The current church, dating from around 1450, is almost certainly the oldest building in continuous use in the village. It has stood through prosperity and hardship, civil war and two world wars, cared for by generations of parishioners.

Today, St Bridget's continues to serve the whole community. It hosts Sunday worship, Christmas and Easter celebrations, Remembrance services, weddings, christenings and funerals. It supports the school, Springfields, and many village organisations. It has offered food support to local families and brings people together through Harvest Suppers, bell ringing, barn dances, concerts, talks and other events.

Sourton Parish Council Update

www.sourtonpc.org.uk

parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk

07792958675

Parish Meeting - Monday 2 February 6pm

Residents are invited to attend a Parish Meeting on Monday 2 February to discuss how our parish can move forward in a constructive and positive way.

The meeting will focus on:

- Identifying future priorities for the parish
- Exploring practical ideas and opportunities
- Working together to shape a positive way ahead

Please note that the purpose of this meeting is to look forward. It is not intended to revisit past issues or repeat previous discussions.

Residents who have specific questions or topics they would like to be considered are encouraged to email them in advance to the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk.

Parish Precept and Churchyard Safety

The Parish Council has carefully reviewed its financial responsibilities for the coming year and is setting the parish precept at £11,400. This represents an 8.12% increase on the previous year.

For a Band D property, this equates to an annual cost of £59.57, or approximately £4.96 per month.

The increase is largely required to allow the Parish Council to set a budget of £15,170 to meet the costs associated with essential repairs to headstones in the closed area of the churchyard.

Where families or private owners of memorials cannot be identified or traced, the Parish Council has a legal responsibility to ensure that unsafe headstones are made safe. This work can involve significant expense and places a substantial financial burden on the parish.

In addition, any repair or safety works within the churchyard must be formally approved by the Diocese of Exeter. This approval is granted through the application for a faculty, which is a legal requirement before works can proceed.

These measures are necessary to ensure public safety and to meet the Parish Council's statutory obligations.

Why the Parish Council Has Policies

The Parish Council is required to have a range of policies in place to ensure it operates lawfully, safely, and responsibly.

The Council is an employer, and employment law requires certain policies to be

in place. These policies help ensure staff are treated fairly and consistently and are reviewed and updated as employment legislation changes. The Council employs contractors to carry out work on its behalf. This means it must have appropriate health and safety policies and carry out risk assessments to protect contractors, councillors, and members of the public. Policies are not static documents. They are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant, reflect current legislation, and meet the needs of the parish.

There are a number of core policies that all parish councils are required to have, such as Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. These set out how the Council makes decisions and manages public money. Policies help ensure that decisions are made consistently and fairly, regardless of who is serving on the Council at any given time. This is particularly important as councillors change over time. Having clear, up-to-date policies helps protect the parish, councillors, and staff by showing that the Council is acting properly and within the law if decisions are ever questioned. Policies provide clear guidance for new councillors and staff, helping them understand how the Council works and what is expected of them from the outset.

As part of the Council's annual internal audit, the auditor checks that these required policies are in place and up to date. If the Council does not meet these requirements, it can affect the completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). Under the Transparency Code for parish councils with a budget under £25,000, these policies must be available to the public. Publishing them on the Council's website makes it easy for residents to access them at any time

Boasley Chapel Happenings in February



Sunday 1st February 2.30 - 4.30pm
Afternoon Tea

Sunday 15th February 11am
Service with Alison Morgan

Thursday 19th February 12-2pm
Soup and Sweet

Everyone welcome to all events!

Potting Shed Ceramics by Gill Dubey



Hello!

I hope this finds you all well and looking forward to a creative 2026.

As you have shown an interest in my Clay Workshops, or may even have been before, I am sending you the dates and updated details for this coming year.

Weekend Clay Workshops

These will run on a Saturday and Sunday from 10am – 4pm, allowing time to hand build slab work and make large items, which are otherwise not possible in one day.

If you are new to clay I will start with a quick demo of techniques used in hand building.

After an hour or two to get the feel of the clay and what it is capable of doing, you will be able to start on your own work.

The classes are small, up to 4 people, so you will get plenty of individual tuition and guidance.

There is a folio of previous years students work and an ideas board for you to peruse, but the emphasis in my classes is to make/create items from your own imagination. Please feel free to bring along any sketches, photos, magazine clips or items you may wish to use as inspiration. You will be surprised how much you can achieve in one weekend.

Once fully dried (approx 1-2 weeks) I then fire the work before glazing (as close as possible to your individual colour choices). The work is fired a second time before I then contact you to arrange collection or delivery.

Refreshments are provided but please bring your own lunch.

Due to rising costs, this year I've had to increase the price of the classes. Therefore, a weekend course, including tuition, ½ bag of clay, (extra clay available on request at additional cost), glazing and firings will be £180 per person.

A deposit of £20 per person is required to secure your booking.

One Day Clay Workshops

New for 2026!

These will run on a Wednesday from 10am – 4pm.

Details as per the Weekend Workshops, except time is obviously limited, so slab work and larger items will be curtailed.

