

# Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events March 2026

Edition 286

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](http://bookwhen.com/fobs)

**Clean up Day in St Bridget's churchyard - Please help  
28 March, 09.30 to 12.00**



Friends of St Bridget's are organising a PCC approved spring clean up day in the churchyard, and all volunteers are very welcome. General tidying up of the churchyard itself, weeding, clearing the gully etc as needed. Please bring your own implements, gloves etc and, if possible, containers/sacks to take home appropriate greenery for your own compost heap and the benefit of your own garden!

**Refreshments will be available but it would help if you could bring your own mugs for the hot drinks.**  
**NB power tools may be in use in the form of garden strimmers.**

## The Vicar writes...

The Easter story has been a part of the of these islands for 2000 years, it has been absorbed into our culture and folklore. Even the wild plants help to tell the story.

### Snowdrop

The first spring flower, it appears around Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on 2 February.

Their pure white colour and the way they bow their heads symbolises the purity and humility of Mary.

### Pussy Willow

The grey catkins appear in late January and become golden in March. Traditionally used as 'Palms' to decorate churches on Palm Sunday. The people of Jerusalem waved Palm leaves to celebrate Jesus' arrival.

### Tansy

The leaves are pungent and bitter and at one time were eaten at Eastertide to kill off the 'phlegm and worms' the Lenten fish diet gave rise to. The Last Supper would have been a Jewish Passover meal that contained bitter herbs to remind the Israelites of the bitterness of their years of slavery in Egypt.

### Elder

The Elder is a tree of contradictions, too small to be a tree yet too large and airy to be a bush. Its root and heartwood are as hard as ebony, yet the young branches are weak and pithy. Its white flowers smell of honey and its leaves of mice nests. It was said to be the tree on which Judas hanged himself and also the tree of the cross.

*Elder tree, Elder tree, crooked rung,  
Never straight and never strong,  
Ever bush and never tree  
Since our Lord was nailed to thee.*

### Hawthorn

The combination of thorns and red berries suggest protection and sacrifice and is thought to be the source of Christ's crown of thorns. The most celebrated Hawthorn is the Glastonbury Holy Thorn which blossoms at Christmas and Easter. Legend has it that Joseph of Arimathea, a follower of Jesus who took Jesus' body down from the cross, came to Britain. He travelled to Glastonbury where he thrust his staff into the ground and it took root and grew. A sprig of the Holy Thorn is still sent to the Queen each year to decorate her Christmas dinner table.

### Speedwell

Speedwells are roadside plants that speed you on your journey 'Speed thee well'. Their Latin name is *Veronica*. There is a story commemorated in the sixth station of the cross, that tells of a woman called Veronica standing at the side of the road along which Jesus was carrying his cross to Calvary. She takes pity on Jesus and wiped the sweat from his face with her veil, the image of his face was left imprinted on the cloth. Veronica means 'the true image'.

### Early Purple Orchid and Cuckoo Pint

Both plants have spotted leaves said to be from where they were growing under the cross and were stained from drops of the blood of Christ. Both plants are also called Gethsemane. It was in the garden of Gethsemane that Jesus prayed knowing he was about to be crucified; *'And being in agony he prayed more earnestly and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.'*

### Wood Sorrel

Flowers between Easter and Whitsun and has long been called Alleluia, a plant which joins in the celebration of the resurrection and ascension. From the Garland of the Year 1860 Charlotte Clifford writes of Wood Sorrel: *'A more beautiful floral emblem of praise could not be selected than this exquisitely sensitive little plant. Coming forth at spring with its bright triple leaves, until the fading foliage of autumn consigns it to a living grave. Even then the flower-searcher may discover here and there a delicately folded leaf looking out from the desolation and death by which it is surrounded. For the Alleluia, fragile though it may be, can brave the roughest gales and weather the wildest storms, bowing its meek head beneath the clouds and looking up with joy, to greet the sunshine. Sweet and precious are the lessons which this little woodland plant may teach us - lessons of humble faith and constant loving praise. Teaching us that, as the shrinking Wood Sorrel finds protection in its triple leaves, so our souls, strengthened by the threefold gifts of the Holy Ghost, should bow in meek submission to the trials of their mortal existence. Ever praising, never repining, bearing all sorrow; thankful for all joys!'*

*Adrian Brook*

## Another Close Shave by Howard Barkell

Some of you may be familiar with the stream that runs past the White Hart at Bridestowe. One of its sources is the unnamed stream that soon passes underneath Lake Viaduct, past the Bearslake Inn and merges with the Cranford Brook (don't ask me where the extra D came from) at Damford. Hemery tells us in his book High Dartmoor that the defile between Sourton Tors and Lake Down is known as Deep Valley and that the stream was once known as Lake. He uses the spelling Crandford. Crossing omits the first d and makes no mention of Deep Valley but does mention Withycombe Bottom.

I mention this in passing because another of Skip Lawrence's bright ideas proposed damming the stream in this valley to make a swimming pool. It was good fun riding a single speed bike out the rough lane from Lake to see who could get to the ford first, then under the viaduct and then throwing bikes on the turf inside the gate. From there a track led out to the remains of Tor Wood Mine, a short lived venture of the 1820's dug on a lead lode. There was a shaft on the levelled piece by the waste tip and an adit into the hillside among the trees, both now made safe. The flooded wheelpit once housed a 30ft. wheel. Water was brought around the hillside by an easily traceable dry leat. None of this was of any interest to young pre teenage boys. It was more likely that we would be trying to persuade the most intrepid to climb that spindly tree in the wood where there was a buzzard's nest.

Once a suitable site had been chosen the really hard bit began. There was a high left bank, but on the right was a level area suitable hopefully to be used for lounging on once the project was finished. The idea was to dam the stream with boulders taken from the river bed and then to make it more water tight with 'clats' of turf dug from the bank. A bypass channel was dug to make the job easier. The problem was that some boulders were actually much bigger than we realised, but they were in the way and needed to be shifted.

