

Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events April 2026 Edition 287



GOOD NEWS!

Improved bus service for Bridestowe from 7 April.

A new service linking Bridestowe village and Okehampton will be introduced very soon. On weekdays and Saturdays 118 buses are scheduled to leave from the White Hart, Bridestowe to Okehampton at 8.45, 11.47 and 14.47. Return journeys will leave Okehampton West Street to Bridestowe village at 8.30, 12.37 and 15.37.

When combined with the existing bus 306 timetable from/ to Bridestowe turn this should provide a very flexible and useful service with a total of 7 buses in each direction.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this happen.

Sourton Hall Big Quiz

Friday April 17th 2026

7.30pm start

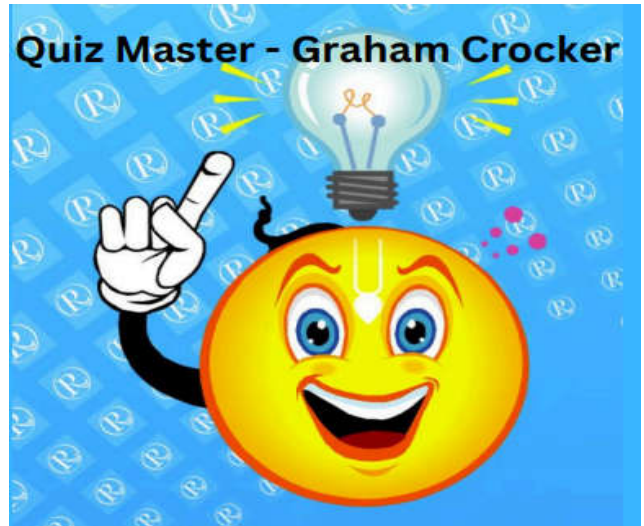
£12 for a team of 4 to include nibbles.

£4 for extra team members

(Max 6)

Bar and Food available.

Email: sourtonvh@gmail.com to enter your team!



CREAM TEAS - Cakes and Savouries

Easter Monday 6th April in Sourton Village Hall

1:30pm - 4:30pm

Cream Tea only £7.00

In Aid of the Paediatric Oncology Ward, Exeter Hospital

Contacts: Jenny 07879 253 903 or
Ruth 07967 357505

The Vicar writes....

The signs of spring are here at last and farmers are flat out calving and lambing. Calving time meant extra work but in a way, it brought you close to raw nature, a normally docile cow suddenly became something to be wary of when she had a calf at heel as her protective motherly instinct kicked in.

We talk about the mothering instinct as a given but not all cows were good mothers. I recall trying to move two first calf heifers and their calves to another field; one heifer was trying to kill me while the other one was trying to kill her calf. It's not uncommon for cows or ewes to be completely uninterested in their young and will happily abandon them.

As human beings living in a civilised society, we like to think we aren't prone to such animal behaviour but history tells a different story. Many cultures like the Aztecs and some Middle Eastern tribes like the Canaanites and Amalekites, actually sacrificed children to their gods, which sounds barbaric to us today. In his book 'Dominion', historian Tom Holland describes how ancient societies regarded children.

"Lepers and slaves were not the most defenceless of God's children. Across the Roman world, wailing at the sides of roads or on rubbish tips, babies abandoned by their parents were a common sight. Others might be dropped down drains, there to perish in their hundreds. The odd eccentric philosopher aside, few had ever queried this practice. Indeed, there were cities who by ancient law had made a positive virtue of it: condemning to death deformed infants for the good of the state. Sparta, one of the most celebrated cities in Greece, had been the epitome of this policy, and Aristotle himself had lent it the full weight of his prestige.

Girls in particular were winnowed ruthlessly. Those who were rescued from the wayside would invariably be raised as slaves. Brothels were full of women who, as infants had been abandoned by their parents, so much so that it had long provided novelists with a staple of their fiction. Only a few peoples – the odd German tribe and, inevitably the Jews – had stood aloof from the exposure of unwanted children. Pretty much everyone else had always taken it for granted. Until, that was, the emergence of a Christian people."

The Christian belief that man was made in the image of God led early church leaders like St. Gregory, to take the implications of Christ's choice to live and die as one of the poor to its logical conclusion.

"Dignity, which no philosopher had ever taught, might be possessed by the stinking, toiling masses was for all. There was no human existence so wretched, none so despised or vulnerable, that it did not bear witness to the image of God. Divine love for the outcast and derelict demanded that mortals loved them too."

This was put into action by Gregory's sister Macrina (St. Macrina the Younger is known for her compassionate actions during a severe famine in Cappadocia, where she rescued and raised abandoned children, particularly girls, whom society had discarded. Her efforts exemplified a counter-cultural response to the common practice of child exposure in her time. From Google search assist)

Fast forward to 21st century Britain and on 18th March 2026, the House of Lords passed a law making it legal in this country to abort a baby up to birth, furthermore abortion pills can be legally obtained through the post, without any reference to a doctor. And there has been hardly a ripple, no outrage, no public debate, it's hardly been noticed. As in the past it will be baby girls most at risk but bizarrely, the feminists are silent. It seems not only have we abandoned our Christian religion but we are returning to a pagan society where unborn children are being sacrificed to the gods of self and convenience.

Adrian Brook

Bridestowe Parish Council

At the February meeting, Jo Pritchard was elected as Chair, following Chris Proctor's resignation.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 22nd April** 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

So That's Who He Was by Howard Barkell

If you have ever done much historical research like putting together your family tree you have probably at some time hit that proverbial 'brick wall' when the information you need to be able to proceed further just doesn't seem to be available.

Such was the case when I was researching the lives of all those local men, over 150, who served in the armed forces during the First World War. As a starting point for Lydford I found a list of names of the men who attended the 'Home Coming Party' held in the school. At Bridestowe I used the list from the memorial on view outside the Methodist Chapel. The only help for Sourton was the War Memorial in the church (discount the recent addition which I consider to be spurious apart from Percy Mogridge and he lived in Exeter but was married to a Sourton lady.)