The cost for a One Day Workshop, including tuition, clay, glazing and firings will be £125 per person, with a £20 per person deposit to secure your booking.

To book please email me

contact@pottingshedceramics.co.uk

with your chosen date. List of dates below. If

the date is available I will then send you

payment details for the deposit, followed by confirmation of your booking.

Closer to the date of the Workshop I will send you location details

Weekend Clay Workshops 2026

April 11/12

April 25/26

May 9/10

June 6/7

June 27/28

July 18/19

August 15/16

September 5/6

September 26/27

October 10/11

One Day Clay Workshops

April 1st

May 6th

June 3rd

July 8th

August 12th

September 9th.

New advertiser



☎ 07545 879 431

✉ j.e.landservices@outlook.com

- Agricultural/Domestic Fencing
- Landscaping/Gardening
- Patio/Decking
- Tree Felling/Clearance
- Log Splitting
- Plant hire with Operator

Bacon Baps will be served on **Saturday 28th February 10am - 12 noon in Bridestowe Village Hall.**



Kris will be there with her Book Art and some unique Mother's Day gifts. Ian and Dawn too with their locally sourced meat and eggs. Remember we do have a card machine.

If you would like to have a table at a bacon bap session, either as a one-off or on a regular basis, do get in touch.

01837 861157

WINCHATS PORK & POULTRY DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

Sausages	Bacon
Pork packs	Free range eggs
Gammon joints	Oven ready chickens
Pork & apple burgers	Oven ready ducks

Contact

Ian or Dawn Vanstone
Mobile 07811 351 807

Email: dawnbrake@hotmail.com

For free local delivery of your Food From Devon

Snowdrop Sunday at Andrews Corner, Belstone on Sunday 15 February,

11-4pm, in aid of the Children's Hospice South West. As usual there will be CHSW promotional goods for sale, as well as bacon baps, hot soup and bread, cheese scones, hot and cold drinks and cakes. Plus of course the opportunity to buy snowdrops, both common and the more unusual. Well signed throughout the village with parking in a near by field. Dogs welcome on leads.



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). Please contact the Bookings Clerk for more information
Esther Winter Mob: 07946 992200
Visit the website
www.bridestowe.org.uk/village-hall to see prices and view the calendar for availability.

**Come for a chat and enjoy
SOUP, ROLL & CHEESE, FRUIT**

Tea/Coffee £6.00

SOURTON VILLAGE HALL

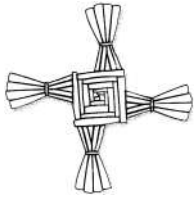
Sunday, 8th February

12:00 - 2:00pm

In aid of St Thomas à Becket Church



Bridestowe Churches Partnership



Sunday Worship for February 2026

Sunday 1st

9.30am St Bridget's Day service at St Bridget's .
After the service we join the Café Church service in the Ark and then from 12.00pm, soup and bread will be served.

10.30am to 12.30pm Cafe Church at The Ark (Worship, Coffee, Tea, Chat, Children's activities)

Sunday 8th

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Bridget's

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist Chapel led by D Sutcliffe

Sunday 15th

11.00am United service at the Methodist Chapel with Jerry Cook

Sunday 22nd

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Bridget's

11.00am Service led by the Bridestowe Worship Group

KINDNESS

Kindness is not just an act
It is a language of the soul
Spoken without words
Understood without explanation

It is in the smile you give a stranger
The dua you whisper for someone in pain
The patience you show when no one sees

Kindness doesn't need recognition
It isn't loud
But it echoes louder than anger ever could
It is the choice to be soft in a world that hardens hearts
To be light when darkness surrounds

Kindness is strength draped in gentleness
Courage wrapped in compassion
And every time you choose it
You bring healing not only to others
But to your own heart too.

The Ark

The Coffee Morning in January raised £240 for the Salvation Army. Many thanks to all who supported this.

The February Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 14th**, 10 to 12 noon. We are raising funds for a local boy, Jacob, and his family. He is undergoing treatment at both Exeter and Bristol hospitals.

Coffee/tea/cakes...

If you want to contribute and cannot attend the Coffee Morning, donations can be handed to Brian Maddaford or Jennifer Thorne.

Looking forward to seeing you .

The World Day of prayer will be held on Friday 6th March at 2pm, More details next month.

Ark 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. You can come to the Thursday morning for coffee and a chat and there's no need to bring your craft work!

Jennifer Thorne handles bookings.

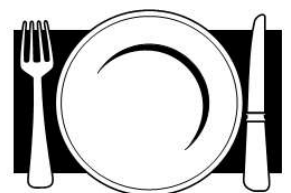
Phone **01837 861592**

Email: j.thorne2013@btinternet.com

The Over 60's Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 10 February**. Meet at

12.15 for lunch at 12.30. Please let Jennifer know if you cannot attend. (861592)

Thank you



Hello everyone,

Welcome to our latest Bridestowe Scout Group newsletter. We have another busy and exciting term ahead, with our young people taking on new challenges, learning valuable skills, and enjoying plenty of fun along the way. We'd like to share some updates from across the Group and take this opportunity to thank those who continue to support Scouting in our local community.

