

Bridestowe & Sourton Extra

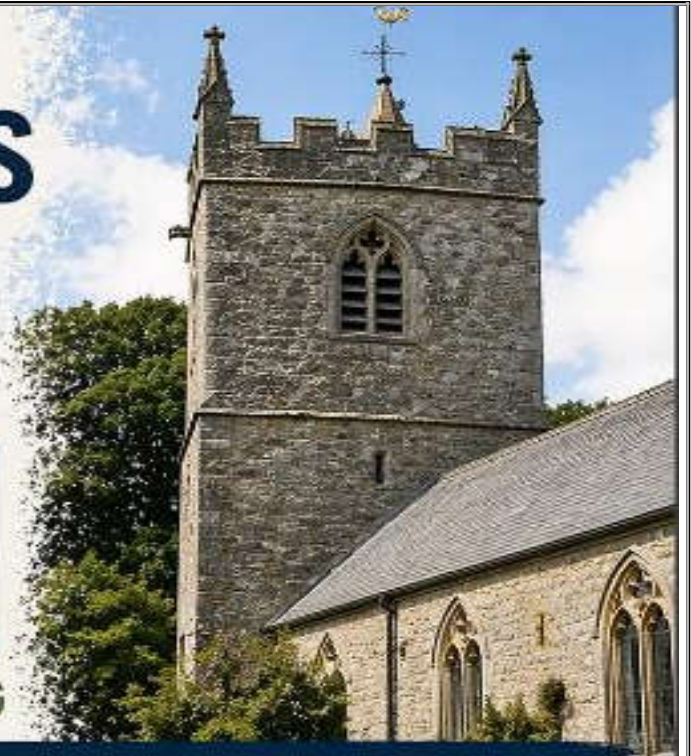


Community News and Events June 2026 Edition 289

Friends of **ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH** BRIDESTOWE

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**WEDNESDAY
24TH JUNE**



7.30PM



**ST BRIDGET'S
CHURCH,
BRIDESTOWE**

You are warmly invited to attend

St Bridget's Church has been at the heart of our village for centuries –
a place of history, community and shared memories.

WHY COME ALONG?



Hear about the current
condition of the church



Understand the proposed
plans for repairs and
improvements



Find out how we plan to
secure funding for
essential works



Share your views on the
future of this important
building



Get involved in supporting
the project

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

*Everyone is welcome –
you don't need to be a regular churchgoer.*

If you:

- ✓ have a connection to the church
- ✓ value local heritage
- ✓ want to support the village
- ✓ or are simply curious to learn more



HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ST BRIDGET'S

This is very much a community project,
and your support – whether through
ideas, time, or simply being informed –
makes a real difference.



The Vicar writes....

In a casual conversation the other day someone mentioned they worked in AI. "Oh" I said with interest, they didn't seem like the sort of person to be an AI man, "Do you work for Genus?" (If you know, you know) he looked at me with that look professional urbanites often give us country peasants, a sort of cross between amusement, sympathy and smugness.

In the dairy farming world AI doesn't mean Artificial Intelligence but Artificial Insemination and we were using the term AI before pocket calculators were invented. When my friend mentioned AI, I automatically assumed the agricultural meaning. Once we eventually got on the same page it was a very informative albeit, slightly unsettling, conversation.

I didn't realise how advanced AI technology was, we're not just talking about robots doing repetitive, manual jobs but able to perform tasks like health diagnosis or even carrying out surgery. Google's Deep Mind laboratory in London constructed AI-powered football-playing robots that were not programmed to play the game – they learned themselves. Like all new technology throughout history, it can be used for good or ill. The concern about AI technology is that it is developing so rapidly that the ethical implications are being left behind. We already have facial recognition cameras but even they are becoming obsolete. China uses AI camera technology that can recognise someone without seeing their face, even from behind, just by their gait.

There is a lot of talk about digital ID at the moment, there are advantages without doubt but there are serious implications as well. Our country is underpinned by English Common Law, which basically means we are free to do what we want unless there is a law to prohibit it. (Unlike European codified law which means everything is prohibited unless there is a law to allow it. Which is why we were swamped with EU red tape when we joined the Common Market) Traditionally representatives of the state have to identify themselves to the public, hence policemen, HM Forces personnel etc. have to carry ID cards. The public may be required to have evidence for certain activities; to prove they are safe to drive on public roads

by having a driving licence or to prove they are a British citizen if they travel abroad by having a passport for example. A mandatory digital ID for every citizen would completely flip the relationship between the public and the state. Instead of the state serving the public, the public will be servants of the state.

The technology is there; do we trust the state to use it in our favour or will they use it against us?

Just because the technology is there, we don't have to use it if it jeopardizes something we value more. The Amish choose not to use motor cars in order to achieve a lifestyle they value more than convenience. My horse dentist refuses to use mechanical tools for horse welfare reasons.

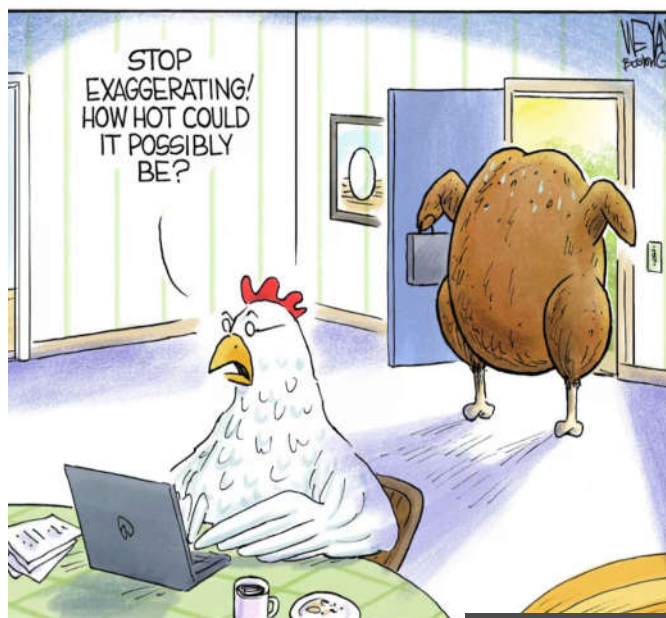
In 2021 the UN produced a report voicing concern about – get this – tools that try to deduce people's mental and emotional states by analysing facial expressions or body movements!