Since I started the self-appointed project a dozen or more years ago at least two important research aids have been made public, namely the 1939 Register, taken in September just after the outbreak of war in order to issue identity cards and ration books, and the 1921 census, so I have been able to update my original findings. Nevertheless I still had two 'brick walls' at Bridestowe. I was never sure that the names I had included were the correct men as I couldn't find any connection with the village. One is still unaccounted for, but I recently had one of those Eureka! moments.

I was sifting through the list of names of those men or their dependants who had been granted a war pension when I saw the address Watergate, Bridestowe. This information was about one of those men behind the brick wall! I was soon able to verify what I had already found out, but discovered that I had credited it to the wrong man of the same name. With the new sources available I was able to flesh out his story, but sadly it didn't have a happy ending. Perhaps you would like to read it.
Thomas Maddaford

Thomas Charles was born in 1895. His birth was registered in Exeter and he was baptised at St. David's in that city on 29th March 1895. Soon after his mother married Samuel Voyzey who lived at Bridestowe, but Thomas kept his own surname for the rest of his life. The family lived in the village and Samuel worked as a quarryman at one of the limestone quarries in the district. When these enterprises closed Samuel and family went to live at Watergate where he worked as an agricultural labourer. No information is available about Thomas's early life, but on 14th April 1915 he joined the army and was posted to the 5th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment. On return from Gallipoli they had been posted to the Western Front. It is likely that Thomas joined them then. They fought in various places such as Arras, the Somme, Thiepval and Ypres. At one battle Thomas received what was described as a gunshot wound to the right thigh and a broken femur. After treatment he was discharged from the army on 22nd March 1919 as being no longer fit for active service. He was granted a pension of 11 shillings a week and a Silver War Badge to wear on his lapel to denote his situation. He qualified for the Victory and British War medals.

On discharge he returned to the family home at Watergate, but managed to find employment with the Great Western Railway. In 1921 he was working as a porter at Bittaford station. He was lodging with Elfrida Roberts, a widow with two young children who worked as a cook at Blackadon (later Moorhaven) Mental Hospital. They married in 1923, had a child together, but sadly Thomas died on 6th April 1926, death registered at Totnes, from an unspecified cause.

Elfrida was widowed for the second time in six years and left with three children to rear. She remained a widow for thirty odd years until her death in 1955. The son from her first marriage followed in his father's footsteps and became a mental nurse at Moorhaven.

P.S. If anybody knows anything at all about George Wollacott I should be more than grateful if they would share it with me.

Advance notice..



The **Bridestowe Plant Sale** in aid of St Bridget's Church will take place on **Saturday 23rd May** in Bridestowe Village, location to be confirmed.

We would be very grateful for any donations of plants, good quality gardening tools (no knives please) and gardening books. Please contact Deborah Dreyer email deborahdreyer@gmail.com or text 0785461337 and I can arrange for collection

A date for your diary..

BRIDESTOWE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMER FAIR

Save the date!
Saturday 13 June 2026
Bridestowe School Grounds

We need you!
We're on the lookout for stall-holders and performers on the day - please contact Steff 07969 949177

More details coming soon!

Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010



Summer opening times

April - September

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6pm



The North Dartmoor Garden Club

On Thursday 23rd April, Becca Flintham will be giving a talk entitled 'Water, Water Everywhere'.

Becca will be talking about many aspects of water in the garden including ponds, bog gardens and water- wise gardening.

As ever our meetings take place in Belstone Village Hall, opposite the car park 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

Lunar cycle for April

New moon	17th
First quarter	24th
Full moon	2nd
Last quarter	10th



16 - 25 April - Look out for the Lyrid meteor shower

The Lyrid meteor shower will be visible from 16-25 April, peaking on 22 April.

Although it's far from one of the most active yearly meteor showers, the Lyrids can still dazzle - some meteors have bright dust trails that glow in the sky for several seconds.

What's more, at the shower's peak on the night of 22 and morning of 23 April the Moon will be just before its first quarter phase, so won't cause too much light pollution.

The Lyrids originate from Comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which does a lap of the Sun once every 415 years. It's the oldest recorded meteor shower still visible today, having first been recorded in 687 BCE.

Save the date..

**Sourton Village Hall
Annual General Meeting
Monday 18th May 2026
7.30pm at the Hall**

Everyone is warmly invited to attend. If you care about village life and want to help keep an important local space active, your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

**Further details on our website
www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk or
please make contact by emailing
sourtonvh@gmail.com**

And here's another one...

**Bridestowe Village Hall
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 27th May 2026
at 7.30pm at the Hall.**

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

Friends of
Bridestowe
School

PUB QUIZ

WEDS
8TH APRIL

8PM

All money raised will go to
Friends of Bridestowe School

RAFFLE - PRIZES - £2.50 PP

White Hart, Bridetsowe

u3a
learn, laugh, live



Okehampton u3a

Established in November 2001

**Our April meeting starts at 2.00pm with a short
AGM followed at 2.30pm by our speaker:**

Paul Rendell

**Tuesday 21 April
2.30pm at Fairplace
Church
'The Okehampton
of Yesterday'**



As a keen local historian, Paul has written many articles for newspapers and magazines. In 1991 he founded the 'Dartmoor News', a bi-monthly magazine which he still edits today.

Using many old photographs from the past 100 years Paul will show how our market town of Okehampton has changed over the years. His talk promises to be a fascinating dive into local history for all of us!

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.

**Could you spare a couple of
hours on Saturday 18th April,
10 - 12 to help spruce up the
play equipment in the Sporting
Green?**



The recent ROSPA inspection recommended some specific maintenance for the play equipment area, some of which could be carried out by volunteers.

Tasks to be tackled:

- Brush the surface under play equipment to remove moss and algae
- De-scale goal posts and repaint.
- Trim back encroaching branches near seesaw
- Grease various moving parts.

Please come armed with stiff brooms, wire brushes, loppers and some enthusiasm! If it's raining, we'll reschedule.