Before we begin, we would like to share an important update. Sadly, the Beavers section will not be continuing for the time being.

Marta has recently moved on, and we would like to sincerely thank her for all her hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm over the last year. She delivered an excellent Beavers programme, and we are extremely grateful for everything she has done.

We would love to restart the Beavers section in the future if we are able to recruit volunteers to help run it. If you think you might be able to help — even occasionally — please do get in touch. In the meantime, no one will miss out on Scouting. All our Beavers have now moved up to the Cubs section, allowing them to continue their Scouting journey, build friendships, and enjoy new challenges.

A Big Thank You!

We are incredibly grateful for the amazing support we continue to receive from across our local community. The generosity of individuals, clubs, and organisations plays a vital role in keeping Scouting thriving in Bridestowe.

Thanks to this support, we are able to deliver a varied and engaging programme, provide new opportunities, and ensure that young people in our community can enjoy Scouting in a fun, safe, and inclusive environment.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to:

- Sourton Commoners – thank you very much for your kind donation of £500, which will

directly support activities and opportunities for our young people.

- Bridestowe Bowls Club – thank you for the generous £100 donation, which is very much appreciated.

- Chris and Sally Eyre – a huge thank you for kindly providing the use of the roller disco at Ashbury Manor Hotel. The young people had a fantastic time, and we are extremely grateful for your continued support.

Your generosity helps us keep Scouting accessible, engaging, and fun for everyone involved, while creating memorable experiences and lasting opportunities for young people within our community.



Bridestowe Scout Group – Weekly Meeting Times

The Bridestowe Scout Group offers a fun, safe, and engaging environment for young people to learn new skills, build friendships, and enjoy exciting adventures right here in our local community. Weekly sessions are held at the Bridestowe Village Hall or the surrounding area, and we welcome new members across all age groups!

Session Times:

- Cubs (ages 8–10½)

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Cubs take on more adventurous challenges, including team games, basic first aid, camping skills, and community involvement. Every session is packed with learning and laughter.

- Scouts (ages 10½–14)

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

The Scouts programme is all about independence and

leadership. From pioneering to hiking, Scouts get the chance to push their limits and earn badges for new achievements.

Most sessions take place at Bridestowe Village Hall or outdoor

surrounding areas (weather permitting), a central and accessible location for families in the area.

Whether your child is looking to make new

friends, discover new interests, or simply enjoy time away from screens, the Bridestowe Scout Group provides a brilliant outlet. Our volunteer leaders are trained, DBS-checked, and committed to delivering a high-quality programme in a supportive environment.

Join the Adventure – Get Involved!

Bridestowe Scout Group is always keen to welcome new young people and adult volunteers to our Scouting family. We currently run Cubs, and Scouts, offering fun, friendship, and adventure for every age group. Sessions take place mainly at Bridestowe Village Hall during the winter and darker evenings, with plenty of outdoor activities when the weather allows.

Scouting simply wouldn't happen without volunteers, and we're always looking for new people to get involved.

Whether you can help regularly or just occasionally, it's a hugely rewarding experience. No previous experience is needed — just enthusiasm and a willingness to join in. Why not come along, see what we do, and give it a try? There's no obligation, and full support is provided.



Support Bridestowe Scout Group at no extra cost!

You can raise FREE donations for Bridestowe Scout Group EVERY time you shop online. Just use #easyfundraising! Over 8,000 retailers will donate, including all the big names like John Lewis & Partners, BT, Expedia, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more!

Please support us:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bridestowescouts/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=fb-1



FEBRUARY EVENTS

Devon County Council Public Libraries Consultation Closes 22 February 2026

Devon County Council (DCC) have launched a formal consultation on the future of the library service in Devon. This is a crucially important time for local libraries across Devon. DCC commission us to run 50 public libraries in their area (the 4 we run on behalf of Torbay Council are not affected by this consultation) and we want as many people as possible to have their say and help shape how services are delivered in future.

We know that libraries are still an incredibly valuable part of people's lives here in Devon (with over 2.6 million visits through our doors for example in 2024/25), and the Council recognises this too. **Please do take a few minutes of your time to take part in the consultation, and to have your say.**

You can access the consultation document online and complete the survey by visiting <https://devon.cc/your-libraries>. And if you don't have your own device to do this, public PCs in libraries can be used to complete the survey, or pick up a paper copy in the library.

Bookmarked Young Adult Reading Challenge: January - December 2026

Bookmarked is our young adult reading challenge for 11-17-year-olds launching in 2026! The challenge is to read any 6 library books of your choice (including eBooks and eAudiobooks from the BorrowBox app, which you can access for free with your library card) at your own pace and earn rewards along the way. Once you've read all 6 books, you'll collect a finisher's badge and be entered into a prize draw to win some goodies - plus, the first 30 young adults to finish will receive a free cinema ticket to a film of their choice. Sign up for FREE at Okehampton Library.