"The use of emotion recognition systems by public authorities, for singling out individuals for police stops or arrests or to assess the veracity of statements under interrogation, risks undermining human rights, such as rights to privacy, to liberty and to a fair trial." the report says.

If you have never read George Orwell's book 1984, now would be a good time.

I have never fathomed why AI men always carried the straws in their mouths.

Adrian Brook



Take a Walk by Howard Barkell

If you enjoy a stroll through the local countryside there is plenty of scope with numerous secondary roads, lanes, footpaths and open moorland available. Plenty of us use the Granite Way because of its good surface and gentle gradients, but it also has a variety of habitats which help to make a walk more interesting. The deep, darkish cuttings and open, often windswept embankments usually have different temperatures and amounts of daylight. The seasonal small ponds give added interest. From the time the railway was built until its closure eighty odd years later the maintenance of the track was in the hands of a succession of gangs employed by the railway just for that purpose. The railway property was enclosed on both sides by a post and wire fence and anything in between them that might hinder the progress of trains, like lineside fires or fallen trees was prevented by frequent cutting and mowing. With the present abundance of growth fifty years after closure it is difficult to imagine just how bare the lineside used to appear.

I think that the month of May is as good a time as any to do a mental audit of what there is to see and hear. Most plants and trees are still looking new and fresh. If possible early morning is perhaps the best time to be out. The following incomplete list from a recent walk or two gives some idea of the variety of things you might come across.

As I was walking down the slope at the Lydford end of the Granite Way through that carpet of pussy willow I could see a small animal sitting on the track in front of me. As I got a bit closer and it sensed my presence it jumped up and quickly leapt through the fence and into the long vegetation on the right of the track. I didn't get close enough to decide whether it was a stoat or a weasel. From its size I think probably the latter. If you have ever got too close to any of that family you won't forget their speed and agility. Not much further on I heard the distinctive song of the chiff chaff and before the end of the cutting a pair of buzzards were swooping and calling noisily in a mutual display. It wasn't until I was approaching the gate to Fernworthy Down that I saw a single red deer hind standing on the track. She soon turned tail and disappeared onto the down.

Just inside the gate are some fine patches of the low-growing pinkish purple flower called the lousewort. In bygone days country folk thought that if livestock ate it they would get lice. It is

called a semi parasite because its roots take food from the roots of other plants.

On the way back along the open bit of track it was good to see two herds of cattle that had recently been turned out grazing on the new grass. Three swallows were circling and swooping overhead in their search for insects. As I reached the short embankment over the head of Smallacombe two jays with those beautifully coloured wing feathers flew across in front of me. The purpose for my early morning walks was the hope of hearing the male cuckoo calling, but despite the comparative quiet of the early hour and several stops to listen intently, I was unlucky. Somebody has suggested that my impaired hearing might have something to do with that! By May the early spring white and yellow flowers have been supplemented by those with shades red, blue, pink or purple. Unlike animals or birds they can be observed and admired at leisure. On a still morning the ball shaped white seed head clocks of the dandelion were still intact. As children we used to pick them and blow the seeds, watching them parachute away. The number of puffs to disperse all the seeds was supposed to tell us the time. Another plant often picked was the dainty wood sorrel with its trefoil leaves and white petalled flowers. We called it bread and cheese. The leaves, the bread, have a distinct sharp taste when eaten, the flowers are tasteless. Another plant whose leaves tasted slightly acidic, so we called it sour sabs, was common sorrel. That common plant looks a bit like a small dock and has reddish seed heads. Dock leaves, of course, were always used to rub on nettle stings to lessen the discomfort. A common white flowered plant at the moment is Jack by the Hedge, or Garlic Mustard. When rubbed between thumb and forefinger those leaves smell of garlic. We won't go into the business of digging up and eating the corms of the umbelliferous pignut. There are plenty more plants and trees flowering waiting to be identified including several common ones and the ferns along the cutting are spectacular. Why not give it a try and see how many plants you can identify.

There are many traditions about the uses of wild plants both as food and for their healing properties. Are they all 'Old Wives' Tales' or did they know more than we give them credit for. Present day herbalists and foragers will be able to tell us the true from the false.

?

Two dates for July's diary..



The Faggottinis present
MUSIC FOR A
SUMMER EVENING
TUESDAY, 14TH JULY
7PM

ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH
BRIDESTOWE

TICKETS:
MINIMUM DONATION £5
WINE & LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

If you're wondering what a bassoon trio might sound like, we have a varied program of compositions from Gibbons to Gershwin. Please come and join us. The bassoon is rarely seen outside its more usual orchestral setting. It's our mission to change this. Proceeds to be shared between St Bridget's Church and the Faggottinis

Live music at the Wharf, Tavistock
Women In Rock
Sunday 14th June 7:30pm

Get ready to crank up the volume and feel the power for *Women in Rock*, the electrifying live show dedicated entirely to the trailblazing women who shattered the ceilings and redefined rock music forever.

From P!nk to Kelly Clarkson, the raw blues of Janis Joplin, the mystical magic of Stevie Nicks, the magnetic soul of Tina Turner and the anthemic energy of HEART as well as the fearless fire of Alanis Morissette, this powerhouse production show brings decades of iconic hits to life in one unforgettable night.