Thank you

For Sale

Electric bike Ebco UCR:jo Purchased from Halfords Hardly used. Does need new battery

£200 o.n.o

Light Oak effect single wardrobe.

Never been assembled so easy to transport

£15 o.n.o

Men's racing bike 18 gear, siscycle.com

£15 o.n.o

Tel; **07475 485 019** or call at 17 Trescote Way



Okehampton Rambling Club

Meet at Okehampton Post Office every Sunday, leaving 9.30am. Walks are 7 - 9 miles, moderate, led by volunteers. Bring lunch.

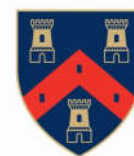
New members welcome.

Info: Ian

07708 613877(evenings and weekends)

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 at 19.30

Tickets £18 from
ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society, or from BookStop in Tavistock
U18s free

Limited availability: no tickets on the door



BEARSLAKE INN

LOCALS
LOYALTY CARD

CALLING ALL LOCALS
**LIVE IN A EX20,
PL16 OR PL19
POSTCODE?**

YOU CAN GET UP TO **25% OFF**
YOUR BILL AT BEARSLAKE INN

Join our Locals Loyalty Scheme and enjoy:

10% off every visit
A Free drink on your 5th visit
25% off your 10th visit

Food, drinks, lunch, dinner... even just a cheeky pint.

For full details on how to join and redeem your rewards, head to bearslakeinn.com/locals-loyalty or just pop in to collect your card

The Joys of Spring: 20 reasons to be cheerful

Flowers are blooming, birds are singing, the days are getting brighter. Michael McCarthy celebrates a special time of year.

(26 March 2011 www.independent.co.uk)

It's because everything is doing something – singing or displaying or flowering or mating or hatching or hunting for food to feed the family – that spring is such a special time in the natural world. Never mind the improvement in the weather; in the three months which stretch roughly from mid-March to mid-June, living things are at their most vividly, and sometimes dramatically, alive, and observing them gives us the most intense pleasure.

It has to be said that many of the aspects of the British spring are so well-known as to be almost commonplace. That they are so familiar takes nothing away from the song of the first chiffchaff, or the sight of a bluebell wood when the flowers are at their peak, but it is worth reminding ourselves that there are other, perhaps lesser-known aspects to our springtime which provide less familiar but just as invigorating sights, and sounds, and smells.

So here we present a short catalogue of 20 of spring's less celebrated attractions. Some, perhaps even a majority, you will know; others (such as the dance of the mayflies) may be unfamiliar. But they're all examples of wildlife at it most intense, and reasons to be cheerful.

1. Wild garlic

Provides the most pungent smell of the spring, often surprising you before you see the plant and its flowers, which appear as beautiful clusters of white stars and occasionally cover a whole wood. The Old English name for the plant is ramsons; the leaves are fantastic in salads.

2. Water crowfoot

A member of the buttercup family, water crowfoot is particularly associated with chalk streams, those limpidly clear small rivers whose waters are purified by being filtered by the underlying chalk. The crowfoot flowers dot the surface of the stream in a carpet of white buttons.

3. The birdsong explosion

The singing of male birds proclaiming their

territories and seeking mates, which has been building up since the turn of the year, reaches a climax in the next two months with the return of the singing migrants from Africa, such as the warblers and, of course, the nightingale (but only in the South-east).

4. Queen bumblebees

You may have noticed that the bumblebees you are seeing at the moment appear particularly rotund and fat: this is because they are all queens, as only the fertilised queens survive the winter. Each year they found a new colony and start laying eggs, and female and then male bumblebees gradually emerge.

5. Orange tip butterfly

In flag design, "colours" – red, blue, green, etc – must always be placed next to "metals" – gold and silver, and by extension, yellow and white, so that they stand out. The wing pattern of male orange tips, bold orange next to bright white, obeys these rules, and makes them the spring's most brilliant butterfly.

6. Lesser spotted woodpecker

It's hard enough to see anyway, but now, before all the leaves appear on the trees, is the best time to glimpse this scarce, minuscule, magical bird, the size of a Mars bar with a brilliant scarlet crest. Lesser spotted woodpeckers are tumbling in numbers all over Britain; no-one really knows why.

7. Iridescence

There is a period of about 10 days after the new leaves emerge on certain trees when their green is of a quite stunning iridescent brilliance, which soon fades and is not seen again till the following year. You can see it particularly on horse chestnuts, and in young hawthorn leaves.

8. Rising trout

Rivers sometimes look lifeless from above, but in spring, brown trout begin to rise to the surface to take the aquatic insects which are hatching from the water. They make rings in the river, and occasionally will jump clean out; with big hatches of river flies they virtually develop a feeding frenzy.

9. Hawthorn in flower

In contrast to the frosty white blossom of the blackthorn, in flower now, hawthorn blossoms are a rich creamy-white, and when they flower in big hawthorn hedges which stretch right across fields, the countryside appears to have been garlanded for a wedding.

It also has a heady sweet scent.

10. Early purple orchid

This lovely deep blue flower is the first of our 50-or-so orchid species to appear. They're not exotic-looking like tropical species (with the exception of the very rare lady's slipper); they're elegant spikes in pastel colours from pink to pale yellow, and the early purple gives a taste of what is to come.

11. Wheatear

Bouncy and breezy, and heading for the uplands to nest, this is one of the first spring migrants to arrive back from Africa and one of the most handsome, with its contrasting plumage of a blue-grey back and a buff breast; its white rump gives it its name, which originally was "white arse".

12. Fox cubs

In the next few weeks fox cubs will begin to emerge from the earths where they have been born and tentatively start exploring the world outside. If you're very fortunate, you can sometimes glimpse them playing, tumbling over each other in mock fights, while the vixen stands guard nearby.

13. Boxing hares

Hares are at their most active now and if you are very lucky indeed you may glimpse the famous "boxing", when two animals rear up and appear to punch each other. It used to be thought this was males fighting; now we know it is females who are not ready to mate, giving males the brush-off.