Two of the older scouts came up with a solution. They had left school and both worked at Meldon Quarry. Although their experience at

the quarry was probably limited to labouring work they would have known how large amounts of high explosives were used to blast the quarry face and that the stone produced was loaded into pans manually. The weekly record for the highest number of pans to be loaded was held by Reg Found with 183 tons! At the time he lived at Crosslanes and later at Minehouse Farm at Sourton Down. The rock was then taken to the crusher to be reduced to railway ballast size pieces. Any pieces too large to be broken with a sledge hammer were subject to a secondary blasting by packing a small charge against the rock with clay. Although all blasting operations were strictly controlled at the quarry with most men already in shelters, the charges were fitted with 90 second fuses to give the blasters time to reach the shelter. It was their responsibility to count the number of explosions before the all clear was given. In 1938 a miscount resulted in the driller being killed when he hit an unexploded charge and his assistant Cecil Kidd, who lived at Bridestowe, was blinded in both eyes. Our two friends were able to obtain a small amount of explosive and duly turned up ready to use it. They found a safe place to shelter while the rest of us were sent to the top of the hill beside Tor Wood wall and instructed to keep our heads down. We were certainly startled by the noise of the detonation but even more so by the large clods of earth which thudded against the wall close to where we were supposed to be 'sheltering!' Eventually the pool was ready for use but was never very popular because it was so difficult to get to. Black Rock would have been more accessible, it would have been bigger, deeper and the water would have had less silt in it. So why didn't we use it? Parochialism had something to do with it I expect. Bridestowe's part of the moor started at Noddon Gate and if you wanted a picnic or to bathe in the river that was where you went. There was plenty of room to light a fire and boil the kettle and building a dam however temporary it might be was always part of the fun.



**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.

As we begin to look for signs of Spring, our meeting on **Thursday 26th March** 'All About Hedgehogs', will give us an insight into the secret life of this much-loved, but now increasingly rare mammal as it wakes up from its winter sleep. Stephen Powles, formerly a vet changed career to pursue a lifelong passion for wildlife. Stephen will describe how we can make our gardens more hedgehog friendly and describe how one village created a hedgehog 'superhighway' of interconnected gardens.

As ever our meetings take place in Belstone Village Hall, opposite the carpark as you enter the village. The doors open at 7pm with tea/coffee and biscuits and a chat. The talk starts at 7.30pm.

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

*Save this important date*  
**Sourton Hall Big Quiz**

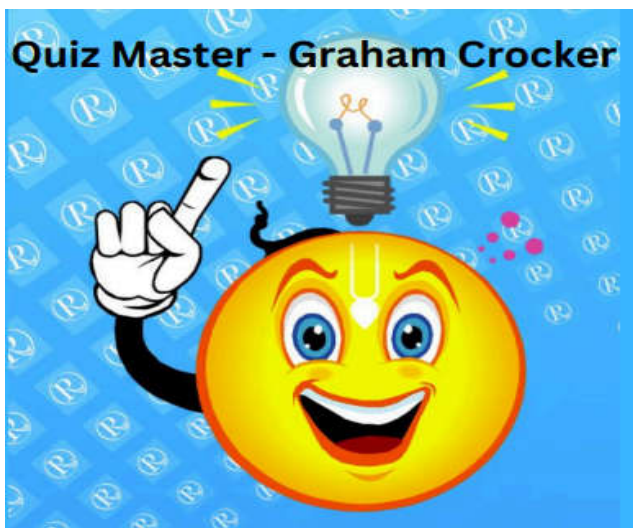
**Friday April 17th 2026**

**7.30pm start**

£12 for a team of 4 to include nibbles.

£4 for extra team members

(Max 6)



Bar and Food available.

Email: [sourtonvh@gmail.com](mailto:sourtonvh@gmail.com) to enter your team!

**Okehampton Recycling Centre**

0345 155 1010



**Winter opening times**

**October - March**

Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4.30pm



## Okehampton u3a

Established in November 2001

### The Museum of Dartmoor Life

reopens on Monday 16th March and is offering visitors a fascinating opportunity to help decide which objects should be displayed in future.

For months the curator and manager, Kristy Turner and conservation volunteer Natasha Thompson have been working their way through the museum's storerooms.

This is a much overdue review of the packed away collection, much of which has not been examined for 40 years.

The new exhibition **Behind Closed Doors - Your Collection, Your Choice** invites visitors to take part in deciding what should be displayed. The exhibition space will be deliberately set up like a store room and objects laid out. Visitors will be given clipboards and invited to respond as they go round.

What should be kept? At its heart, Behind Closed Doors is about responsibility rather than nostalgia. "We're not just a storeroom for old things," Kirsty says. "Were a storehouse for items that are going to carry stories forward into the future".

*Taken from Oke Links article March/April 2026*



### Opening Times

10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday

### Admission prices

Adults - £6

Children & Students (3 to 16) - £4

Children under 3 years old - free

Family Ticket (1 Adults + 2 Children) - £11

Family Ticket (2 Adults + 2 Children) - £14

[www.dartmoorlife.org.uk/visitor-information](http://www.dartmoorlife.org.uk/visitor-information)

**Our March speaker is Simon Dell MBE**  
**Tuesday 17 March**  
**2.30pm at Fairplace Church**

### "Tyrwhitt's Tramway"



The history of Plymouth's first large-scale railway can be traced back to the visionary efforts of Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt who in 1796 was elected as the MP for Okehampton and played a pivotal role in the creation of the Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway.

Join Simon Dell for his talk on the Railway, otherwise known as Tyrwhitt's Tramway. A fascinating story of the construction of the horse-drawn tramway from Princetown to Plymouth's Sutton Harbour in the 1820s to become one of the earliest railroads in the UK.

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

## Some memories of Jeff Boxall

It was suggested to me that I could provide a few personal, mainly musical, memories from my long-standing friendship with Jeff Boxall who, as many of you may know, passed away on January 19th. He moved into Sourton in 1980 with his family, and lived there until the end of last year. I've been a friend of his since he moved here - that's 45 years of some wonderful memories. He was a kind, self-effacing man who never had a bad word to say about anybody. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him.