Featuring iconic tracks like 'Piece Of My Heart', 'Black Velvet', 'You Oughta Know', 'Left Outside Alone' and many more, this is your chance to relive the anthems that defined generations and to celebrate the women who made them unforgettable. Expect explosive costume changes, jaw-dropping vocals, epic harmonies, and non-stop audience interaction that will have you singing, dancing, and rocking out from the very first note. Don't miss the ultimate tribute to the fierce females who rocked the globe.

Tickets

From 6pm on the night £22.00
Adult in Advance £20.00
Seated+Standing



You are invited to a

Crazy Art Sale

Saturday 20th June

11-3pm

Rowdens Barn

Sale of figurative and abstract works
by Brian Higbee

Bargain prices

50% of proceeds donated to the
RD&E Children's Oncology Unit



Okehampton u3a

Established in November 2001

**Our June speaker is
Ashley Jones MBE**

**Tuesday 16 June
2.30pm at Fairplace
Church**

***'David Niven: the
Ultimate Gentleman,
Movie Star & Hero'***



David Niven was a British actor, soldier, memoirist, and novelist. He was known as a handsome and debonair leading man in classic Hollywood films. He received numerous accolades in his lifetime, but his life journey was anything but smooth. After a troubled childhood, he encountered many setbacks before finding his calling as a screen actor, but his flourishing career was almost ended by World War II. Join Ashley for this enrichment talk where we learn about Niven's path to success, and how, even 40 years after his death in 1983, he is still regarded as 'the ultimate chap.'

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

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: Talk: Information from the Parkinson's Adviser - Nick Ephgrave Update on **Tuesday 30th June**

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

'Wild West' Bridfest is only 2 months away...

Saturday 1st August

**Would you like a stall on
the day? All enquiries to
Bridfest@yahoo.com**

See page 8



ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH PLANT SALE

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to the Plant Sale on the Sporting Green last Saturday 23rd May. Your very generous donations have raised £628.00 towards the St Bridget's Church Tower repair fund.

It was a beautiful morning and lovely to see so many people who came to not only buy plants but who also came for the delicious cakes.

Thank you too to everyone who helped to make it such a success by donating lovely plants and other gardening items, baking amazing cakes and giving your time to help both before the event and on Saturday morning.

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



Fresh fish from Brixham and Appledore

Riverside Stores are now stocking fresh fish and shellfish.

Landed on Wednesday and delivered to us on Thursday morning.

If you'd like to pre order, please call us but we will be stocking the most popular fillets, whole fish and shellfish.

Depending on what's been landed, we can provide (to name a few)

Cod, Bass, Smoked & unsmoked Haddock, Sea Bream, Mackerel, Tuna, Halibut, Plaice, Salmon, Prawns & Crab.

Thank you for your continued support.

Michaela & Colin

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



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LOCALS'
LOYALTY CARD

CALLING ALL LOCALS
**LIVE IN A EX20,
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POSTCODE?**

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

**Join our Locals Loyalty
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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

ZUMBA

Charity Event

Low impact, suitable for all – 1 hour Zumba session

27th June at 10am

Lewdown Victory Hall

Lewdown EX20 4DP

For info contact: Gwennie 07738753675

— Afterwards at —

Coombe Trenchard, EX20 4FA from 11.15am

— for tea or coffee & homemade cakes —

Zumba & Refreshments £12

Refreshments Only £6

Book early via Gwennie as
Limited spaces available!



All proceeds go to the **Devon
Freewheelers Blood Bikes**



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



We're very glad to have the Devil's Cauldron trail back open after some serious drilling and pinning. There is now a very strong metal net and cables over the unsafe section of rock face. If you come for a walk, look up after you cross the small metal bridge at the bottom of the ravine, and you'll be able to see what was done. Tucker's Pool is also now open, although we do ask you not to walk this section with dogs as it's very narrow and tricky to navigate, being an out and back route. This will close again in July for the start of the summer holidays when we have too many visitors to keep it safe, so if you do want to explore this section (which has always been one of my favourites in the gorge) please make some time this month.

The ranger team have been regularly checking the nest boxes around the waterfall trail. They usually snap a quick photo of what's inside and then use that to see who's using the box. This means that the birds are not disturbed for too long and we still get essential data on the species that are nesting. By the middle of May (at the time of writing) we have several blue tit and great tit nests, some with chicks already hatching. Two nuthatch nests, which is interesting as they don't usually make use of the nest boxes. Then we have two pied flycatcher nests so far, one with six pale blue eggs and another with a female likely to be sitting on eggs. Hopefully there could be a few more nests as we head through May and into June, and we're hoping to ring the pied flycatcher babies before they leave on their epic flight to West Africa for the winter.

Carers week runs from 8 to 14 June this year. Devon carers have a range of events running including free entry to some National Trust places for registered carers. Here at Lydford Gorge registered carers can visit for free on any day that week. They do some great work so if you want to find out more head to devoncarers.org.uk

At Parke on Wednesday 10 June there will be an off-road mobility 'come-and-try' day, 10am-4pm, run by Unique Mobility. Booking is recommended to try out the vehicles on offer - uniquemobility.co.uk/pages/off-road-day

Opening Times

Devil's Cauldron trail, Waterfall trail, and Lyd Link path open every day 10am-4.30pm. Second-hand bookshops 10am-4.30pm. Devil's Cauldron tea-room 10.30am-4.30pm. Waterfall tea-room 10am-4pm. As always please check the website before travelling in case of closures - nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge

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

Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: lydford.gorge.nt

Registered Charity Number 205846

BRIDFEST 26
OPEN MIC CALL-OUT!