Okehampton Library Book Bingo: January - December 2026

Collect your NEW 2026 bingo card, browse our display and ask for our recommended reads. After completing a square, have your bingo card stamped by library staff and move onto the next square. Repeat until you have finished your bingo card. Bring your completed bingo card into the library to be signed off - you'll also be entered into our prize draw to win a £50 National Book Token, to be drawn in December 2026 (funded by The Friends of Okehampton Library). Sign up for FREE at Okehampton Library.

Storytime with Rafa: Monday 16th February, 10:30-11:00

Come along to listen to some stories with our visiting Pets as Therapy (PAT) dog Rafa, and hear all about our weekly Read to Rafa sessions! Free to attend, drop-in, suitable for ages 5+. Please note that children will need to be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult, and everyone is asked to please follow instructions given by Rafa's owner.

Woven from Nature: Monday 16 February, 13:00-15:30

Join us to explore the extraordinary properties of ordinary plants.

In Devon we are lucky to live near some of the most beautiful countryside the UK has to offer. But how often do we stop to think about the nature that is right on our doorstep?

This workshop takes a moment to look at the creative possibilities of the most ordinary plants. You will try out paints made from local trees and garden vegetables, learn to make string (or 'cord') from stinging nettles and dandelions and draw with charcoal made from twigs.

Finally, working individually or in pairs, you will make woven hanging decorations using Devon's natural fibres and cordage made during the session. You'll weave in strips of fabric and paper with our messages to nature and embellish them with seed pods and other natural beads.

Suitable for ages 4+. Booking in advance through Ticket Source or the library, £2 per child, accompanying adult free.

REGULAR EVENTS

ADULTS:

Okehampton Library has meeting rooms 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.

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.

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.

CHILDREN:

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, 09:00-11:30

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.

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.

Badges for sale

Okehampton Library now have badges for sale! Collect all of the designs to support our library. Suggested donation £1 each, all proceeds will go to Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs libraries in Devon and Torbay.

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 09:30-12:30

Thursday 09:00-17:00

Friday 09:00-18:00

Saturday 09:30-12:30

Okehampton Library, 4 North Street, EX20 1AR
Okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

01837 52805

Important date for March



Friends of Bridestowe School
invite you to

FAMILY EASTER BINGO

SATURDAY | 21 MARCH 2026

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

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

£6.50
per book
of 6 games

To guarantee your seats -
bookwhen.com/fobs

12
44
30
2
1
30
44

BINGO



New advertiser

M&M

CONSTRUCTION

BUILD • RENOVATE • RESTORE

Mark Shephard
07850 785395

Mark Turner
07860 736480

YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL BUILDING EXPERTS

If you're looking for reliable, skilled builders who deliver high-quality results every time, M&M Construction is here to help

Scan to
contact us



mandmconstructiondevon@gmail.com

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Home extensions & conversions
- ✓ Renovations & property makeovers
- ✓ Kitchens & bathrooms
- ✓ Carpentry, roofing & general building
- ✓ Landscaping, patios & outdoor projects
- ✓ Lime, cob and oak work

WHY CHOOSE M&M CONSTRUCTION?

- ✓ High-quality workmanship
- ✓ Friendly, professional team
- ✓ Clear communication from start to finish
- ✓ Free quotes & competitive pricing
- ✓ Fully insured for your peace of mind
- ✓ Specialists in heritage work



PAWS AND MOOR

DOG WALKING & PET SITTING SERVICE
07785712159

Lynn Murphy

Fully Insured with full DBS

Diploma in Pet Sitting & Dog Walking

Pet First Aid Certified

NVQ Level 2 Small Animal Care

07785 712159

pawsandmoor74@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook: Paws and Moor

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."

New advertiser

**John
Hunkin**

**Engineer specialising in appliances
and sales**

**Dartmoor Domestic Appliance Repairs
07368 656 897**

**johnhunkin@ddarepairs.co.uk
18 Turnpike Close Whiddon Down EX20 2RN**



kate cornfield
SPORTS MASSAGE

Weekday appointments £40/hr

email: kate@katecornfield.com

mob: 07913 855 231

Based in Meldon, Nr Okehampton



Morris Bros(Tavistock) Ltd

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"

01822 612023 (24 hrs)

The Old Bedford Foundry, Lakeside Tavistock, PL19 0AZ

www.morrisbros.co.uk



SAM ALLUM Boiler Maintenance

FOR SERVICING AND BREAKDOWN OF OIL BOILER

Call: **01822 610 668** Mobile: **07832 024 948** Email: samallum@gmail.com

• Competitive rate • Friendly, tidy and efficient • Call now for a quote



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



Dino Fencing



Specialising in all aspects of agricultural, equestrian and garden fencing.

Please ring for free quotes

Mobile 07730436329

Home 01837861223

Email: dinohorn1@gmail.com

Based in Bridestowe

ANIMAL MICROCHIPPING

Home visits by arrangement also.