It didn't take long for Jeff to get involved in the local scene. He, with Carole Boxall, soon started a popular youth club that ran for a while in Sourton Village Hall. This, plus getting involved with fundraising for Bridestowe School PTA and being closely involved with the early years of the Bridestowe Ram Roast (as Bridfest was then known), meant he was always very busy.

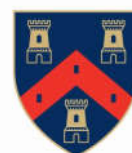
Jeff was also a very fine musician and a stalwart of the local music scene. His tasteful jazz-influenced playing - mostly on a lovely electric guitar he had made himself - was always a joy. Latterly, he is best remembered for his work with his partner Cheryl as the duo One Point Five. My first musical contact with him was in 1985 when, with our wives and a number of other local people, we started the Bridestowe and Sourton Village Follies, a local amateur dramatic group. The Follies is best remembered locally for the annual pantomimes that went on for nearly 20 years. Besides painting a lot of the scenery for these shows (he was a talented artist too!), Jeff also provided some memorable comic performances on stage. These included a mad comedy surgeon called Dr Kutz and a couple of double acts that he and I did together. This began in the very first pantomime Cinderella with our impersonating the owners of the village shop at the time, Mr and Mrs Cooper. I played Mrs Cooper, while Jeff brilliantly decided to turn Mr Cooper into Cooperman, complete with a realistic Superman costume emblazoned with a capital C rather than the usual capital S! And the song he wrote to sing as Cooperman was a real scene-stealer! This village shop scene also featured a memorable performance by a very young local farmer Robert Bickle who appeared as the popular

long-time Bridestowe resident, Ernie Barkell. This was quite a stretch because Mr Barkell would have been about 80 at the time, while Robert was only about 10 years old! Then, in a much later pantomime, Aladdin, Jeff and I played a couple of comedy vicars. Nobody could play the character of a dodderly old man quite like Jeff! In reality he may have made it to 83, but he was never dodderly. Besides all this theatrical work and his many performances at local music venues and open mics, Jeff also had his own recording studio in his house. He was always very generous with his time in allowing local musicians to use his facilities and expertise. I can remember his endless patience, not only in recording but also in mixing and re-mixing (and often re-mixing again!) the takes of a number of songs that I've recorded there at various times with my son James, daughter Hannah and the Bridestowe Barbershop Quartet. Finally, I've lost count of the number of times that Jeff got me out of a hole over the years by kindly lending various bits of equipment. Amps, speakers, mics, stands broken or missing? No problem! Jeff to the rescue - and always with a smile. So, thanks for everything, Jeff - musical and otherwise. The world could do with more people like you, not less.

**Graham Crocker**

### **MOUNT KELLY CHORAL SOCIETY** **50 Years 1976-2026**

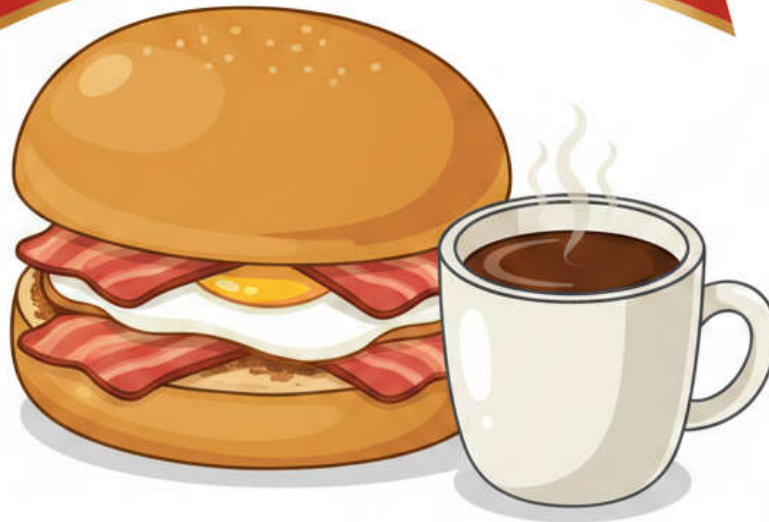
Mount Kelly Choral Society  
In collaboration with  
Exeter Festival Chorus  
Divertimento Ensemble  
Pergolesi: Stabat Mater  
Handel: Coronation Anthems  
Directed by Andrea Brown and Dan Robson



**Tavistock Town Hall**  
**Saturday 25th April 2026 at 19.30**

Tickets £18 from  
[ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society](https://ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society),  
or from BookStop in Tavistock  
U18s free

Limited availability: no tickets on the door



## Sourton Village Hall

**Saturday 14 March 10am to 12 noon**

Come along to the hall for bacon and/or egg baps with tea or coffee. Cash only, all funds supporting the hall.

Draw for January, February & March lottery

Second hand books available

Local pork and eggs also available  
from Ian and Dawn Vanstone

### Lunar cycle for March

New moon	19th
First quarter	25th
Full moon	3rd
Last quarter	11th

20th March – The vernal (spring) equinox

Changes in the length of day and night are caused by the tilt of the Earth. When Earth orbits the Sun, at certain times of the year the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun and the Southern Hemisphere is tilted away from it. For the other half of the year, the reverse happens. Equinoxes happen when neither hemisphere is tilted towards or away from the Sun and there are roughly equal hours of daylight and darkness. Solstices, on the other hand, happen when a specific hemisphere is tilted towards or away from the Sun, which results in long days or long nights.

The spring equinox will occur on 20 March in the Northern Hemisphere, and this is when astronomical spring is said to start.



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



**National  
Trust**

As I write this, on Friday 13 February, we have our first dry day of the year, although I'm not certain it won't turn to rain later! Apparently, the UK has had over 40 consecutive days of rain, so I'm really hoping there's a bit more sunshine in the forecast and we can all enjoy some time outside to appreciate the first signs of spring.

I'm sorry to say that the weather has once again caused issues at the gorge. The annual rock face surveys were completed in February and the team identified a large section of rock that appears to have moved, opening up a crack, and meaning that it can't be deemed safe for people to walk underneath. It's likely that the sheer amount of rain we've had has helped to worsen this fault over the winter. The rock is above the Devil's Cauldron trail, and at the time of writing we don't have an idea of how long it might take to make safe. However, it is unlikely that the work needed will be completed by Saturday 14 March, when we planned to fully reopen. We'll hopefully know more by the time this reaches you in early March so do take a look online or get in touch.