★ Saddle up, musicians — the stage is yours! ★

1ST AUGUST 2026
★ Bridestowe Sporting Green • EX20 4EL ★

Bridfest is riding back into town, and we're looking for talented performers to bring the music, the energy, and the atmosphere to our Wild West Open Mic.

Whether you're a **SOLO ACT, DUO, BAND, or FIRST-TIMER**, we'd love to hear you.

All styles welcome: Acoustic, Folk, Country, Rock, Spoken Word & More!

BOOK YOUR SLOT!

✉ Bridfest@yahoo.com

★ Message us on Facebook: [Bridfest26](https://www.facebook.com/Bridfest26) ★

Come share your sound and be part of
★ the Bridfest magic! ★

Diamond cleaning

New advertiser

With over 10 years experience covering windows, guttering cleaning repair and replacement, solar panels, conservatory roof, internal cleaning and much more.

For a free none obligation quote please contact me on 07723359373 or diamondcleaning81@gmail.com

BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 4th June at 7.30pm** at 8, Beech Tree Meadow. We will be discussing *All Passion Spent* by Vita Sackville West.



About the book ..When Lady Slane was young, she nurtured a secret, burning ambition: to become an artist. She became, instead, the dutiful wife of a great statesman, and mother to six children. In her widowhood she finally defies her family. Her children, all over sixty, have planned for her to spend her remaining days quietly, as a paying guest of each of them in turn. Much to their dismay, Lady Slane rents a small house in Hampstead and chooses to live independently, free from her past. She revels in her new-found freedom, living the life she forfeited seventy years earlier to the conventions of a Victorian marriage, and attracts an odd assortment of companions. Among them is Mr FitzGeorge, an eccentric millionaire who met her in India, when she was very young and very lovely.

About the author..

Poet, novelist and nature writer 1892–1962. The Hon. Lady Nicolson, Vita Sackville-West, was an English poet, novelist and gardener. She was famous for her exuberant aristocratic life, her strong marriage to Harold Nicolson, her passionate relationships with women and her gardens at Sissinghurst Castle, Kent. Sackville-West's long narrative poem, *The Land*, won the Hawthornden Prize in 1927, and her *Collected Poems* won the prize again in 1933. Her best-known novels are *The Edwardians* (1930) and *All Passion Spent* (1931). Both titles were reissued alongside her earlier novel, *Challenge* (1923), by Virago in Spring 2011. In 1946 Sackville-West was made a Companion of Honour for her services to literature. The following year she began a weekly column in the Observer called *In your Garden*. In 1948 she became a founder member of the National Trust's garden committee. Sissinghurst Castle is now owned by the National Trust, and the garden Vita Sackville-West created there is open to the public. It is one of the most visited gardens in England.

01566 783529
email: neil@neiledgson.com

NEED TO SHAKE OFF THE STRESS?



**STEP INTO HAPPY™
AT ZUMBA® CLASS.**

**FRIDAYS 10.30AM LEWDOWN VICTORY HALL
LOW IMPACT, SUITABLE FOR ALL
GWENNIE 07738753675**

Zumba Gold is a low impact version of Zumba Fitness. same great music, a party atmosphere and suitable for all ages and abilities. It can also be done seated. It can help with flexibility, balance and keeps your cardio system healthy. The most important thing is the fun aspect! We laugh, and everyone leaves with a smile. It really lifts your spirits. We are a friendly group too, everyone is made to feel welcome. Classes are £5 for the hour, half price for your first class. Contact Gwennie **07738753675**



St Thomas à Becket Church, Sourton June

From the Registers

Wedding of Thomas Gordon William Fogerty and Bethany Joanna Drew on May 2nd at 1 p.m.

The Church was full for the local wedding of Tom and Beth There were beautiful wild flowers decorating the church and the bells rang out.

We wish Tom and Beth every happiness and blessing.

May 24th Church Cream Tea

Thanks go to everyone who helped, supported and baked for our Bank holiday tea. It was lovely that the Parish Hall were able to join in with preparing and helping and clearing up. We were able to share the proceeds, which was good for both organisations. The weather was very hot so there weren't quite so many there, probably because they were resting in the shade or heading for the beach or the moor.

Our next Cream Teas will be in August at dates to be decided together with the Parish Hall.

Future Dates

July 5th Patronal Service to celebrate St Thomas à Becket Day
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Regular Services for June

June 7th Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
June 14th Service at Bridestowe
June 21st Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.
June 28th Service at Bridestowe.

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

Facebook - Sourton Village Hall

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP

will meet at Belstone community cafe on **Thursday, June 18th** at 10.30. The volunteers who run it are expecting us and will be baking extra cake.

As I am not available this month, please ring Cynthia on 01837 861194 if you need a lift or are able to offer one. Otherwise just turn up, as they don't require exact numbers.

Ann Allan

Movie Watch - May 2026

An unusual edition of Movie Watch, in that it does what was always the intention. Namely concentrate, with the help of a few valued correspondents, on films shown locally.

We've been to the cinema twice this month, first to see the locally produced **Rose of Nevada** followed, for reasons that subsequently escaped us, by **The Sheep Detectives**.

We then gratefully received local reviews of **Project Hail Mary** (widespread cinema distribution) and **Unfamiliar** (Netflix).

Finally, on the basis that I didn't fancy being the only bloke in the cinema, our daughter did the decent thing and kindly volunteered to take in **The Devil Wears Prada 2**.

To summarise, in no particular order, take the lowest-budget film you've ever seen, then divide by ten and you'll have a fair idea of how **Rose of Nevada** reached the big screen.

The film was jointly financed by Film4 and the British Film Institute. The BFI contributed £1.3m, the largest single production award made since the fund was relaunched in 2023. The film was shot on location in Cornwall with the assistance of a group of students from Falmouth University.