Call or text Jane **07809 747 379**

£16.80p inc. VAT per animal

SBG Plumbing & Heating Services

Renewables - Air source, Ground Source

Natural Gas, LPG and Oil Central Heating

Boiler Installation & Upgrades

Gas Boiler Servicing Gas Safety Checks

Bathroom Installations

All aspects of general plumbing **07811 490 356**



sigilbert@btinternet.com

Moorcare Gardening & Home Maintenance Services

Grass cutting & lawncare • Hedge trimming & pruning

Weed control & maintenance • Planting beds & pots

Garden clearance • General tidying

DIY jobs and home maintenance

Call **07530 365125**

Martin

Sourton - Okehampton



L Knight Event Catering

Weddings - Parties - Wakes - Holiday Cottage Catering - Corporate Events and Meetings.

Large and Small events catered for with bespoke menus to suite every catering need.

Full staffed service or Delivery only also available

Please call Leanne on **07706 767 831**

HYDROTHERAPY AND PHYSIOTHERAPY FOR YOUR DOG

An experienced and passionate team committed to improving your dog's quality of life. We treat a variety of conditions and injuries, including:

- Hip and Elbow Dysplasia
- Patella Luxation
- Spinal disease or Injury
- Cruciate Ligament Injuries
- Lameness
- Obesity
- Pre and Post Op Rehab
- Osteoarthritis
- Neurological disorders

9 X 4 METRE POOL UNDERWATER TREADMILL PHYSIOTHERAPY MASSAGE

The Retreat, Canine Rehabilitation Centre, Tavistock Road, Okehampton, EX20 4LR

Tel: **07711 492689**

W: theretreatrehab.co.uk

Interior Design Consultants based near Lydford...

from running your entire project... to a bit of guidance to keep you on track of your own renovation or revamp of a small project - we can help...

www.bayleyskinner.com

studio@bayleyskinner.com

Tel: 01665 661199



The Moor Hair Co at 3 St James Street, Okehampton

In the heart of the town, our experienced team of stylists is always pleased to see you. We pride ourselves on offering a high standard of hairdressing in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, so come in and talk through your hair needs.

To make an appointment, call 01837 658696

THE WHITE HART INN, BRIDESTOWE

Tel: 01837 861318

Quiz on Wednesday
11th February at 8pm
in aid of Bridfest 2026



Every Wednesday
12-2pm, OAPs Fish & chips with peas and bread and butter
£8.95

Opening hours:

Open daily

12 - 3pm 5pm - close

Open all day Saturday and Sundays and Bank holidays from 12 midday. Home-cooked food available

Sunday food Roast dinners served 12 - 2pm and from 6pm. Last orders for food at 7.45pm

Our Sunday roasts are as popular as ever. Booking is advisable to avoid disappointment. Mike, Sarah and the team

Itechmonster LTD

IT Support
Domains

Website Design
Custom Software/Programming

Business E-mail

Web Hosting

0330 043 0735

Sales@itechmonster.com helpdesk@itechmonster.com

MUTTLEY MANOR DOGGY DAY CARE BOASLEY CROSS

We offer an animal friendly doggy day care service on the edge of Dartmoor some 10 minutes from Okehampton, 5 minutes from the A30, on an 8 acre smallholding with plenty of open space for regular walks normally every 3- 4 hours. We are a small licensed kennel with West Devon Borough Council, and able to offer a personal service to care for your treasured pet whilst in our care.

We are open 7am to 7pm. Rates are £15 per day for day care (between 7am - 7pm) and £20 per 24 hours or part thereof to include overnight boarding, effective from 1st January 2024

Please call **07787 687 309** for more details and availability,
or email **peterdeacon@btconnect.com**

IN THIS DESIGN

DESIGN AND CONTENT STUDIO

HELPING BRANDS STAND OUT

- LOGOS
- BUSINESS CARDS
- POSTERS & BANNERS
- LEAFLETS & BROCHURES
- SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS
- AND MORE

📧 @inthisdesign

✉ inthisdesign@outlook.com

Chloe Elkins Freelance Groom and Pet Services

BHSQ Level 3 Groom BHSQ Level 2 Rider and Coach

Holiday cover, pet sitting and checking, dog walking, general yard duties, etc

Contact Chloe on **07922 423219** or

email: chloeelkinsfreelancegroom@gmail.com

Gilbert Stephens LLP Solicitors

Agricultural Law

- Farm and land sales
- Partnership matters
- Tenancy issues
- Environmental issues
- Wills and estates
- Health and safety
- IHT and APR advice
- Sporting rights

Call our Okehampton office **01837 51 21 00**

9 Red Lion Yard, Okehampton EX20 1AW

Visit gilbertstephens.co.uk for more information

R&B REMOVALS

friendly & efficient service 24/7

- regular trips to London
- local/long distance
- secure storage

CALL ROB ON

01837 880336 or 07583 220243

Magna Maintenance

Emergency Repairs

Complete Property Service

07540956379

Commercial and Domestic
Work Undertaken

www.magnamaintenance.com
info@magnamaintenance.com

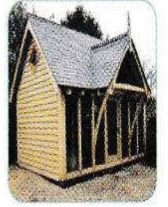


MAGNA CARPENTRY

Malcolm Head

www.magnacarpentry.com

Tel: 07540 956379



B&B

Studio Barn Conversion Accommodation



**Studio Barn Conversion B&B close to the main A30 with
stunning views over Dartmoor**

**Large living/dining area, modern bathroom, double bedroom
with king size 4 poster bed.**

**Dog friendly. Private fenced garden. Ample parking. Fast WiFi
Comprehensive breakfast menu. Tea/coffee provided. Cooking
facilities, Fridge and microwave.**

Self catering cottages with hot tubs also available.