**Easter trail**

Thursday 26 March to Sunday 19 April, 10am to 4.30pm, with last entry at 3.30pm  
Are you team Viking or team Anglo Saxon? Follow the trail around the orchard and have a go at the ten family-friendly activities to see who comes out on top. £3.50 per trail which includes an Easter trail sheet, bunny ears and dairy or vegan and Free From\* chocolate egg.  
\*Suitable for people with milk, egg, gluten, peanut and tree nut allergies.

**Opening Times**

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.

From Saturday 14 March the Waterfall trail, toilets, visitor welcome and pop-up bookshop,

at the Waterfall entrance, will be open every day, 10am-4.30pm. Waterfall tea-room, 10am-4pm every day. Devil's Cauldron trail and Lyd Link path, plus, Devil's Cauldron tea-room and second-hand bookshop will reopen as soon as possible. As always we suggest checking the website before visiting - [nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge)

Email: [lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk) Tel: 01822 820320  
Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: [lydford.gorge.nt](http://lydford.gorge.nt)  
Registered Charity Number 205846

**Items for Sale**

**Exercise bicycle in good condition(hardly used!)**

**£25**

**Large pine framed mirror  
30inches (75cm) x 40inches (105cm)**

**£20**

**01837 861157**

**07857 677627**

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**BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING  
GROUP**

This month we shall be going to Country Lanes Garden Centre, Okehampton, on **Thursday 19th**, meeting there at 10.30. Please let me know if you can come so that we can arrange lifts.  
At our February meeting we agreed to carry forward our present funds until the autumn, and also to increase the raffle contribution to £2 each when we meet at The Ark. We also arranged a provisional programme as follows:  
April 16th - Strawberry Fields garden room  
May 21st - Alder Vineyard  
June 18th - to be arranged  
July 16th - Bring and share lunch at 11 Crandford Close  
August 20th - The Ark  
Everything after that to be arranged.  
(Suggestions made were the Bedford Hotel, Tavistock, the restaurant at Endsleigh Garden Centre, The Arundel Arms. Other ideas welcome.)Contact person; Ann Allan on 861551

## BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th March** at 7.30pm. Trish has kindly volunteered to host the meeting, 8 Beech Tree Meadow. We will be discussing *Sunburn* by Chloe Michelle Howarth



### **About the book**

*Richly evocative of early 1990s small-town Ireland, Howarth's fine debut centres on the forbidden relationship between Lucy and Susannah and the double life both are forced to lead as the prejudices of the time begin to oppress them. It's the early 1990s, and in the Irish village of Crossmore, Lucy feels out of place. Despite her fierce friendships, she's always felt this way, and the conventional path of marriage and motherhood doesn't appeal to her at all. Not even with handsome and doting Martin, her closest childhood friend.*

*Lucy begins to make sense of herself during a long hot summer, when a spark with her school friend Susannah escalates to an all-consuming infatuation, and, very quickly, to a desperate and devastating love.*

*Fearful of rejection from her small and conservative community, Lucy begins living a double life, hiding the most honest parts of herself in stolen moments with Susannah.*

*But with the end of school and the opportunity to leave Crossmore looming, Lucy must choose between two places, two people and two futures, each as terrifying as the other. But only one can offer her real happiness. Sunburn is an astute and tender portrayal of first love, adolescent anxiety and the realities of growing up in a small town where tradition holds people tightly in its grasp.*

### **About the author**

.Chloe Michelle Howarth (born July 1996) is an Irish novelist based in Brighton. Her debut novel *Sunburn* (2023) was shortlisted for a number of accolades. Howarth grew up in Rosscarbery, County Cork with her two brothers. She graduated from the Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology.

**01566 783529**

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

The **Bridestowe Volunteer Group** met on the last day of January and did an extensive litter pick, filling 10 black bags with litter. The bus shelter at the bottom of Trescote Way was swept clean of leaves. The footpath that runs parallel to the village hall was trimmed and widened but will need more work in February to complete it. Weed suppressant membrane is being put round the bases of the fruit trees in the community orchard. New faces are always welcome and Will and Carole Hope from East Cleave have joined the ranks.

The group will meet again on **Saturday 28th March**, meeting at 9.30pm at the cemetery gates.

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### **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 - 12pm

1st Friday: Singing

2nd Thursday : Exercises

3rd Friday: Coffee morning

Last Tuesday: Support Group

Speaker -Sue Whipps '*Be Prepared for Parkinson's*'

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

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### **Live music at The Wharf, Tavistock Sunday 8th March at 7:30pm THE EMERALD DAWN**

A multi-instrumentalist, symphonic/eclectic progressive music quartet, who combine elements from rock, classical music, jazz, folk and world music to produce their own original, distinctive and exciting sound—a sound that is cinematic, epic, experimental and powerful. Usually haunting, often beautifully melodic and always highly atmospheric, the music of The Emerald Dawn paints images or tells stories that stimulate the imagination and takes the listener on unforgettable musical journeys.

**Tickets:** From 6pm on the night    £24.00  
Adult in Advance    £22.00



## **St Thomas à Becket Church, Sourton March**

**The churchyard is looking its very best this year** , with all the snowdrops, crocuses and wild daffodils. We have had plenty of visitors coming up to admire them and visit the church. Thank you to all who help look after it.

### **Roger Alford**

We were all so very saddened to hear the news that Roger has passed away. He will be missed by many in the village and in the wider farming community and at the Okehampton Rugby Club. . He had such an enormous wealth of knowledge about the history of Sourton and its people and was always willing to help especially if it involved practical matters .

His funeral is to be at East Devon Crematorium.. We send our prayers and condolences to Paul and Beki and all the family and friends.

### **Soup Lunches**

Our soup lunch was very well attended in February . We almost ran out of soup! 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 £365 for church funds. Our last soup lunch of the season will be on 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.