14. Daubenton's bat

Bats are starting to appear from winter hibernation and one of the most identifiable is Daubenton's or the water bat, which specialises in catching insects over water. At the Wetland Centre in Barnes, south-west London, you can take a bat walk and see them over water, picked out by torchlight.

15. Dance of the mayflies

The mayfly is our prettiest aquatic insect and one of Britain's great natural spectacles in the mating dance they perform on the riverbank: the males, sometimes in swarms of thousands, fly up into the air and parachute down, which is their way of attracting females.

16. Blackcap singing

If you can't find any nightingales, this is the next best thing. The blackcap is one of the warblers, related to the whitethroat and the garden warbler, and used to be known as "the

lesser nightingale" for its song, which is an exquisite, high, sweet, liquid fluting. Once known, it's not forgotten.

17. Male sand lizard

The sand lizard is the rarest of our three native lizards (the others being the common lizard and the legless slow-worm) and is mainly found on sandy heaths in a few southern counties such as Hampshire and Dorset. In his spring breeding uniform the male is a quite spectacular green.

18. Grass snake

Our largest snake is a handsome green creature and is a specialised frog hunter, and just now is beginning to slither through wet and marshy places in search of an amphibian dinner. Grass snakes are not impossible to find if you look hard enough; they will sometimes come into gardens.

19. Holly blue butterfly

Most of our blue butterflies appear in high summer, but the holly blue arrives in spring and is easily identified because its underside is sky-blue (other blues are brownish beneath). It's the blue you're most likely to see in your garden, especially if you've got clumps of holly or ivy: it likes both.

20. Sweet violet

Often overlooked besides better-known spring flowers such as primroses and wood anemones, the common or sweet violet is small and lies low down, but has a beautiful scent which has been used for perfume since Ancient Greece. It's food for the caterpillars of fritillary butterflies.

Seth's Grass Cutting Services

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

Own mower and tools used.

Can take cutting away for small additional fee.

Competitive rates - please contact for a free quotation visit.

01837 861114



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



As I write this in mid-March, we're working on getting the necessary permissions and the specialists in place to make the rock face above the Devil's Cauldron trail safe again. We're hoping the Devil's Cauldron trail will be open by May, but we won't know more until the team start work. Do check the website or get in touch if you want more information.

The work to improve the pond on the railway path seems to already be paying off. There were several clumps of frogspawn which have now turned to a host of tadpoles in the shallower part of the pond. And in the new deeper, lined section there were several palmate newts that looked to be mating and will hopefully lay eggs. It's very exciting and will be lovely to see how the whole area progresses through spring.

We have made the decision to stop feeding the birds at the bird hide. There are a couple of key reasons. The UK population of pied flycatchers has decreased by 56% since 1995. These summer visitors compete with great tits for nest sites and as pied flycatchers don't eat bird food; the great tits and other generalist species, gain an advantage. Then there is the increasing prevalence of garden bird trichomonosis, which primarily affects green finches and chaffinches, and can be spread by contaminated food. We regularly cleaned the feeders but couldn't do it as often as we would have liked. Also, we had no way of repositioning them to prevent disease build up on the ground below.

The RSPB have some good guidance online on how to feed birds in your own gardens which is worth looking up, but with Lydford Gorge being a temperate rainforest and a Site of Special Scientific Interest we felt it was best for us to stop feeding. We're still planning to make a new and improved bird hide, which the Tramper will be able to drive into, and we have plans to make the area around more diverse to help to bring birds closer but in a more natural way.

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

The Waterfall trail is open for walks, plus, the Lyd link path is open to walk between the entrances, 10am-4.30pm every day. The Devil's Cauldron tea-room (10.30am-4.30pm), waterfall tea-room (10am-4pm), toilets (10am-5pm) and second-hand bookshops (10am-4.30pm) are also open every day. We hope to reopen the Devil's Cauldron trail by May.

As always we suggest checking the website before visiting -
nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge

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

Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: lydford.gorge.nt

Registered Charity Number 205846

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP

will be meeting this month at Strawberry Fields, Lifton, on **Thursday, April 16th** at about 10.30. Please note that this will be in the main restaurant as they are unable to take bookings for the Garden Room. If you haven't already told me that you will be coming please let me know by Tuesday 14th so that I can confirm the number with the restaurant. Ann Allan on 861551 or annallan1948@gmail.com





Okehampton District Community Transport Group

01837 55000 office@odctg.co.uk



Ring and Ride

We provide community transport when private and public transportation is not viable. Our Ring and Ride service provides friendly, door-to-door transport into Okehampton, helping people stay independent and connected.

We collect from the following areas:

Monday: North Tawton, South Zeal and Sticklepath.

Tuesday: Winkleigh, Sampford Courtenay.

Wednesday: Bridestowe, Sourton.

Thursday: Hatherleigh, Highampton.

Friday: Beaworthy, Halwill Junction, Northlew.

We can collect from Okehampton each week day.

Please give us a call for further information and to book. Our office and phone lines are open 8:30am - 4pm week days (closed weekends). It is advisable to give plenty of notice when booking a seat.

“I've made a lot of friends on the bus.
The bus is wonderful for me
because I live in the middle of nowhere.”

Please see our website or call us
for details on our other services

www.odctg.co.uk
01837 55000

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer?



Our volunteer drivers take local residents to their medical appointments, to social groups and to visit family in care homes. They use their own vehicles and are paid for their mileage. Our volunteers kindly donate their time, and can choose which journeys to accept, to fit around their own schedule. Debbie, one of our Community Car Scheme drivers, says, 'It's such a sociable role. People are interesting, and you get to know them. Some days I wait in the car, other times I nip to the library or do my shopping. It fits around my life.' If you are interested in volunteering, we would love to hear from you! There are non-driver opportunities such as admin, events and Bus Buddies (companions on our lifestyle trips). For further information on our volunteering opportunities please head over to our website www.odctg.co.uk/volunteer or give us a call on 01837 55000.

BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 2nd April** at 7.30pm. at 1 Glebe Park.