Luddon Farm, Boasley Cross, Okehampton. EX20 4NQ

Tel: 07787687309

Email: peterdeacon@btconnect.com



Raw Meat Animal Feed for Dogs & Cats

Convenient 400g blocks
Frozen to preserve No
preservatives and no
artificial colourings -
both can be harmful to
your animal



Raw Rations Plus

For information or to order:
website: www.rawrationsplus.co.uk
Phone: *07831 309 666 or 01566 783079
(*Mobile number now corrected)
Email: sales@rawrationsplus.co.uk
Post: Fairview Bungalow, Lewdown,
Okehampton EX20 4DL



HANNAH PALFREY

Gardening & Livestock Services →

- *Experienced Garden Maintenance*
- *Fruit Tree & Cider Orchard Pruning*
- *Qualified Vet Tech Care*

07742 459931

hannah_palfrey@outlook.com •

MOOR

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS

6, East Street, Okehampton EX20 1AS 01837 748218 www.moorifa.co.uk

NO UPFRONT FEES **NO OBLIGATION** **HIGHLY COMPETITIVE**
PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS | PROTECTION | ESTATE PLANNING & INHERITANCE
TAX | TRUSTS | BESPOKE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Moor Independent Financial advisers Limited is an Appointed Representative of ValidPath Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

ValidPath Ltd is registered on the FCA register under Reference Number 197107

THE TOY SHOP

Your local, independent
toy supplier

We look forward to seeing you again soon!

A small independent toy shop, stocking all the popular brands such as Lego, Orchard Toys, Green Toys, Lottie, Schleich, Smart Games, Djeco & Nerf. If you're looking for something a little bit different, then come and see our range of toys that you won't see anywhere else in town!

Receive a warm welcome and helpful advice.



www.thetoyshopoke.co.uk

18 Red Lion Yard, Okehampton EX20 1AW | 01837 52368 | [theoyshopoke](https://www.facebook.com/thetoyshopoke)



THE GIFT SHACK



Gifts & Lovely Things | Personalised Gifts | Jewellery | Dog Gifts & Stationery

Order online & pick up locally from Treetops using coupon
ttopsfreepost at checkout.

Greeting Cards | Wrapping Service | Local Products | Gifts for Children

Gift Wrapping Service Available. Hand illustrated paper, 100% eco. Made in GB

@thegiftshackuk

TheGiftShackuk

thegiftshack.uk

hello@thegiftshack.uk

Ian Cann

Professionally installed....kitchens.....bedrooms..... bathrooms

- Full supply and fit service
- Replacement doors and worktops
- Bespoke painted kitchens
- Made to measure bedrooms
- Wall and floor tiling
- Free quotes and advice

Tel: **01837 861480** Mobile: **07841043718** Email: **iancann007@yahoo.com**

Tony Day - Plumbing and Gas services

Main and LPG gas appliances serviced and repaired

Phone **01837 83702** Mobile **07773 966 201**

New advertiser



**KP TREE SERVICES & FIREWOOD
07783471922**

**ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK
WOODLAND MANAGEMENT
MOBILE FIREWOOD PROCESSING
SEASONED HARDWOOD LOGS**

KPTREESERVICES96@GMAIL.COM



A traditional approach to window cleaning.

Please call John Butler on

07426 134 957

for a **FREE**, no obligation quote.

Taking on new customers in the local area.



Traceable • Authenticated • Nutritious • 100% grass-fed • Sustainable

Grass - fed Beef Boxes available

01822 820699 moo@warsonbeef

Warson Barton, Coryton, Nr Lydford, Okehampton EX20 4PQ
com www.warsonbeef.com/beef-boxes



Fiona Stacey Tel: 07870 632395/ 01566 783418

- Stewardship applications
- Water regulations
- Farm Assurance
- Payroll
- Waste Exemptions
- Book keeping & VAT Returns
- Basic Payment Scheme
- Grazing Licences
- Farm Record Keeping

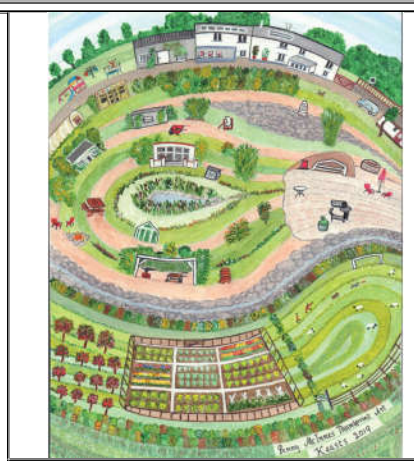
Email: fiona@staceyruralbusinessadmin.co.uk

Unusual 'Thumbprint Art' by Penny McInnes

Greetings cards Available from Riverside Stores.