**EASTER MONDAY cream tea will be on April 6th If you would like to help or bake please contact Jenny (01822 820391)**

## **SERVICES FOR MARCH**

**March 1st Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.**  
**March 8th NO SERVICE**  
**March 15th MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
**SERVICE at 9.30 a.m.**  
**March 22nd NO SERVICE**  
**March 29th PALM SUNDAY service at**  
**Bridestowe, with procession from**  
**Springfields to the Church.**

**Jenny Batten**



### **Sourton Village Hall - a venue for all occasions**

Sourton Village Hall is a popular venue for special events such as wedding receptions, birthday parties, concerts, family parties and wakes following funerals. It is also an ideal function venue for conferences, meetings, training seminars and exercise classes.

The hall has good facilities; it offers a large hall that can seat 120 and 220 standing comfortably; a well appointed kitchen and a small meeting room . There is a male, female and disabled toilet off the main hall. Outside there is a patio to the right hand side of the hall and this is often used to have a covered bar. The hall has disabled /wheelchair access with ramped entrances. There is a small area to the front of the village hall for parking but often extra parking can be made available for a large function on request.

For prices and to book contact  
Paul Alford 07799 778 779  
Sally 07305 112 586

Visit the website to see prices and view the calendar for availability  
[www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk)  
Facebook - Sourton Village Hall

## Movie Watch - February 2026

After the pre-Oscars frenzy of January, spearheaded by **Hamnet** and **Marty Supreme**, we were back to cinematic bread and butter during February where films shown locally were headed by **H is for Hawk** and **Crime 101**.

We were looking forward to **H is for Hawk** but ultimately found it something of a disappointment. Based on a 2014 memoir by the naturalist Helen MacDonal, the film is a biographical drama featuring a star-studded cast comprising Claire Foy, Brendan Gleeson and Lindsay Duncan. The book had been a Sunday Times best seller.

It tells the true story of a successful academic (played by Claire Foy) who, following the sudden death of her adored father (Brendan Gleeson), chooses to cope with the overwhelming sense of grief by undertaking the huge, and frankly ridiculous, challenge of acquiring and training a Eurasian goshawk.

The film explores how she copes with her personal loss (very badly) and, more constructively, undertakes the massive challenges posed by falconry. A respected, if eccentric, Cambridge figure, she wanders around the town with the hawk (frivolously named Mabel) perched on her wrist.

The hawk was kept hooded while indoors, to remain calm, but when released into the wild, assumed the natural characteristics of a bird of prey. It made for uncomfortable viewing.

Foy's character progressively withdraws from a previously full academic and social life, devoting herself almost entirely to the incredibly demanding pursuit of training an unpredictable hawk. There is a real authenticity, especially in the outdoor hawk scenes, as she clearly knows what she's doing.

The film is beautiful to look at, with stunning slow motion hawk footage, but we were both left wondering why she'd chosen that particular means of honouring the memory of her father. Probably harsh to say that such a beautifully-shot film didn't work. But it didn't work.

We may have found **H is for Hawk** something of a disappointment but our other February

cinema visit proved the exact opposite.

We had no real expectations of **Crime 101** and only went as we were presented with an unexpected spare evening. However it was surprisingly good and made for an entertaining couple of hours.

The Guardian gave **Crime 101** four stars, describing it a 'very stylish, high stakes, armed robbery thriller' which is precisely what it was. The film features a strong cast including Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Barry Keoghan and Halle Berry.

*'An elusive thief plans his biggest coup when his path collides with a disillusioned insurance executive and a ruthless rival thief with disturbing methods.'*

To be honest, it's the usual knockabout crime thriller nonsense but extremely well-made, with powerful performances from an impressive cast and some great Californian locations. It also features some outrageous car chase footage, if you like that sort of thing.

To our surprise, we both thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend **Crime 101** should you ever fancy some mindless, unchallenging entertainment.

The Oscars Ceremony will be held in Los Angeles on 15th March. Current favourites for the three big awards are Timothee Chalamet in **Marty Supreme** (Best Actor), Jessie Buckley for her stunning performance in **Hamnet** (Best Actress) and **One Battle After Another** (Best Picture).

The New Carlton usually tries to acknowledge major Academy Award winners and will often make late schedule revisions to accommodate them. Worth keeping an eye on the cinema website.

The big title currently showing in Okehampton is Emerald Fennell's remake of **Wuthering Heights**, starring Margot Robbie as Cathy Earnshaw and Jacob Elordi as Heathcliff. 'This latest sexed-up version is already causing a stir' (The Times), before pointing out that Emily Bronte got there first, in 1847. The story, which remains on the A-Level English

syllabus, where I found it in 1970, is complex. Cathy's father rescued the young Heathcliff from the back streets of Liverpool and brings him to live in the family home on the Yorkshire moors. He and Cathy become close but Cathy is torn between Heathcliff and a wealthy neighbour, Edgar Linton. Cathy runs away to marry Linton and well, you can pick it up from there if you choose.

It's an excellent story but whether the film matches up, you'll have to investigate.

Outside Oscar winners, March tends to be a slow cinema month but **Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man** (Cillian Murphy, Barry Keoghan) will be popular. The trailer for **Mother's Pride** (Martin Clunes, James Buckley) was terrible but each to their own. April and May look a bit stronger but we'll look at them nearer the time.

On the smaller screen, people will justifiably have become sick of me going on, initially about **Detectorists** and, more recently, **Leonard and Hungry Paul**, both of which can still be found on the iPlayer. Well, brace yourselves because I'm about to embark on another one-man promotional tirade, this time in support of **Small Prophets** (BBC2).

This is Mackenzie Crook's first sitcom since **Detectorists** and features the excellent Pearce Quigley (who you'll recognise even if the name doesn't ring a bell), alongside Crook and, wonderfully, Sir Michael Palin, now 82 and as funny as ever.

Michael Palin also featured in **Number 27**, a delightful 1988 BBC play in which Nigel Planer appeared as an unscrupulous developer who tried, unsuccessfully, to convince a 90-year-old woman to sell him her house. Well worth digging out.