Described as a science fiction drama, it tells the story of a fishing vessel lost at sea 30 years earlier, before mysteriously reappearing in the harbour of a Cornish fishing village, readily identifiable as Newlyn.

If you're prepared to accept **Rose of Nevada** as a student-made piece of work, you may well enjoy it. For what it's worth, I did.

The Sheep Detectives is a feelgood, family film. Described as a mystery comedy, it features a flock of sheep (no, really) who try to solve the murder of their much-loved shepherd. The budget was \$75m and within a couple of weeks, it had grossed \$60m and was moving towards profitability.

The cast is genuinely star-studded. Live action contributors are headed by Hugh Jackman and Emma Thompson, while recognisable voices include the likes of Bryan Cranston, Chris O'Dowd and Patrick Stewart, together with others I knew but couldn't readily pinpoint. My favourite voice belonged to Nicholas Braun, instantly identifiable to **Succession** fans as hapless Cousin Greg.

The Guardian, my go-to film reviewer of choice, described **The Sheep Detectives** as 'a cross between Babe and The Thursday Murder Club,' demonstrating at a stroke why their output is read by tens of thousands every day while mine is limited to Bridestowe and the immediate surrounds.

I couldn't go as far as to actively recommend **The Sheep Detectives**, but it's a charming film, beautifully produced and at least worthy of your consideration.

Project Hail Mary has recently been through the cinemas (with mixed reviews) and is heading for Prime Video in the near future. It is a 'must see' for science fiction aficionados, especially fans of **The Martian**. The film is based on an eponymous novel by Andy Weir (who also wrote The Martian) and has some of the same problem-solving themes as that excellent film.

The novel itself is well worth reading and the fact that this reviewer had done so made the film far more accessible. It did strike that perhaps MGM/Amazon had missed a trick in not turning this into a series as the content of the novel is far more detailed than the film has time to portray. Naturally this will not be everyone's cup of tea but if science-fiction is your bag then this is well worth a watch. Ryan Gosling is excellent and the CGI outstanding. All in all it got my vote.

Unfamiliar (Netflix) is an excellent 2026 German-made spy drama set in the Cold War. It focuses on the tensions between East and West Germany before the fall of the Berlin Wall and is faintly reminiscent of the excellent **Bridge of Spies**. The drama unfolds around two retired spies - a husband and wife who now run a private safe house.

All the actors would be unknown to a British audience, but it is nonetheless an excellent watch, for which viewers can choose subtitles or an English overdub. Recommended.

Finally for this month, the biggest title to appear locally has been **The Devil Wears Prada 2**. With a cast headed by Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt, this was a guaranteed hit. Our daughter did the necessary and kindly filed these thoughts.

The Devil Wears Prada 2 knew what was wanted and duly delivered. Shocking twists and complex characters? Nope. Everything else? Yes. We saw Andy Sachs back at Runway magazine after a couple of decades in 'real' journalism.

Key members of the original cast – Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Stanley Tucci and Emily Blunt – are joined by the likes of Lucy Liu, Kenneth Branagh and an unexpected but charming appearance by Patrick Brammall, writer and star of the delightful **Colin From Accounts**, (still available on BBC iPlayer) as Andy's harmless love interest. Lady Gaga also deserves a mention for her catwalk concert cameo.

Callbacks to the original film were self-aware and well received. In just the first few frames of the opening scene, reference was made to 'florals for Spring' while the audience practically erupted at a serious-looking discussion about two turquoise belts!

It's just really good fun. Bonkers fashion, wickedly out-of-touch lines from Emily (including a suggestion that those who can't afford a \$3000 Dior bag should simply wait for Christmas) and suitably fabulous settings, including The Hamptons, Milan, Lake Como and Manhattan. Recommended, should you fancy an unchallenging evening.

Thanks to our contributors. If ever you fancy jotting down a few thoughts on anything you've seen, or simply wish to disagree with views expressed here, please get in touch. All contributions are very welcome.

Coming to Merlin Cinemas during June will be

Savage House (a darkly satirical story, set in 18th Century England and starring Richard E Grant and Claire Foy), **Disclosure Day** (a Steven Spielberg production starring Emily Blunt and Colin Firth), **Finding Emily** (a warm-hearted campus romcom) and **Toy Story 5** (the mixture very much as before, with the excellent Tom Hanks).

TV recommendations will return next month but I couldn't fail to mention the superb **David Attenborough's 100 Years on Planet Earth**, shown on BBC1 and now available on the iPlayer. Featuring contributions from King Charles and Princes William, the tribute served as a timely reminder of the sort of output for which the BBC excel.

Finally, the 2026 FIFA World Cup starts on Thursday 11th June and runs until Sunday 19th July. All 104 games will be televised live, on one of the BBC or ITV channels.

Don't look at me like that.

David Harrison
May 2026

BRATTON CLOVELLY COMMUNITY Plant Sale

Flower and veg plants, shrubs and
perennials plus refreshments and raffle
on

Saturday 6th June

1am - 2pm

Indoors in Bratton Clovelly Parish Hall
EX20 4JT

Car parking available

Cash payments only

All proceeds to Bratton Clovelly Parish
Hall charity



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

The Parish Council's next Volunteer Group session will take place on **Saturday 13th June**, starting at 9.30am. We are continuing our aim of tackling a different area of the village each month to help keep Sourton looking its best. Everyone is welcome to come along, whether for the whole morning or just an hour or two. **The session conveniently coincides with the Village Hall bacon baps morning, which starts at 10am**, so volunteers can enjoy a well-earned break and a bacon bap afterwards. If residents have any suggestions for areas of the village that could benefit from attention in future months, please let the Clerk know. The bungalow bus stop in Sourton still needs repairs if anyone is interested in quoting for it please contact the clerk.

The Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting in May, and the Annual Report is now available to read on the Parish Council website. The report reflects on the work and achievements of the Parish Council over the last year and provides an overview of current projects and priorities.

The Council has also recently completed its annual internal audit, which it passed successfully. With ongoing changes in local government and employment law, it is reassuring to receive confirmation from an independent auditor that the Parish Council is continuing to meet all of its statutory obligations and governance requirements.

Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010



Summer opening times

April - September

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6pm

Boasley Chapel - Happenings in June!



Sunday June 7th Service with

Barbara Dalton 11am

Afternoon Tea 2.30-4.30pm

Thursday June 18th Soup and Sweet

12-2.00pm

Sunday June 21st Service with Sally O'Hare

11am

Thursday June 25th Reflection and

Refreshment with Angela Banfield 11am

Lunar cycle for June

New moon 15th

First quarter 21st

Full moon 30th

Last quarter 8th



8 June – Venus and Jupiter conjunction

While Jupiter and Venus are both fantastic sights independently, they're going to be even more impressive side by side in the evening sky. This conjunction (or close approach) of the two planets will be visible in the southwest from sunset until they disappear below the horizon at around 11pm, assuming you have an unobstructed view in this direction. If your horizon is clear and the weather is good they won't be hard to spot, as both planets will be very bright points of light. They'll be approximately one finger width apart and just below the stars Castor and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini.

21 June – The summer solstice

The Northern Hemisphere will mark the summer solstice on 21 June, the 'longest day of the year', when there will be around 16.5 hours of daylight. The exact time of the solstice is at 9.24am BST, and that is the moment when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted farthest towards the Sun. From here onwards the days will get progressively shorter until the winter solstice on 21 December.

Bridestowe Scouts Summer Newsletter

(Find out more at
bridestowescouts.org.uk

Membership team at

membership@bridestowescouts.org.uk)



Hello everyone,

Welcome to our Summer 2026 Bridestowe Scout Group newsletter. As always, we would like to begin by thanking everyone who continues to support Scouting in Bridestowe — parents, volunteers, community groups, and friends. Your encouragement, feedback, and practical help make a real difference. Over recent months we have gone through a significant but positive change, with the Beavers section now folded into the Cubs. This was not an easy transition, and we are very grateful for the patience, understanding, and constructive feedback we received throughout the process. Thanks to this support, the young people have settled well and continue to enjoy a full and exciting Scouting experience together.

Section Highlights

The Cubs have had a busy and varied term, throwing themselves into new challenges. Activities have included climbing at the Barn, learning pioneering techniques, developing cooking skills, and enjoying creative crafting activities.

The Scouts have also been hard at work, showing real teamwork and creativity. Over several weeks they designed and built a mosaic, which is on display at Bridestowe Village Hall — please do take a look when you are there. Alongside this, Scouts have been hiking and exploring practical engineering skills through hands-on activities.

Looking ahead, we have a great programme planned for the coming term and are especially looking forward to returning fully to outdoor activities, making the most of the longer evenings and warmer weather.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our local vicar, Adrian, who kindly

invited the Group to celebrate St George's Day with the community. St George is the patron saint of Scouting representing courage, service, and doing what is right — values that sit at the very heart of everything Scouting aims to achieve. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate this important connection.

Finally, we are seeking a qualified individual to independently audit our accounts, as required for charity compliance. We are a small organisation with few transactions and well organised records, so the task should take only a couple of hours. If you have the relevant experience and could spare some time to support a valued part of the Bridestowe community, please do get in touch.

We are also looking for someone to join our Board of Trustees. This is a rewarding way to support the running of the Group and help shape its future.

A Big Thank You!

Once again, we have received fantastic support from our local community, helping us keep Bridestowe Scout Group thriving. This year, thanks to generous funding, we have been able to replace the majority of our tents, many of which had begun to fail after several years of use.

Our sincere thanks go to:

Bridestowe Parish Council – £300

The Norman Family Trust – £1,500

This support will make a huge difference to the quality and safety of our outdoor activities and camps for years to come. We are incredibly grateful for this continued backing of Scouting in Bridestowe.

Bridestowe Scout Group – Weekly Meeting Times

The Bridestowe Scout Group offers a fun, safe, and engaging environment for young people to learn new skills, build friendships, and enjoy exciting adventures in our local area.

Please note that this term we will often be away from Bridestowe Village Hall, making the most of outdoor spaces and longer evenings. As a result, timings may vary slightly for both sections.

Session Times:

• Cubs (ages 8–10½)

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

This term Cubs' activities include cycling on the Pegasus Trail, hiking at King's Tor, shelter building, and archery — all designed to build confidence, teamwork, and practical skills.

• Scouts (ages 10½–14)

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Scouts have an adventurous programme planned, including forest games, campfire building, hiking at Great Mis Tor, archery, and mini gorge scrambling.

Both Cubs and Scouts will also be taking part in community projects to give something back locally. Whether your child is looking to make new friends, discover new interests, or simply enjoy time away from screens, the Bridestowe Scout Group provides a brilliant outlet. Our volunteer leaders are trained, DBS-checked, and committed to delivering a high-quality programme in a supportive environment.



Join the Adventure - Get involved

Bridestowe Scout Group is always keen to welcome new young people and adult volunteers to our Scouting family. We currently run Cubs, and Scouts, offering fun, friendship, and adventure for every age group. Sessions take place mainly at Bridestowe Village Hall during the winter and darker evenings, with plenty of outdoor activities when the weather allows. Scouting simply wouldn't happen without volunteers, and we're always looking for new people to get involved. Whether you can help

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

Support Bridestowe Scout Group at no extra cost

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

Please support us:

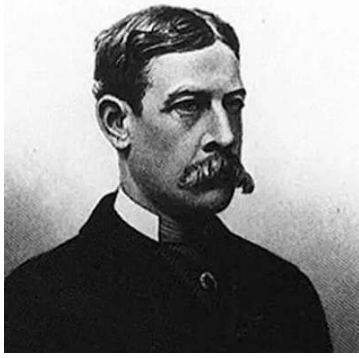
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bridestowescouts/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social



At a recent Thursday Morning Group meeting, we pondered on the origin of certain expletives...