We will be discussing *We Solve Murders* by Richard Osman.

About the book

From the author of the mega-selling phenomenon that is The Thursday Murder Club comes the first in a pulsating series of thrillers featuring retired copper Steve Wheeler and his impulsive daughter-in-law Amy.

Solving murders. It's a family business.

Steve Wheeler is enjoying retired life. He still does the odd bit of investigation work, but he prefers the pub quiz and afternoons at home with his cat Trouble. His days of adventure are over – that's his daughter-in-law Amy's business now.

Amy Wheeler thinks adrenaline is good for the soul, which makes being a private security officer to billionaires the perfect job. She's currently on a remote island keeping world-famous author Rosie D'Antonio alive. Then a dead body, a bag of money and a killer with their sights on Amy have her sending Steve an SOS...

As a breakneck race around the world begins, can they stay one step ahead of a deadly enemy?

www.waterstones.com

New members always welcome

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 - 12pm

1st Friday: Singing

2nd Thursday : Exercises

3rd Friday: Coffee morning

Last Tuesday: A talk:

On **Tuesday 28th April**, 'The Big Issue and Vendor's story'- Sue Owen and Clive Rowe

For further information please contact Pam

01822 614204 or call in at The Anchorage, Chapel Street, PL19 8AG for a leaflet



Sourton Village Hall

Saturday 18th April 10am - 12pm
(Ian Vanstone attending)

The Bridestowe Volunteer Group was busy in late February, attending to the community orchard trees, applying a mulch to the base of the trees. The volunteers work hard keeping the cemetery area spruce and continuing to wage war on litter throughout the village. The group will meet again on **Saturday 25th April**, meeting at 9.30pm at the cemetery gates. New members always welcome

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 1st August
Bridfest 2026 with a 'Wild West' theme



Haldon Wood Farm Plants

At the top of Pool Hill

We have plenty of bedding and container plants coming on plus lots more on offer, all very competitively priced

Our polytunnel is now open so why not drop in to see what we've got.

John and Angie

01837 861866





St Thomas à Becket Church, Sourton

**April
Soup Lunches**

Thank you to all who helped to make our final lunch of the season a success. We have built up quite a regular group of local people who come as well as walkers and cyclists off the track. Any profit helped to pay for our regular church expenses or raised money for local causes

EASTER MONDAY Cream tea will be on April 6th from 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

We will be serving cream teas for £7 as well as a good selection of sandwiches and savouries as well as home made cakes.

This is in aid of the Paediatric Oncology Ward Exeter Hospital.

If you have time to help on the day, or make a cake, please contact :-

Jenny Tel :07879253903 or Ruth Tel. 07967 357505.

There will also be a Bring and Buy stall Donations welcome.

The following CREAM TEA will be on SUNDAY May 24th. This will be a joint effort with the Parish Hall .

Flowers in Church

We are very grateful to Cynthia Higbee who has organized the Flower Rota for 2026 and to all the kind people who have volunteered to arrange the flowers or given donations in memory of loved ones.

We will be decorating for Easter on Saturday 4th from 10.30 a.m. if anyone would like to help or donate flowers.

Our APCM

April 13th at 7 p.m. in the Church .

Holy Week and Easter Services

March 31st Compline Service of Prayer 9 p.m.

April 3rd Good Friday – Hour at the Cross 12.00 mid-day

April 4th Easter Fire Ceremony at the Church 7 p.m.

April 5th EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION 9.30 a.m.

Regular Services for April

April 5th Easter Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

April 12th Service at Bridestowe

April 19th Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.

April 26th Service at Bridestowe

Sourton's Bacon baps

Thank you to all those people who came to the first bacon bap morning and the volunteer group who worked tirelessly all morning. This event was a great success and we are running another morning and volunteer group on 18 th April.



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

Facebook - Sourton Village Hall

Movie Watch - March 2026

After Oscars month invariably promises much, only to deliver disappointingly little, certainly in terms of local screenings.

Once again, that was the case this year. The excitement justifiably generated by Jessie Buckley's Best Actress award for *Hamnet* simply wasn't matched elsewhere.

For sake of completeness, here are the major Academy Award winners,

Best Picture: One Battle After Another

Best Actress: Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)

Best Actor: Michael B Jordan (Sinners)

**Best Supporting Actress: Amy Madigan
(Weapons)**

**Best Supporting Actor: Sean Penn
(One Battle After Another)**

**Best Director: Paul Thomas Anderson
(One Battle After Another)**

I don't know about you but there's not much there to send me rushing off to the New Carlton. In fact, as I write, none of those titles are showing locally or even billed to appear, so maybe it's less than a vintage year, certainly for UK movie-goers.

We've seen *Hamnet* while *One Battle After Another* was granted a limited local showing. Maybe we should take our lead from the BAFTA's or the Golden Globes. Or maybe forget about the self-congratulatory awards and just pick our own favourites.

Nothing drew us to the cinema last month but our daughter helpfully went to see *Mother's Pride*, the *Fisherman's Friend* spin-off. I asked for her thoughts.

'Terrible, but we quite enjoyed it. Dreadful script, predictable but quite nice story and mostly awful acting. Lovely setting (they live near Bath where the film was set, so hardly an objective view) and Martin Clunes is good. A few of the others were OK, but mostly so bad we wondered if they were actually actors at all.' To be fair, she's a pretty good judge.

As I write, *Wuthering Heights* is still showing locally but limited listings suggest a lack of distributor enthusiasm. *Project Hail Mary* ("a brainy but funny sci-fi blockbuster about a stranded astronaut") stars Ryan Gosling and has been quite positively reviewed, while

Reminders of Him might be worth a cursory check.

Glenrothan opens locally in mid-April and features the directorial debut of the excellent Brian Cox. 'A tense drama about family and forgiveness.' No reviews as yet but the film is described as 'a comedy-drama comprising a love-letter to Scotland. After 35 years in the United States, Donal returns to his family-owned whisky distillery in the Scottish Highlands to make amends with his brother.' Could be decent.