What else? Surprisingly we both enjoyed **Becoming Victoria Wood** (U & Gold), in particular her exchanges with Celia Imrie and Julie Walters. We've talked before about **The Night Manager** (BBC) which was superb throughout but became even better when Hugh Lawrie returned. A third season is scheduled but I wouldn't hold your breath.

**Under Salt Marsh** (Sky Atlantic) is a top-quality thriller, starring Rafe Spall, while we eagerly

await Season 6 of **Slow Horses** (Apple TV). **How to Get to Heaven from Belfast** (Netflix) has received rave reviews and we'll have a look at that next time.

Finally, we've been glued to **The Tony Blair Story** on Channel 4, a fly-on-the-wall documentary that explored the former PM, his family and colleagues. Fascinating.

**DAVID HARRISON**  
**February**

**2026**

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**IN NEED OF HELP  
TO READ?**



Do you know someone that struggles with basic reading? Read Easy offers **FREE**, confidential 1:1 coaching for anyone 18+.

Our friendly volunteer coaches meet with the reader once or twice a week in a quiet cafe, library etc. Sessions last between 40-60 minutes.

Many of our readers tell us that our proven programme has made a huge difference to their reading ability, and also their confidence and ability to do more things without having to always ask for help.

This year several of our current readers will proudly 'graduate', having successfully completed our programme.

This means that we have coaches available to support several new readers living in the Okehampton and Tavistock area.

It takes courage for readers to come forward. People have often found ways to get by and hide their difficulties.

Yet with a little nudge from a friend or family they can take the first step on a transformative reading journey. The rest is down to us. All our coaches are fully trained and have specialist support and resources.

For more information, please contact our West Devon Coordinator Shirley on **07396 813489**, email [newdevoncoordinator7@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:newdevoncoordinator7@readeasy.org.uk). [www.readeasy.org.uk/groups/newdevon](http://www.readeasy.org.uk/groups/newdevon).

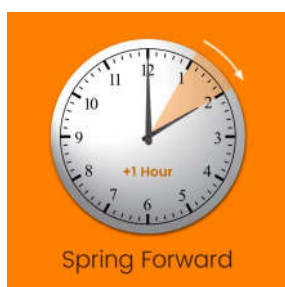
**Sourton Parish Council Update**  
[www.sourtonpc.org.uk](http://www.sourtonpc.org.uk)  
[parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk)  
**07792958675**

At February's public meeting, residents raised questions on a range of topics including responsibility for the closed churchyard, the recent precept increase, current Parish Council vacancies, churchyard safety works, verge litter, the condition of the Village Hall car park and track, and a full dog bin at Prewley. The next public meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 11th May. This is a meeting of the electorate of the parish, which provides an opportunity for local government electors to discuss parish affairs and for the parish council to report on its accomplishments in the preceding year

We are delighted to welcome two new Parish Councillors, Tim Kennedy and Sam Firth. Both have already expressed their enthusiasm for serving the community and are keen to get fully involved in the Parish Council. We look forward to the contribution they will make in helping move the parish forward. Their contact details are on the website.

A date for your diary is our **Volunteering Morning** on **Saturday 14th March**. We will meet at the Village Hall at 9:30am and will be focusing on practical jobs around the parish, including litter picking and general tidying following verge cutting. This is part of our wider aim to build a small, regular volunteer group to support community upkeep and strengthen local involvement.

Whether you can spare an hour or the whole morning, your help would be greatly appreciated. The Village Hall will kindly be serving bacon baps that morning, giving everyone a chance to warm up, have a chat after. We look forward to seeing you.



**Don't forget...**  
**clocks go forward**  
**one hour on**  
**Sunday 29th March**

## Boasley Chapel Happenings in March



Boasley Chapel  
Happenings in  
March

Sunday March 1st 11am Service with  
Barbara Dalton

Sunday March 1st Afternoon Tea from  
2.30pm

Thursday 19th March Soup and Sweet  
12-2pm

Sunday 22nd March 9.30am Service with  
Rev Chris Jackson

Thursday 26th March 11am Reflections  
and Refreshments

Everyone very welcome always!

**Come for a chat and enjoy**  
**SOUP, ROLL & CHEESE, FRUIT**  
**Tea/Coffee £6.00**

**SOURTON VILLAGE HALL**  
**Sunday, 8th March**  
**12:00 - 2:00pm**

**In aid of St Thomas à Becket Church**



**Sheep alert!**

**The sheep trail in**  
**aid of St Bridget's**  
**Church will be**  
**coming soon.**  
**Watch out for**  
**notices.**





## **INTO THE BREACH' BELSTONE VILLAGE HALL**

Mark Carey brings his wonderful one-man show, Into the Breach, to Belstone Village Hall on **Friday 6th March**. Doors (and bar) open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm performance.

**Tickets £12.00** (available via website. [belstonevillage.net/noticeboard](http://belstonevillage.net/noticeboard))

A play, written and performed by Mark Carey, who plays all seventeen characters in this portrait of life in a sleepy Devon

village during the Second World War. Highly acclaimed, by the London Metro as being 'Dad's Army' meets The Vicar of Dibley'.

The play is approximately 90 minutes long and will have an interval in the middle with ice creams on sale (and a chance for another glass from the bar?)

Set during the Second World War, this original, and inspiring show is suitable for anyone 9 years old and above. George Crocker is keen to liven up his dull life, so he decides to join the village Drama Club, believing they are doing a pantomime. What happens then turns his world upside down!

What people have said about the play: –

"A delight, a lovely and very humorous play that fully merited the standing ovation." Stratford Herald

"Mark Carey shows amazing dexterity and comic skill in playing all 17 parts." The Stage

"The quality of acting and writing is as good as any you will see. A deep and nuanced story. Every character drips with personality and charm." The Cheltenham Standard.

*Riverside Stores & Post Office  
Bridestowe,  
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Devon, EX20 4EG  
01837 861321  
[riversidestores@hotmail.com](mailto:riversidestores@hotmail.com)*

*Riverside Stores  
& Post Office*

*At the heart of Bridestowe*

### **Our own Local Venison – Riverside Game**

Riverside Game is privileged to have permissions on local farmland within 3 miles of Bridestowe.