Gordon Bennett!

"Gordon Bennett!" is an expression of incredulity which alludes to the outrageous behaviour of the American sportsman, publisher and all-round hell-raiser James Gordon Bennett Jr.



It's a source of frustration for etymologists that many phrases that include people's names don't refer to real people. Happily, the expression 'Gordon Bennett!' does.

The elder James Gordon Bennett was born in Banffshire, Scotland in 1795 and emigrated to the USA, eventually becoming a journalist and founding the New York Herald in 1835. He had a natural talent for journalism and the paper flourished. An editorial in Harper's at the time expressed the opinion that "It is impossible any longer to deny that the [city's] chief newspaper is the New York Herald".

Other rivals, while accepting Bennett's nose for a story, weren't impressed with what they saw as his 'gutter press' methods. In 1836, in a pre-cursor to the chequebook/kiss-and-tell journalism now so popular with tabloid newspapers, he published a notice offering to reward any woman who "will set a trap for a Presbyterian parson, and catch one of them flagrante delicto".

He was unblushing in what was then seen as improper descriptions of his relationship with his wife - describing her 'most magnificent' figure and publishing details of their wedding night and the birth of James Gordon Bennett junior in 1841.

Even in an era of hedonistic behaviour, Bennett's conduct was a by-word for wanton excess.

James Gordon Bennett Jr. inherited his father's talents for journalism and controversy, not to mention his multi-million dollar estate - and he's the Gordon Bennett that the phrase refers to. He was the ultimate playboy ; he

enjoyed a lavish, hedonistic lifestyle of cars, boats and planes and spent buckets of money sponsoring races of all kinds of vehicles, all titled the Gordon Bennett Cup. He followed his father into the newspaper business - it was he who funded Henry Morton Stanley's expedition to Africa in search of Dr Livingstone - but he made also headlines with his own shenanigans.

In 1877, his engagement with socialite Caroline May was apparently broken off after he mistook the fireplace at his future in-law's house as a toilet and urinated in view of all the assorted guests. As his antics were reported regularly in the news, his name became associated with feelings of shock or outrage. He took over control of the New York Herald in 1866, by which time he was well into an enthusiastic and hedonist playboy lifestyle, indulging in spending the family fortune on air and road racing in the USA, England and France.

He was a significant promoter and patron of sports, especially those requiring impressive and expensive equipment, for example international motor racing, ballooning and air racing. He gave several sponsorships in these fields, notably the Isle of Man Bennett Trophy races of 1900 to 1905 (subsequently a trials course on the island was named after him). A long-distance hot-air balloon race - the International Gordon Bennett balloon race which still continues, was inaugurated by him in 1906.

In popular culture: the phrase is often said by cockney Del Boy, played by David Jason, in the British sitcom *Only Fools and Horses*. It was often heard in other cockney sitcoms too, such as *Steptoe and Son* and *Till Death Us Do Part*.

www.phrases.org.uk/

www.historyextra.com

—

Bacon Baps will be served on **Saturday 20th June,* 10am - 12 noon** **Bridestowe Village Hall.**



(*Please note the earlier date.)

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

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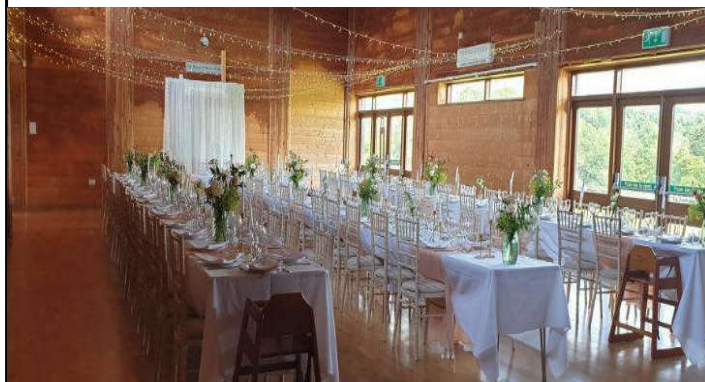
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Bridestowe Village Hall
Pool Hill, Bridestowe, EX20 4EW



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.

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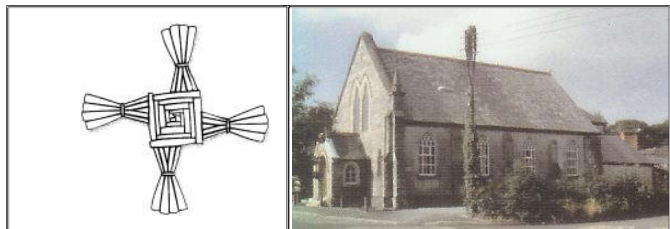
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Bridestowe Church Partnership



Sunday Worship for June 2026

Sunday 7th

9.30am Service at Sourton

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

Sunday 14th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's
Church

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist
Chapel with Vicki Penfound

Sunday 21 st

11.00am United Service at St Bridget's

Sunday 28th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist
Chapel with John Hill

Dawn of Hope

This poem portrays hope as the first light of dawn, a symbol of new beginnings and a fresh start. It encourages us to embrace the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

*As night recedes and day draws near,
Hope's dawn breaks through, casting out fear.
A brand-new day, a chance to cope,
In the radiant light of unwavering hope.*

*Though yesterday's troubles may still weigh,
Hope's dawn brings strength for a brand-new day.*

*With each sunrise, a freshened scope,
To find renewal in the arms of hope.*

*In hope's embrace, we rise and shine,
Embracing the day, each new design.
For in our hearts, no matter how dim,
Hope's dawn arises, promising a new day.*



The Ark

The Coffee Morning in May raised £233 for RNLI. Many thanks to all who supported this. The Coffee Morning in June will be held on **Saturday 13th**, 10 to 12. Do come along. The charity this month is The Memory Cafe at Tavistock. Running since 2006 it provides local support for those living with dementia and their carers. The sessions offer people the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation in a relaxed social atmosphere that always involves tea and cake! (Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at the Anchorage Centre, Chapel Street, Tavistock.)