The Michael Jackson biopic, *Michael*, is scheduled for release in late-April, followed by *The Devil Wears Prada 2* which sounds very much like the mixture as before, with an all-star cast comprising Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt. This one will inevitably be popular and will require booking.

I can't see anything else of note in the 'Coming Soon' section of the New Carlton website but it's always worth keeping an eye open for late schedule changes.

I'd just seen the first episode, so was only able to mention it in passing last month, but *Small Prophets* (BBC2, iPlayer) is an exceptional piece of work, crafted, written and directed by the extraordinary Mackenzie Crook. If you enjoyed *The Detectorists*, you'll almost certainly have seen *Small Prophets* by now. If not, you have a treat in store.

Impossible to describe but I suppose *Small Prophets* is nominally a sitcom, starring Pearce Quigley as a man who turns to alchemy and homunculi in his search for answers, following the unexplained disappearance of his partner. The outstanding Quigley plays the lead role, supported by Crook himself, alongside none other than Sir Michael Palin in a glorious cameo role as Quigley's eccentric father.

A remarkable 8 million viewers watched the first show, making it the biggest BBC2 comedy audience of the last ten years.

Just six 30-minute episodes, with barely a wasted line, leave the viewer (well, certainly this one) longing for more. A wish that will be granted as the final slide comprised the magic words, 'To be continued.' The Times went with, 'A Gentle Piece of Surreal Genius' and it's certainly that. Not to be missed.

Elsewhere March saw the BBC throwing their promotional weight behind **The Claudia Winkleman Show** on BBC One, presumably looking to capitalise on her successful role as presenter of **The Traitors**.

For some reason, women don't seem to be considered as potential chat shows hosts. Somebody will tell me I'm wrong (and please do) but I can't think of anyone since the wonderful Caroline Aherne, who launched the **Mrs Merton Show** on an unsuspecting viewing public 30 years ago.

Maybe Claudia could burst through that particular glass ceiling? The BBC are certainly giving the show every chance, using Jeff Goldblum, Jennifer Saunders, Vanessa Williams and Tom Allen in the first episode. I missed that one but saw the second show which featured four markedly less well-known figures. The jury remains out.

Elsewhere, Ms Winkleman, who appears to be striking while her TV iron is hot, was added, for no obvious reason, to the C4 presentation team at **Crufts**. Clare Balding was predictably excellent and I couldn't really see the need for another celebrity presenter.

Honourable passing mentions to **The Other Bennet Sister** (BBC1), **Ambulance** (BBC1) and **Gone** (ITV1) but a resounding thumbs-down to **The Capture** (BBC1).

Meanwhile the Guardian led their coverage of **Dirty Water** (C4) with a banner headline suggesting that 'if this doesn't incite righteous anger over our filthy water, nothing will.'

Based on the true story of amateur investigators, appalled at the dumping of sewage in our rivers, this drama starring David Thewlis deserves to become the next **Mr Bates vs the Post Office**.

We found that we'd recorded **The Damned United** (BBC2) but never gone back to watch it. An early example of Michael Sheen's brilliant range of character portrayals, this fine 2009 film assessed the chaotic 44-day reign of Brian Clough at Leeds United.

Quite why anyone should choose to dramatise the misdemeanours of the odious Huw Edwards is a mystery, but **The Downfall of Huw Edwards** (C5) examines the case in some detail.

I'm heartened to read that Edwards himself has condemned the show as 'unfair and irresponsible.' Why Martin Clunes should choose to appear is another matter.

A few other shows I haven't quite got to this month, so if anyone has strong views on **The Teacher** (C5), **Rooster** (Sky One), **Ellis** (C5), **Dtf St Louis** (Sky Atlantic) or anything else for that matter, please let the Movie Watch editorial team know!

DAVID HARRISON
March 2026

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.
www.readeasy.org.uk/groups/newdevon.

CHARITY CYCLE CAFE

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL
10-12

BRIDESTOWE
VILLAGE HALL

£10

BREAKFAST BAP

UNLIMITED CAKE, TEA, COFFEE
AND SOFT DRINKS

HELP US SEND 10 CHILDREN
WITH LIMB DIFFERENCES TO
CAMP TO CELEBRATE OUR
10 YEARS OF BENEFITTING
FROM

Camp
NO LIMITS



Boasley Chapel

Happenings in April



Sunday April 5th at 11am
Easter Service with Rev Melvyn Cooke

Thursday April 16th 12-2pm
Soup and Sweet

Sunday 26th April 11am
Service with Kathryn Timms

Thursday 30 April
Reflection and Refreshment with
Angela Banfield

Everyone always very welcome at any
time!

(Please note that there will be no
Afternoon Tea on the first Sunday of
April....teas will resume on May 3rd)



St Bridget's Church Easter Sheep Trail

ENDS: Saturday, 18th April 2026

Purchase your trail sheet from Riverside Stores for a chance to
win a basket of Easter goodies and chocolate!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH

Bacon Baps will be served on **Saturday 25th April 10am - 12 noon** in **Bridestowe Village Hall**.



Recent sessions have been very well attended, raising over £200 each time for hall funds. Your support is really appreciated.

Ian and Dawn will be attending with their locally sourced meat and eggs. The secondhand books have been refreshed so don't forget to have a browse. 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**



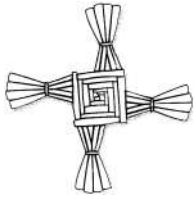
The hall is a fantastic facility, that can be used for a wide range of events, from small meetings to large scale wedding receptions and parties. The venue is divided into a number of units, including meeting rooms, kitchen and a large hall which can be hired out separately. Also the venue can be hired 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 to see prices and view the calendar for availability.