We process and freeze for freshness on day of packing within our own 5 star FSA approved larder and is available to purchase from Riverside Stores or available for local delivery.

A healthy and sustainable alternative.

Spend over £20.00 and receive 10% discount.

Hocks, roasting joints, steaks, diced, mince, burgers and sausages.

Venison boxes at £45.00 include;

- 1 x 4 Venison Burgers (with caramelised onion)
- or 1 x 5 Sausages (either Cumberland or Black pepper)
  - 1 x 2 Haunch Steaks
  - 1 x 500g minimum Mince
  - 1 x 500g minimum Diced
  - 1 x Roasting Joint or Hock Joint

Thank you for your continued support.

Michaela & Colin

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

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



Ian and Dawn will be there 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**

**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](http://www.bridestowe.org.uk/village-hall) to see prices and view the calendar for availability.

**Devon Wildlife Trust's project, Saving Devon's Treescape**



Over the 5 years of the project (which started in 2020), DWT planned to plant and nurture 250,000 trees outside of woodlands to help combat the devastating effect Ash Dieback is having on our landscape with a significant proportion of ash trees due to die in the coming years. This target has been met and the final phase of the project ends in March 2026.

Bridestowe Parish Council applied for a tree and a hazel has been planted on the border of the village hall.

**BH BUTCHERS HALL**  
Come & support a new generation of innovative young entrepreneurs

**YOUTH MARKET**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
9am - 4:30pm  
**FREE Admission**

# Building businesses from a new generation

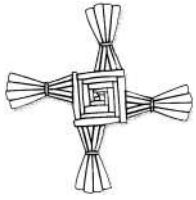
Open to traders AGED 30 or under

For more info contact:  
[butchershall@tavistock.gov.uk](mailto:butchershall@tavistock.gov.uk) • 01822 617232

In association with the  
**NMTF** National Market Traders Federation

**Tavistock Town Council**  
Supporting young entrepreneurs  
[tavistock.gov.uk](http://tavistock.gov.uk) •

# Bridestowe Churches Partnership



## Sunday Worship for March 2026

### **Sunday 1st**

9.30am Service at Sourton  
10.30am to 12.30pm Cafe Church at The Ark  
(Worship, Coffee, Tea, Chat, Children's activities)

### **Sunday 8th**

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's  
11.00am Morning Service

### **Sunday 15th**

11.00am Mothering Sunday - United Service at  
the Methodist Chapel with V Penfound

### **Sunday 22nd**

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's  
11.00am Service led by the Bridestowe Worship  
Group

### **Sunday 29th Palm Sunday**

10.30am Palm Procession. Meet at Springfields  
before parading to St Bridget's Church.  
11.00am Morning service at the Methodist  
Chapel

We are in the season of Lent. The 40 day period before Easter. When you hear the word "Lent," it's common to think about things like church, Christians and giving things up. Lent is often a time of sacrifice, giving things up or taking some self-giving task on or participating in spiritual discipline leading up to Easter Sunday's celebrations. What Lent means to each one of us can be very different according to our belief. For some it is striving to live in a self-aware way that is more spiritual—more about serving and trusting in God. But to everyone it can be a time to think about loving others more and pleasing ourselves less. This can be a strong, underlying motive for us all participating in Lent

## **The Ark**

The World Day of Prayer service will be held in the Ark on **Friday 6th March** at 2pm. All welcome. We will have tea and cakes after and a time for a chat.

The Coffee Morning in February was very well supported and £540 was raised to help with finance for Jacob's regular trips to Exeter and Bristol.

A great community effort.

The Coffee Morning in March will be held on **Saturday 14th March** 10am -12 noon. Coffee tea and cakes. We will be raising money for "Mercy Ships"

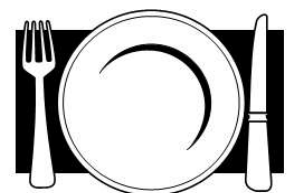
Mercy Ships is an international charity-based non-governmental organization that operates the largest non-governmental hospital ships in the world, providing surgical care and surgical education in sub-Saharan Africa

### **The 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!

**The Over 60's Lunch** will be held on **Tuesday 10th March**. Meet at 12.15 for lunch at 12.30. Please let Jennifer know if you cannot attend. (861592)  
Thank you





## 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.

### Advertising in BaSE

We have never charged for adverts appearing in BaSE. If I'm honest I'm daunted by the prospect of sending out invoices, chasing payments, etc. I had a look at Lydford's parish magazine and their adverts are very simple, a letterbox shape with just key information. If we adopted this approach for BaSE it would free up a lot of space for other content. I am warning advertisers that there will be some simplification of adverts next month. Some already have had the chop. I will still encourage new advertisers to add some words to introduce themselves to the readership as Rosie Bracher Solicitors has done with their advert.

***New advertiser***



rosie bracher

specialist family law solicitors

SCAN HERE



Award-winning family lawyers on East St, Okehampton

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mail@rosiebracher.co.uk

**Rosie Bracher Solicitors is an award-winning family law firm based on East Street, Okehampton. Our expertise includes divorce and matrimonial finance, child law and social services, adoption, domestic abuse and much more.**

**We are dedicated to providing expert legal advice to support the community of Dartmoor and beyond. As the only legal aid provider in the local area, we can help you apply for funding for your case. Contact us today on 01837 510966 or visit [rosiebracher.co.uk](http://rosiebracher.co.uk) for more information.**

**Age UK Scams Awareness Drop-in Session:  
Monday 16 March, 10:00-12:00**

Our Scams Awareness drop-in session on 16 March offers a friendly, no-judgement space to talk about suspicious calls, emails, texts, letters or doorstep visits. Delivered by specially trained Age UK Devon staff, these informal sessions provide practical advice on spotting the warning signs and knowing what to do if something doesn't feel right. Free drop-in event, all welcome.

**EVENTS IN MARCH**

**Children's Craft: 2-31 March, available during library opening hours**

Pop into Okehampton Library to create your character to join our library display to celebrate World Book Day! Free (donations welcome), drop-in, suitable for all ages.