We hope you can cope with this very hot weather. Remember that the ARK is a COOL place.

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** Email: j.thorne2013@btinternet.com

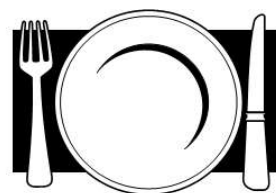
The Over 60's Lunch

will be held on
Tuesday 9th June.

Meet at 12.15 for
lunch at 12.30.

Please let Jennifer know if you cannot attend. (01837 861592)

Thank you





At Okehampton Library

Okehampton Library offers so much more than books. It's a warm, welcoming space with free WiFi and computer access, people to chat to, groups and activities. Enjoy a natter with other customers or have a go at our community puzzle.

Refreshments are available.

Our Reading Well titles are a range of books covering physical and mental health, and include titles aimed at children and teens. And don't forget if you're housebound or struggling to get to the library, our Home Library Service can deliver not just books but a friendly chat too!

As part of the Warm Spaces campaign and thanks to a grant from Okehampton Rotary Club, customers have access to free hot drinks which includes tea, coffee and hot chocolate, as well as soup and biscuits. We also have snack packs available for children Monday to Friday during school holidays.

Okehampton Library has also launched a Period Pantry which is available to all who need access to free period products. Just fill in our discreet form and hand it in to a member of staff to receive your products (forms are destroyed after use).

Keep an eye out for more events and activities at Okehampton Library.

Visit our website:

discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook (Okehampton Library) and Instagram (@okehampton.library).

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we're experiencing staffing disruptions which have led to changes in opening hours. On Tuesdays we are closing at 17:00, for Wednesdays and Saturdays we are currently open 09:30-12:30. Please bear with us during this time. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes you.

JUNE EVENTS

Author Talk & Q&A with Stephanie

Austin: Thursday 4 June, 19:00 for 19:15 start

Join us for an Author Talk & Q&A with Devon author Stephanie Austin to celebrate the paperback release of her book 'How to Get Murdered in Devon'. Tickets £5 for library members and £7.50 for non-library members to include refreshments, booking essential via Ticketsource or Okehampton Library. Books will be available for sale after the talk.

CAB & Healthwatch Information Stand:

Tuesday 9 June, 14:00-15:00

Kathy Fogerty, Healthwatch Champion, will be here to talk about CAB's work with Healthwatch, one of their specialist services partners, as well as answer any questions about the work of Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon or, indeed, volunteering with them.

Empathy Day Storytime: Wednesday 10

June, 10:00-10:30

Come along to Okehampton Library for a special themed Empathy Day Storytime and craft activity! Free (donations welcome), drop-in, suitable for under 5's and their carers.

Author Book Signing with Terry Green:

Saturday 27 June, 10:00-12:00

Terry will be at the library to meet readers and to introduce his latest crime thriller 'Dangerous Art'. Terry says: "My talks and book signings are the chance for readers to hear more about my writing and the exciting adventures of my likeable hero, Jake Elderfield. They will also discover how 'Dangerous Art' is influenced by some of my favourite places – the action starts at Burgh Island and moves to Prague, before returning to Devon."

Please see our library website or Facebook page for details of our regular events and library services

Opening Hours

Monday	09:00-17:00
Tuesday	09:00-17:00
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
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My apologies to Rebecca Smith. In the piece that accompanied her advert last month there were two typos. It happens sometimes when cutting and pasting but I should have spotted them. AY

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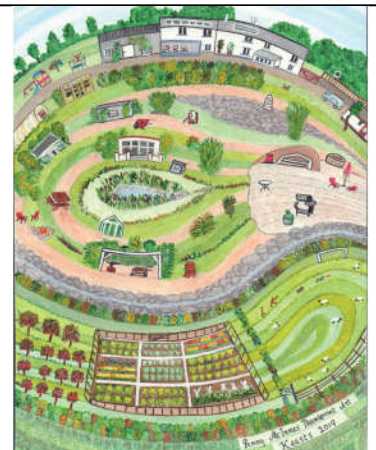
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Forthcoming Events - June 2026

Thursday 4th	7.30pm, 8, Beech Tree Meadow, Reading Group
Wednesday 10th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of the Museum of Dartmoor Life
Tuesday 12th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Lunch
Saturday 13th	10am - 12 noon, The Ark, Coffee morning in aid of Memory Cafe 9.30am, Sourton VH Volunteer session (Bacon Baps at 10am) 12 - 4pm, Bridestowe Primary School, Summer Fair
Sunday 14th	7.30pm, The Wharf, Women in Rock
Tuesday 16th	2.30pm, Fairplace Church, Okehampton u3a, talk
Thursday 18th	10.30am, Belstone community cafe, Thursday Morning Group 12-2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Saturday 20th	10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps 11am - 3pm, Rowdens Barn, Crazy Art Sale
Wednesday 24th	7.30pm, St Bridget's Church, AGM
Saturday 27th	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Volunteer Group 10am, Lewdown Victory Hall, Zumba Charity Event
Tuesday 30th	10.30am - 12 noon, The Anchorage Centre, Tavistock, Parkinson's Support group talk



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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.