Commissions accepted

Do you have an interesting home/garden/business premises which would look good as a 'thumbprint', with personal features and quirkiness? For a chat about a possible commission, or details of the full range and prices of products, ring me, Penny McInnes, on 07535 049623 or email pennymcinnnes@aol.com



**Bathroom - Kitchen - Floors & Walls
Interior & Exterior Tiling**

CONTACT Matthew Trist
07725 954124 | Matt@finetiling.co.uk
www.finetiling.co.uk

a professional finish is guaranteed fitting ceramic, porcelain and natural stone tiles to your property
7 Day Turnaround Quote Guarantee - City & Guilds

qualified - Fully insured - All Work Guaranteed

THE VILLAGE VALET - Car valeting by M. Amhof

0792 607 5341

Covering a wide range of vehicles • Competitive rates offering a range of services
• No job too big or small

Email: Thevillagevalet@yahoo.com

Bramhill *Bramhill Traditional Specialist Builders*

Cob, Lime and Stone Laying, Eco Buildings, Barn Conversions, Lime plastering, Tadelakt & Venetian, Extensions, Repair, Restore & Renovate Listed Buildings, Repointing, Construction Skills Certification Scheme reg. FMB and TrustMark Approved.

Email: bramhillbuilders@gmail.com Alister Polhill: **07518 908876**



Friendly, family run company aiming to provide a range of high quality arboricultural services Services include:
Tree removals, tree pruning, reductions, thinning, shaping and dead wood removal, hedge trimming, stump grinding

and tree planting. Call now for advice and a free, no obligation quote.

Tel: **07398 26 8877**

Email: adamofedentrees@gmail.com

Okehamptonplumber.co.uk

Gas boiler servicing from £50 (incl.LPG) Gas boiler replacement and repair Landlord certificates. Bathrooms and kitchens

Tel: 01837 658907 Mob: 07870 305 880

Plumbing Heating Renewables



T.M. Maintenance & Construction. *Affordable, friendly help*

Tony Matthews, experienced in maintenance & construction

No job too big or too small. Great prices on slate and marble cut to any size and shape Tel: **0797 226 3780** Email: tonymtthws8@gmail.com

DIY Supplies homehardware®

17 St. James Street, Okehampton • Tel 01837 52130 • WE DELIVER

- Cleaning
- Cookware
- Decorating Supplies
- Electrical
- Gardening
- Housewares

- Ironmongery
- Key Cutting
- Paints & Mixing
- Plumbing
- Sharpening Service
- Timber
- Tools

Quality Goods • Competitive Prices • Service Second To None

Champion Tree Services

All aspects of Tree Surgery and Garden maintenance undertaken :- Felling, Reductions, Hedge trimming, Strimming, Grass cutting, Ground maintenance, Also quality firewood supplied Fully insured
Thrushel View, Lewdown Tel: **07881 288093**

NAILZBYLOTTIE

Custom made press on nails

@Nailzbylottie +447743367874

Charleyjones199@gmail.com



Alistair Kinsey Hearing & Mobility

Independent Hearing Aid Audiologist

Ear wax removal service

Tel: **01822 617883**

Email: info@hearingmobility.co.uk

www.hearingmobility.co.uk

1A Pym Street, Tavistock, PL19 0AW

R.H. GARDEN AND HANDYMAN SERVICES

Lawn mowing and strimming
clearing Power washing

Hedge trimming
Gutters cleared

Digging and planting Leaf

Car washing Painting and decorating

Over 20 years experience

Call Richard on **01837 861220**

or mobile 07939574767

Email; kellyhaggar@hotmail.co.uk



Ultrasonic Teeth Cleaning for Dogs

CANINE DENTAL CARE



CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

07930 303760



„Best Dental Care Product“
(ghp Award 2018)

For a long, healthy life!
ANIMAL WELLNESS

Susannah - Professional Dog Groomer

www.thegroomingsanctuary.co.uk

Ultrasound is the most advanced technology for oral hygiene, removing tartar and destroying bacteria

- cleans with oscillations
- removes plaque and tartar
- no movement or vibration
- reaches deep into gum pockets
- destroys bacteria
- improves blood circulation
- no abrasive particles
- no anesthetic

Richard's Time Machine

Mobile Disco :- Wedding and Family Party Specialist, Personal, Memorable - and Fun!!

www.richardstimemachine.co.uk **01837 811172**

SGC ELECTRICAL

Sam Coward Electrician Bridestowe
sgcoward@yahoo.com

07914 750 728 Okehampton



www.TomFosterArchitecture.co.uk

Specialist in new, old and historic buildings for work or home.
Expert in Eco-Building, 'Passive House', DNPA, Planning Permission, Building
Regs, build-contract admin, or just some can-do advice.
Ring **01647 24436** to bring your vision closer.