**A Magical Workshop with Becca Rogers:  
Author of 'The Girl With Gills': Saturday 7  
March, 11:00-12:00**

Join us for a magical creative writing workshop and Q&A with author of 'The Girl With Gills' Becca Rogers. A Financial Times Children's Book of the Year for 2025 and longlisted for the Branford Boase Award, 'The Girl with Gills' is described as "a rip-roaring fantasy tale, with its own exotic riverine lore..." Booking essential via Eventbrite, £8 per child, all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Ticket to include signed copy of 'The Girl with Gills'. Suitable for ages 8-12.

**Dancing Tales: Saturday 21 March,  
14:00-14:30 & 15:30-16:00**

Step into the world of Dancing Tales – a captivating series of short stories for families. Blending traditional folk jig dolls and kinetic toys with mythical, historical, and fantastical themes, these tales celebrate diverse cultures and promote inclusivity. Performed by renowned local storyteller Tony Lidington, each intimate show inspires wonder and understanding through puppetry, music, and

timeless storytelling.

Suitable for families aged 6+. £2 per ticket, please book in advance via Ticket Source; alternatively, phone or pop into the library.

**REGULAR EVENTS - ADULTS**

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

**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.

**Friends of Okehampton Library:** Contact the library for next meeting date.

Are you interested in becoming a friend of your library?

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

### **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.

### **Business & IP Centre Devon, Okehampton Hub**

Book a 1-1 Business Information Session

Find out how you can access:

- Help with business planning & finding funding
- Expert 1-1 appointments to discuss any ideas or challenges
- Workshops on a variety of topics
- Support with Intellectual Property & Copyright

Find out more at [bipc.librariesunlimited.org.uk](http://bipc.librariesunlimited.org.uk)

### **REGULAR EVENTS- CHILDREN:**

#### **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.

#### **Stay & Play: Mondays, 10:00-11:00 (term-time only)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREE self-weigh facilities for parents to weigh their babies, are available in a screened area within the library. This is in partnership with Devon Public Health Nursing. No booking necessary.

#### **Lego Builders: Saturdays, 9:30–11:30**

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

#### **Libro's Friends**

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

#### **The Secret Book Quest**

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

Children must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult

Please see our library website or Facebook page for any additional events and library services [discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk](http://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](mailto:Okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

**01837 52805**

## Bridestowe Parish Council

Bridestowe Parish Council has a vacancy for a Councillor and would like to co-opt a new member.



The council meet every six weeks (approx.) on Wednesday evenings in The Ark at 7:30pm. Parish councils are often the first place people will go with concerns or ideas and for this reason, they play a vital part in village life, making decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. A parish Councillor must have a desire to make a difference within the community.

### Requirements of the Councillor -

- \* must be a British Citizen
- \* must be at least 18 years old
- \* must complete a notification of interest form for West Devon Borough Council

### and you must meet at least one of the following criteria -

- \* have lived in the Parish for a minimum of 12 months
- \* registered as a local government elector for the local authority area in which you wish to stand
- \* your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the local authority area
- \* you have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

You may **NOT** become a Councillor if any of the following apply -

- \* you are employed by the local authority or hold a paid office under the authority
- \* you hold a politically restricted post
- \* you are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- \* you are the mayor for a combined authority area that the local authority is a part of
- \* you have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the five years before polling day<sup>8</sup> and the ordinary period allowed for making an appeal or in respect of the conviction has passed
- \* you have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983
- \* you are subject to the notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, and the ordinary period allowed for making an appeal or application in respect of the order or notification has passed.

**If you would like to join the Parish Council, please request an application form from the Parish Clerk using [clerk@bridestowe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bridestowe.org.uk) or 07854275955. Application forms must be received by March 31st, 2026.**

## 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](http://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."*

**John Hunkin**

*Engineer specialising in appliances and sales*

**Dartmoor Domestic Appliance Repairs**  
**07368 656 897**

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18 Turnpike Close Whiddon Down EX20 2RN



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Weekday appointments £40/hr

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mob: 07913 855 231

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Services start at £1500 for a direct cremation,

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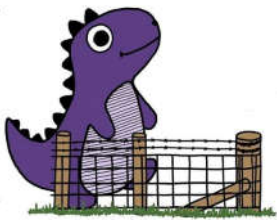


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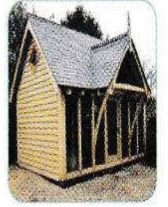


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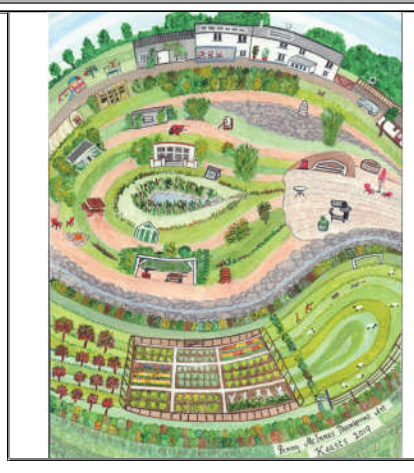
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Friday 6th	2pm, The Ark, World Day of Prayer
Sunday 8th	12 - 2pm, Sourton Village Hall, Soup lunch
Tuesday 10th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Lunch
Wednesday 11th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz for hedgehog charity
Saturday 14th	9.30am, Sourton Village Hall, Volunteering morning 10am - 2pm, The Ark, Coffee Morning 10am - 12noon, Sourton Village Hall, Bacon Baps
Tuesday 17th	2.30pm, Fairplace Church, Okehampton u3a, talk
Thursday 19th	10.30am, Thursday Morning Group, Country Lanes 12-2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Friday 20th	6.50pm(doors open) 7.30pm, SourtonVH, Bingo for Treetops
Saturday 21st	5.30pm, doors open Bridestowe VH, Bingo in aid of FOBS
Thursday 26th	7.30pm, Belstone Village Hall, Garden Club talk
Saturday 28th	9.30am- 12noon, St Bridget's Church, Clean up day 9.30am, Cemetery gates, Bridestowe Volunteer Group 10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps



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