**ST GEORGE'S DAY
CELEBRATIONS
IN THE PARK**

Sunday 26th April
Simmons Park,
Okehampton
10:00 – 16:00

- + Live music
- + Gift stalls
- + Morris dancing
- + Archery & sword school
- + OCRA activities
- + Street food & bar
- + Workshops & demos
- + Children's entertainment

Bridestowe Churches Partnership



Sunday Worship for April 2026

Thursday 2nd Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Methodist Chapel – Agape Meal (All welcome)

Friday 3rd Good Friday

10.00am Good Friday service at the Methodist Chapel

Sunday 5th Easter Day

9.30am Easter Day service at St Bridget's

11.00am Easter Day service at the Methodist Chapel with Angela Banfield. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sunday 12th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's Church

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist Chapel with John Hill

Sunday 19th

9.30am United service at St Bridget's Church

Thursday 23rd St George's Day

7.00pm Patronal Service to celebrate St George's Day

Sunday 26th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's

11.00am Service led by the Bridestowe Worship Group

The Christian Heart of Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus, three days after his crucifixion. It is the culmination of Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and includes Maundy Thursday (the Last Supper) and Good Friday (the crucifixion). To believers, Easter represents not only the triumph of life over death, but also the promise of eternal life, forgiveness, and spiritual rebirth. It is the cornerstone of Christian faith, symbolising hope even in the face of deep suffering. Easter is a time to honour both endings and beginnings, to reflect on the struggles we've survived, and to welcome the growth that follows. The love of Jesus for us is unconditional. His love encourages us to love others, our families, friends and communities.

Happy Easter



The Ark

The Coffee Morning in March was a great success raising £400 for The Mercy Ships. Many thanks to all who supported this. The Coffee Morning in April will be held on **Saturday 11th of April** from 10am to 12noon. The charity this month is Cancer Research UK.

If you have a suggestion for a charity we can support in one of these Coffee Mornings please let me (Jennifer) know. It can be local, National or International.

On Easter Sunday there will be the Easter Cross in the Chapel, so please bring some flowers to add to it. Just a small posy.

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!

Jennifer Thorne handles bookings.

Phone **01837 861592**

The Over 60's

Lunch will be held

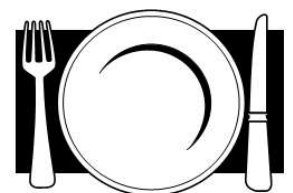
on **Tuesday 14th**

April. Meet at 12.15

for lunch at 12.30.

Please let Jennifer know if you cannot attend. (861592)

Thank you



Sourton Parish Council Update
www.sourtonpc.org.uk
parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk
07792958675

Sourton Parish Council currently has two vacancies on the Parish Council following the resignations of Chris Edmonds and Ivor Kaczanow

If anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and helping support the local community, please visit the Parish Council website or contact the Clerk for further information about the role and the application process.

Community Speedwatch – Volunteers Needed

Sourton Parish Council is also looking for volunteers to join the **Community Speedwatch group**. This is a great way to help improve road safety in the parish.

For those that wish to get involved with Speedwatch, please follow the procedure below:

Firstly type <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org> into a web browser.

Click on the **Register** tab.

Then to the left, click on **Join Existing Group**.

Choose **Devon & Cornwall Police** from the pull down and click **Continue**.

Choose Devon North & West from the pull down and click Continue.

Now choose **Lewdown Bridestowe Ward Speedwatch Group** from the pull down and click **Continue**.

Finally complete your details in the registration form and follow the emailed instructions.

If you know anybody else that may be interested, please pass these instructions on to them. Once people have registered and completed the online training, **Cllr Southcott (WDBC)** will be notified and will contact them to arrange a session to carry out the practical training.

Volunteer Clean-Up Day

The first volunteer clean-up day recently took place and was a great success. Volunteers cleared the area around the bus stop

bungalow and along the road from Sourton Down back to the Village Hall. A new tree was also planted as part of the day, which will be a lovely addition to the village environment.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time to help improve the parish – your efforts are very much appreciated.

The Village Hall also held their first Bacon Baps morning, which was very successful. The next one will take place on **Saturday 18th April**, so please do come along and support the hall.

Sourton Lottery results

Jan

1st. Grenville Hockridge

2nd Marcia Horn

3rd Andrew Horn

March

1st Jo Down

2nd Wendy Shepherd

3rd Neil Ley.

Feb

1st Mark Foggerty

2nd Caroline North

3rd David Daspher

Live music at The Wharf, Tavistock



Police Dog Hogan support from The Kit Hillbillies

Friday 17th April at 8:30pm

(Americana/Bluegrass/Country/Rock)

Police Dog Hogan are a British band whose music combines elements of country, rock, bluegrass, and Americana. The band have been active since 2008 and released six albums and three Eps.

Support from **The Kit Hillbillies**

Rollicking bluegrass & good-time acoustic roots tunes. Vigorous.. expressive.. unvarnished!

Seated+Standing

Tickets

From 6pm on the night £23.00

Adult in Advance £21.00

APRIL EVENTS

Spring Trail: 1-18 April, available during library opening hours

Find all the Spring items hidden around the library to receive a small chocolate treat! Free (donations welcome), suitable for all ages.

Young Adult Craft Afternoon: Thursday 9 April, 14:00-16:00

Join us for some relaxed, bookish crafting at Okehampton Library, and hear all about and sign up to our FREE young adult reading challenge, Bookmarked! Free drop-in activity, open to ages 11-17.

World Book Night: Thursday 23 April, 15:00-17:00

Join us at Parklands Leisure Centre to find out about the services your local library can offer and receive a free book!

St. George's Day Celebrations - Name the Dragon: 20-25 April, available during library opening hours

As part of Okehampton's St. George's Day Celebrations, pop into Okehampton Library and choose a name for our dragon to be in with a chance of taking it home! Suggested donation 50p per name, all proceeds go to Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs libraries in Devon & Torbay. With thanks to The Friends of Okehampton Library for funding our prize.

St. George's Day Celebrations - Quiz: 20-25 April, available during library opening hours

Join in Okehampton's St. George's Day celebrations; pick up your quiz sheet from Okehampton Library and test your knowledge of England to be in with a chance of winning a National Book Token! Suggested donation £1 per entry, all proceeds will go to Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs libraries in Devon & Torbay. With thanks to The Friends of Okehampton Library for funding our quiz prize.