BAKER'S BUILDING
Telephone: 01837 861 509
07789354435 / 07748344978
Woodhead, Bridestowe,
Okehampton

Golden Leaf Landscapes

Garden Construction, Design and Maintenance Louise and Robert Mogridge
Fully qualified with over 15 years experience **01837 89285 07811781137**
www.goldenleaflandscapes.co.uk

NORTHMOOR GARDEN MACHINERY

Sales, service, repairs & parts Collection service available
No VAT on labour charges Tel: **07591 655072** Email: info.northmoor@gmail.com

River Walks

House/Pet Sitting
Over 16 years veterinary experience Dogs, cats, small animals to
small holdings and special needs pets cared for. Also dog walking and
cleaning available Please call Louise on **07968698641**



DARREN PHARE, MOTOR ENGINEER, BRIDESTOWE GARAGE.

Cars, Light Goods and 4X4s – servicing, repairs, welding, MOT
preparation and MOTs arranged.
Tel: **01837 861770** or Mobile: **07773 669097**

Caroline Harris, ALAB, Bookkeeping Services

- Bookkeeping • Accounts preparation • VAT • Secretarial services
- Many years office and business experience

Tel **01566 783 502** Mobile **07866 953708** Email:cmhbookkeeping@btinternet.com

The Old Chapel, Portgate Hill, Lewdown, EX204PX

P.S. Electrical

All electrical work undertaken

Office 01837 8811112 Mob: 07792 163156 Email: Okehampton.pselectricians.co.uk66

Spears Fishleigh, Sanctuary Lane, Hatherleigh, EX20 3LH

Chimney Sweep A J Musgrove

Clean, professional

service, maintenance and repairs

Certified and insured

07449 111 940

Dog walking and pet sitting

Qualified dog behaviourist. BSc Hons degree.

Training, or walk and train. All sizes and types. Reactive dogs a speciality.

Individual or small groups of dogs, (no more than 4 compatible dogs walked together).

Ring me on **07568 537 532** for a chat.

Heaecology

Ecological Consultancy and Management - Specialists in Protected Species and Mitigation

Thrushel View, Lewdown, Okehampton EX20 4QP

Tel: 01566 783183 Mobile :07866 467 892 Email : office@heaecology.co.uk

Website: www.heaecology.co.uk

Scrap cars collected

Reliable service guaranteed

Top prices paid

Secondhand tyres for sale.

Call Michael on 07831698676



Michael Lashbrook Any job undertaken!

Garden Services - Treework - Hedge cutting

Tel: 0751 397 5711

Email: mlashbrookgardening@gmail.com

MAN & VAN

Call Handy Van

**01837
811172**



Windows, doors, conservatories and joinery, UPVC, timber & aluminum supplied and fitted, Fascias, glazing & trade counter

Tel: **01837 54019**

www.okehamptonglass.com

Forthcoming Events - February 2026

Monday 2nd	6pm, Parish meeting, Sourton Village Hall
Thursday 5th	7.30pm, Rowdens Barn, Reading Group
Sunday 8th	12 - 2pm, Sourton Village Hall, Soup lunch
Tuesday 10th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Lunch
Wednesday 11th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of Bridfest 2026
Friday 13th	7pm for 7.30pm start, Bridestowe Village Hall, quiz
Saturday 14th	10am - 2pm, The Ark, Coffee Morning
Tuesday 17th	2.30pm, Fairplace Church, Okehampton u3a, talk
Thursday 19th	10.30am, The Ark, Thursday Morning Group 12-2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and sweet
Wednesday 25th	7.30pm, The Ark(Methodist Chapel), Bridestowe PC meeting
Thursday 26th	7.30pm, Belstone Village Hall, Garden Club talk
Saturday 28th	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Bridestowe Volunteer Group 10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps



Residential Lettings

- Experienced and knowledgeable team
- Tailored management services from 5%
- Pre qualified, database of potential tenants providing tenant choice
- Members of the Association of Residential Lettings Agent

01822 619818

email: rentals.westdevon@stags.co.uk

SALT OF THE EARTH

Rare breed gammon
Bacon, chipolatas and
sausage-meat

PLUS our whole
range of grass-fed
lamb and slow-
grown pork

Contact Alyse or Isaac:

email office@saltoftheearth.farm or order
online at www.saltoftheearth.farm



Lydford Taxis is a family-run business providing a reliable local taxi service across Devon. Serving Lydford, Tavistock, and the surrounding Dartmoor area, our friendly drivers are here to deliver dependable service 7 days a week. Currently operating with two vehicles, we offer private hire for up to 8 passengers. We serve all villages and towns in the region, and offer long-distance travel to stations, airports, hospitals and all major transport hubs.

01822 660 ride@lydfordtaxi.co.uk
www.lydfordtaxi.co.uk/

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.