Adult Creative Writing Workshop: Saturday 25 April, 10:00-11:30

Join us for a Creative Writing Workshop for

Adults here at Okehampton Library! The workshop will be led by volunteer Adrian Tilley, a writer, ex-English teacher, advisory teacher for Devon, and lecturer at Hong Kong University in Children's Literature, who has run creative writing workshops in the UK, Hong Kong, Denmark and Moscow. Tickets £12.50 each for library members and £15.00 for non-library members to include refreshments, booking essential via Ticketsource. All abilities welcome.

REGULAR EVENTS - ADULTS:

Okehampton Library has two 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.

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.

Knit & Natter: 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

REGULAR CHILDREN'S EVENTS:

Bookmarked Young Adult Reading

Challenge: January – December 2026

Bookmarked is our young adult reading challenge for 11–17-year-olds which has launched for 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 Ticketsource.

Baby Weigh: Tuesdays, 9:00-11:30

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.

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

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."

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



k a t e c o r n f i e l d
S P O R T S M A S S A G E

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

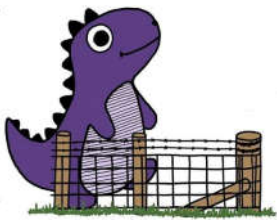


SAM ALLUM Boiler Maintenance

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



Dino Fencing



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

Please ring for free quotes
Home 01837861223

Mobile 07730436329
Email: dinohorn1@gmail.com

MOORLAND GARDEN CARE & MAINTENANCE

Please call for a free quote! 07845 758 702 // 07718 220 309

Based in Okehampton and surrounding area

Services we offer: Grass/hedge cutting, turfing, domestic fencing, weeding, landscaping, garden clearance, strimming, pressure washing.

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



☎ 07545 879 431

✉ j.e.landservices@outlook.com

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

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
8th April at 8pm in aid
of Friends of
Bridestowe School



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

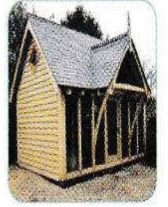


MAGNA CARPENTRY

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

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.thetoishopoke.co.uk

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



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**



KP TREE SERVICES & FIREWOOD
07783471922

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

KPTREESERVICES96@GMAIL.COM

BUTLER'S



**WINDOW
CLEANING**

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

Stacey 

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

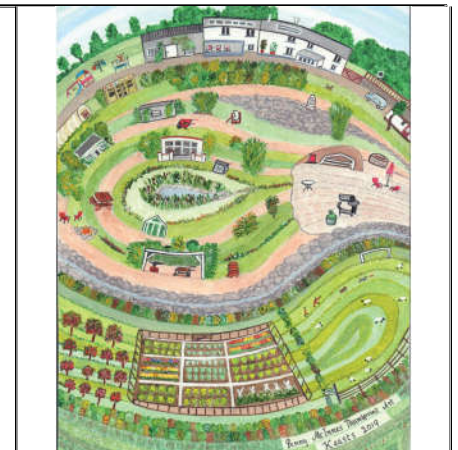
Email: fiona@staceyruralbusinessadmin.co.uk

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 quirks? 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



 **FINE TILING**

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

Bathroom - Kitchen - Floors & Walls
Interior & Exterior Tiling

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



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



**PAWS
AND MOOR**

DOG WALKING & PET SITTING SERVICE

07785712159

Lynn Murphy

Fully insured with DBS

Diploma in Pet Sitting & Dog Walking

Pet First Aid Certified

NVQ Level 2 Small Animal Care

07785 712 159

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**

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



rosie bracher
specialist family law solicitors

Award-winning family lawyers on East St, Okehampton

www.rosiebracher.co.uk

01837 510966

mail@rosiebracher.co.uk

SCAN HERE



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

Hedge trimming

Digging and planting

Leaf

clearing Power washing

Gutters cleared

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 an appointment **07930 303760**

Susannah - Professional Dog Groomer

www.thegroomingsanctuary.co.uk

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

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

M&M CONSTRUCTION

BUILD • RENOVATE • RESTORE

Mark Shepherd 07850 785395

Mark Turner 07860 736480

mandmconstructiondevon@gmail.com

YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL BUILDING EXPERTS

Home extensions & conversions • Renovation and Property makeovers • Kitchens & bathrooms
Carpentry, roofing & outdoor projects • Landscaping, patios & outdoor projects • Lime, cob and oak work

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**

Lydford Taxis 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 660430

ride@lydfordtaxis.co.uk

www.lydfordtaxis.co.uk/

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 881112 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.

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

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 - April 2026

Thursday 2nd	7.30pm, 1, Glebe Park, Reading Group
Monday 6th	1.30pm - 4.30pm, Sourton Village hall, Cream teas
Wednesday 8th	8pm, White Hart, Quiz in aid of FOBS
Saturday 11th	10am - 2pm, The Ark, Coffee Morning
Tuesday 14th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Lunch
Thursday 16th	10.30am, Thursday Morning Group, Strawberry Fields 12-2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Friday 17th	7.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, The Big Quiz
Saturday 18th	10am - 12, Sporting Green, Play equipment clean- up 10am - 12, Sourton Village Hall, Bacon Baps & Volunteer session
Tuesday 21st	2.30pm, Fairplace Church, Okehampton u3a, talk
Wednesday 22nd	7.30pm, The Ark(Methodist Chapel) Bridestowe PC meeting
Thursday 23rd	7.30pm, Belstone Village Hall, Garden Club talk
Saturday 25th	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Bridestowe Volunteer Group 10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps 7.30pm, Tavistock Town Hall, Concert
Sunday 26th	10 - 12, Bridestowe Village Hall, Charity Cycle Cafe 10am - 4pm, Simmons Park, St George's Day celebrations



The West Country Lettings Experts

- 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 Agents



01822 619818



rentals.westdevon@stags.co.uk

TRUST | REPUTATION | EXPERIENCE | KNOWLEDGE

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



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.